

# Securing Grant Funding for Your Hepatitis Project

## 10 Grant Writing Tips

NVHR knows it can be challenging to get a great idea off the ground due to a lack of funds. Applying for a grant is one way to get financial support. Here are some tips to get you started.

### 1. Know where to find funding

Grant funding can be obtained from government agencies, private foundations, corporations and charitable organizations.

- For **governmental funding**, search [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) for federal grant opportunities. Check state or county websites for local funding announcements.
- For **other types of funding**, it can be more difficult to find grant opportunities because funders may only support projects related to specific areas of interest. For example, a foundation may only fund projects related to childhood education or protecting the environment. Those that fund health-related projects may target certain diseases. Therefore, having **insight about your field** is necessary to find the right funding.



**Identify organizations that might have an interest in your work.** To find potential funders, talk to colleagues and network with others in your field. Browse the websites of potential stakeholders of your project.

- Which funders have supported projects similar to yours?
- Which organizations care about the populations we serve?
- Which companies might have a financial interest in your work?
- Are there local funders that support projects in my community?

Keep in mind that the best source of funding may also depend on the type of organization you are (i.e., a 501(c)(3)) and the populations you serve.

#### ***Insider advice:***

*If you can't identify funders specifically interested in hepatitis, think about funders who support the communities you serve.*



### 2. Determine if it's really a good fit

While you might be eager to secure funding, not every grant opportunity is a good match for your project. **Do your research!**

- Review the vision and mission of the funding agency. Be sure your proposal relates back to these.
- What are their focus areas? Most funders explicitly state the issues they are interested in supporting.
- What projects have they funded in the past? Compare the size, scope, and award amounts with your own proposal. Take cues from previous projects within a funder's record of giving.

### 3. Talk to funders about what they're looking for

Most funders are happy to provide details about the types of projects they fund and answer questions about the application. This is in their best interest because it ensures they will receive applications that are relevant to what they support and limit incompatible proposals. Don't hesitate to reach out!

### 4. Have a plan

Writing a grant application is no small feat. It requires input from multiple team members and can be quite time-consuming. (From several weeks to months!) Decide who will take the lead, assign sections where applicable, and keep others accountable. Develop a realistic timeline and stick to it!



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## 5. Make an impression

Funders receive many requests for funding. **What sets your application apart?** Does your agency reach underserved populations? Are you proposing an innovative program that's the first of its kind? Reviewers should have a lasting impression of who you are, what you aim to do, and why they should fund you.

## 6. Follow the instructions carefully

Be sure to read (and re-read) the instructions for submitting your application. Pay attention to deadlines, formatting requirements, page limits, and required supplemental materials. Don't let your application get passed over because you failed to follow directions!



### ***Insider advice:***

*Have pre-drafted descriptions of your organization ready to go (mission, vision, structure, the work you do, etc.). These can be re-used for multiple applications without requiring much modification.*

## 7. Be specific

Be clear about what you will do with awarded funds. If your proposal is too vague, it could be a signal to reviewers that your ideas are not fully developed.



Vague example: "This project will increase access to HCV screening in the community."

Specific example: "Mobile health units will increase HCV screening by 25% among individuals living in rural areas."

## 8. Make sure the goals, methods, and budget align

Presenting a **cohesive** description of your project is key. It should be clear how project activities and funds directly correspond to the overall goals of your proposal. Make sure the methods support the goals and the budget is realistic for the project.

For example, if you want to conduct focus groups, your methods should address recruitment, logistics, and staffing requirements. The budget should include participant incentives and venue rental fees.



## 9. Get help

If you don't have much experience writing grants, find someone who does. This may include colleagues within your organization or external partners. Utilize online resources, ask for advice, and have others provide feedback throughout the writing process.

### **Who can provide assistance?**

- Partners in academia
- Board of Directors
- Graduate students
- Interns
- Volunteers

## 10. Proofread!

This may seem like a no-brainer, but misspelled words and grammatical errors are more common in grant applications than you might think! In addition to using spell-check, have somebody else proofread your application. (You've gone through the proposal several times and may be less sensitive to finding errors.) Other mistakes to avoid are using acronyms and jargon, changing the voice or tense throughout the document, and leaving sections incomplete.

