



Leveling Up Grant Ideas & Building Stronger Grant Applications

Library of Michigan

Contact Us:



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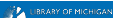
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Today's Goals

- You will be inspired to create new, stronger youth services programs.
- You will gain stronger grant writing skills.
- You will be able connect programming ideas to grant funders' goals.



Individual Sensory Bins for Virtual Storytime

- **Grant:** Storytime Sensory Bins for virtual program attendees
- **Audience:** Families with children under 3 and preschoolers.
- **Purchase:** bins and materials for 25-30 individualized sensory bins for families to take home and pair with virtual storytime.




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Grant Support for Sensory Bins

- Funder** - Foundations with an interest in serving young children/families. Grants with priorities in early literacy.
- Pitch/Elevator Speech** - Sensory bins will help parents engage with their children and encourage them to model early literacy skills
- Grant application text** - how you'll set up the events, how you'll educate caregivers on using the materials, what you'll measure for outcomes
- What to Buy** - Bins, Sensory toys, brochures, printing.
- Meeting Grant Funders Goals** - Did the program help young children with early literacy skills?

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Welcoming Libraries

- **Program:** Welcoming Libraries for Underserved Children.
- **Focus:** activities and materials which improve equity, diversity and inclusion to better serve the community's underserved groups of children.
- **Audience:** Youth, 0-18
- **Purchase:** Diversity audits/collection development, sensory kits, inclusive play space equipment, American sign language interpreters at programming, bilingual program supports.



Lewiston City Library © <https://www.chiefdefenses.com/2018/05/16/welcoming-libraries/>
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Grant Support for Welcoming Libraries

Funder - Foundations with an interest in at risk youth and/or DEI. Grants with priorities in inclusion.

Pitch/Elevator Speech - More diverse collections provide support and improve outcomes among diverse populations.

Grant application text - how you'll identify underserved groups, how you'll select appropriate materials for those groups, how you'll reach out to those groups and introduce the new content.

What to Buy - Collection and activity materials, training for staff.

Meeting Grant Funders Goals - Did the program reach identified groups? Did it encourage more participation among users?

Teen Connection Kits

➤ **Program:** Teen Connection Kits

- Birdwatching
- Bookmaking
- Cooking
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Make, Mend, Repair
- Ukulele

➤ **Audience:** Teens (13-18)

➤ **Purchase:** Books combined with materials.

(List of items for each kit above available at:
<https://libraries.idaho.gov/tweens-teens/general-programming-resources/teen-connection-kits/>)



Borah High School Library, Boise

Grant Support for Teen Connections

Funder - Foundations with an interest in at risk youth. Grants with priorities in K-12 education.

Pitch/Elevator Speech - Activity kits keep kids & teens learning over the summer and provide opportunities for low income students.

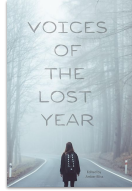
Grant application text - How you'll reach out to kids and caregivers, what skills/curriculum are supported by which kits, how you'll evaluate any learning outcomes.

What to Buy - Collection and activity materials, printing and handouts for participants.

Meeting Grant Funders Goals - Did the program help students maintain academic levels or learn new skills?

Teen Interns

- **Program:** Library Interns
- **Audience:** Teens (older)
- **Purchase:** Hire teen interns for one of the following tracks:
 - Track 1 - Produce content to engage peers (displays, booklists, social media, assist & develop summer programming).
 - Track 2 - Digital Media Lab interns to develop and produce digital projects that support teen programs (such as publishing a creative writing anthology).



Summer Writing Camp - West Warwick Public Library, RI (\$2,000)
<https://www.wwpl.org/anthology>

Grant Support for Teen Interns

Funder - Foundations with an interest in developing job skills in young adults. Grants with priorities in social media and teen support.

Pitch/Elevator Speech - Teens will be able to develop job skills while at the same time, participating teens will be able to learn from contemporaries.

Grant application text - How you'll identify interns and support them learning job skills, how you'll connect the interns with program participants.

What to Buy - Collection materials, technology, intern salaries

Meeting Grant Funders Goals - Did the interns learn basic job skills? Was there more participation when teens could learn from contemporaries?

Grants - Do You Really Want One?

Is your library able to do the grant activities?

Do you have the time for the program?

Do you have time for the grant reports and managing the payment documentation for reimbursements?

Grants - What Do You Ask For?

Your purpose is not buying things – it is serving your community.

Your proposal must be clear on the purpose
of your proposed project.

Your budget must match and support that purpose.

Grant Writing Tips & Tricks - Basics

1. Read the documentation
2. Follow the directions
3. Do not skip questions or not include forms
4. Meet the deadlines
5. Use the correct file formats and names
6. Complete your signatures and approvals
7. Make sure your budget adds up correctly

Grant Writing Tips & Tricks - Content

1. Make sure your budget matches your program
2. Be very concise
3. Have a clear description of all the program activities
4. Be clear who will benefit from the program
5. Be clear what you expect the benefit to be
6. Have explicit plans for outreach
7. Have explicit plans for how to measure the benefits

Let's Hear Your Ideas!



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