

Top Reasons Proposals are Rejected

1. Poor Fit

- Organization or project doesn't match funder interests

2. Fails Technical Compliance Guidelines

- Wrong font, format, etc.

3. Timing

- Submitted late and missing deadlines

4. Outcomes not included in proposal

- No info regarding direct benefit or community impact

5. Duplication of project

- Clearly define how your proposal is better than others

6. Blanket proposals or fishing

- No customization for the funders guidelines or priorities

7. Sustainability not anticipated

- Show how the project will continue after grant funding

8. Unrealistic expectations

- Research the funder – if their average award is \$5,000, don't request for \$50,000

9. Inaccurate, vague writing & poor presentation

- Numerical errors in the budget, spelling & grammar mistakes, too vague for reviewers to understand, unorganized and difficult to evaluate

10. No donor recognition

- Particularly in corporate funding, funders want to be recognized for their contributions