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.