Navigating Grants Ontario Webinar - Resources

Part of the Strengthening Ontario's Heritage Network project,
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Presented by The Ontario Historical Society
& The Multicultural History Society of Ontario

Speakers:

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Grant-Writing: Useful Links and Resources

Grants Ontario's own Registration Guide for Applicants and Reference Guide for Applicants, a go-to for guidance specific to applying for funding through Grants Ontario.

The Art of Grantsmanship written by Jack Kraicer, former Director of Research Grants at Human Frontier Science Program. While a little older (1997), this document is repeatedly cited in grant-writing tutorials and resource lists.

Philip E. Bourne and Leo M. Chalupa's "Ten Simple Rules for Getting Grants," published in PLOS Computational Biology by the Public Library of Science. While the authors and publisher are American, this list of tips can be applied to grant application-writing in Ontario.

CharityVillage is an excellent source of inspiration and guidance for non-profit and cultural heritage groups operating in Canada. They've posted a number of articles relevant to grant application-writing on their website, including:

- Brian Satterfield's "An introduction to grant reports"
- Cynthia J. Armour's "Fundraising Q&A: Get your grant proposal past the initial screening process"
- Mary W. Walters' "Get the edge: Writing effective funding proposals for government agencies"

Imagine Canada has a great feature on their blog called "Grantseeker Monthly," with regular posts on applying for grant-based funding, and interviews with grant program insiders. Great overall advice to keep in mind as your prepare your application. These posts are particularly relevant:

- Insights on Grantseeking: Part One
- Making the Pitch: Writing an Effective Statement of Need

The Grantsmanship Center offers training and support to non-profit groups seeking funding, and has some excellent resources and articles which can be applied to a Canadian context. These posts offer sound advice on planning and writing your grant application:

- Getting the Grant 101
- Tips for Submitting an E-Grant Application
- Managing the Grant
- How to Convince Reviewers of Project Sustainability
- How to Make Your Budgets Convincing
- Creating Persuasive Proposals

Finally, a few interviews, recordings and articles on the process of grantseeking, exploring the challenges faced by those applying for funds. Read these over and take their advice into consideration while preparing your application:

- Marilyn Dickey's "Grant Makers Reveal the Most Common Reasons Grant Proposals Get Rejected"
- Barbara Davis' "Writing a Successful Grant Proposal"
- Heather Stombaugh's "8 Tips for More Successful Online Grant Applications"
- University of Victoria's "Report and Proposal Writing, Self Learning Guide"
- The Foundation Center's Grantspace "Proposal budgeting basics webinar" (link to recording)

Tips: Building a Strong Application

- Visit the Grants Ontario website and read about the grants available in the appropriate sector. As mentioned in today's webinar, there have been recent changes to the funding programs available from Grants Ontario, so please take time to re-acquaint yourself with each program.

- Select a grant program that you think best matches your goals and the work you hope to accomplish. Re-read the "priorities" section of each grant program description, and make a list of why your application meets these goals and expectations.

- Get in touch with the program contact for your chosen grant program, listed on the Grants Ontario website, to discuss your project prior to your application. The grant program contacts are part of your support system - take advantage of their advice!

- Have colleagues review your application writing prior to submission. These can be colleagues in your office or group, or colleagues from outside who can critique your approach, wording and goals.

- Review Grants Ontario's list of approved grant applications here. Look for projects with similar aspects — goals, structure, activities, duration or size — and get in touch with the successful applicants!

Tips: Writing a Grant Application With Purpose!

Adapted from non-profit guides' guidelines

1. Prove that you have a significant need or problem in your proposal.

2. Deliver an answer to the need, or solution to the problem, based on experience, ability, logic, and imagination throughout your proposal. Make sure your proposal describes a program/project for change.
    a. Answer these questions: Who are you? What do you want? What problem will you address and how? Who will benefit and how? What specific objectives will you accomplish and how? How does your funding request match Grants Ontario's priorities?
    b. Be clear as to how you will track the outputs of your project: How will you measure your results?
    c. Demonstrate project logic and outcome, impact of funds, and community support. Be specific about outputs and outcomes. The proposal should explicitly state expected practical outputs

3. State your organization's needs and objectives clearly and concisely. Use active rather than passive verbs. Use proper grammar and correct spelling. Be clear, factual, supportable, and professional.

4. Be clear about why you are seeking a grant, what you plan to do with the money, and why you are a good fit with the granting agency's priorities.

For general questions or for technical issues with Grants Ontario, please contact:

Grants Ontario Customer Service
Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST
Phone 416-325-6691 or 1-855-216-3090 (Toll Free), E-mail
GrantsOntarioCS@Ontario.ca

For questions and guidance related to specific grant programs, please contact:

Community Museum Operating and Pay Equity Grants(CMOG)
and Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG):
Catherine Lee Blackbourn, 416-314-4531
Elka Weinstein, 416-325-4561
Angelina French, 416-326-8536
General Email: CMOG-SFMC@ontario.ca and HODG-SSAHC@ontario.ca

Provincial Heritage Organisation Operating Grant (PHO):
Kate Oxley, 416-314-7155

Culture Development Fund and Summer Experience Program
Contact your local Regional Services Branch
Central Region: 1-877-395-4105
East Region: 1-800-267-9340
North Region: 1-800-465-6861
West Region: 1-800-265-2189