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# Funder's perspective:

## Grant application problems and solutions



**Avoidable Mistake #1**

The applicant organization is not actually eligible for the grant.



**Avoidable Mistake #2**

The project is not a strong match for the funding program.



**Avoidable Mistake #3**

The project is too ambitious for the applicant's capacity.



**Avoidable Mistake #4**

The project lacks clarity, focus, tangible goals, and/or measurable outcomes.



**Avoidable Mistake #5**

The application is put together too hastily.



## Take Away

- A. Read funding guidelines carefully.



## Take Away

- B. Make sure project is a good match and organization is eligible.

**Take Away** C. Line up partners well in advance.



**Take Away**

D. Plan on more time than you think you need to develop your idea and a strong proposal.

## Take Away

E. The most important adjectives for a good grant proposal are:



- straightforward
- clear
- achievable



And three more things:

- F. Follow all instructions!
- G. Get feedback from a colleague before finalizing request materials.
- H. Do not submit an incomplete application.