



Wells Mountain Initiative

Community Development Grant Program

Strategies for Successful Application - Handout 2024

This handout offers strategies for writing successful applications.

Detailed Planning: Successful initiatives are often well planned in advance, thus, we will not be funding programs without evidence of careful planning. Detailed planning must be applied to all stages of the application. This includes ensuring that you are providing a detailed needs assessment, a detailed implementation plan, developing a support team to help you implement your idea (if applicable), considering all budgetary needs, carefully considering financial projections, creating a list of partnership or potential partners, etc.

Local Community Involvement: The most successful projects are those that are also supported by the local community. Within your proposal you should be able to confirm that you have partnerships to support the implementation of your initiative or provide a list of possible individuals/organizations to approach.

Application Tip: Brainstorm ways in which you could build a support network to help you achieve your goals. Share your proposal idea with other WMI Scholars in your nation and ask for their suggestions.

Local Community Investment: The WMI Community Development Grant cannot be the only funding source supporting your initiative.

Application Tip: Share your proposal idea with individuals, groups, organizations, businesses and local governments. As you are creating a list of people to approach, be sure to plan how and what you will ask of them. Local community investment could be shown in the form of financial donations or in-kind donations (free use of a space, pro bono services of a trainer, discounted supplies at a local store, etc.).

Encouraging Sustainability: Except for “one-off” or one-time community events, applicants should be looking for ways to sustain the initiative so that more individuals benefit from the proposal.

Application Tip: Consider training beneficiaries to educate others, creating and providing handout resources in the local language, developing local savings groups (if applicable), etc.

Measuring Outcomes: We believe that monitoring and evaluation are extremely important aspects for all projects.

Application Tip: All projects will need to have a method for showcasing or measuring impact. For some projects this may be a pre-and post-knowledge survey. For other



Wells Mountain Initiative

projects it might relate to financial reports, activities to increase sales, etc. Share your plan within your proposal. Together with WMI staff you will be assisted in developing a final plan.

Your Direct Involvement: Although we are enthusiastic about the many amazing organizations and programs that you may know of, Community Development Grants are not a vehicle for simply passing a donation along to a favorite charity or group of individuals in need of funding. There must be substantial direct involvement by the graduate scholar in all aspects of the project.

Application Tip: Your role in implementing the initiative must be clearly defined with responsibilities and tasks.