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, to vague for reviewers to understand, unorganized and difficult to evaluate

10. No donor recognition
    - Particularly in corporate funding, funders want to recognized for their contributions