

Worksheet: What to Ask for in a Proposal



This lesson focuses on the logistics of how much you ask of the nonprofit in terms of a proposal and documentation. You have a lot of options, from simply proffering a donation through the “donate” button on a website, to asking for an in-depth proposal, to everything in-between.

For purposes of this lesson I create two possible paths, determined by whether you are a *sustainer-funder* or a *campaigner/launcher-funder*.

A sustainer-funder: This is more suited to an open application process where anyone can apply if they meet your guidelines. Or, you require no proposal at all, and simply send a donation in with no proposal requirements. You don’t even need to be an expert. As long as the issue is something you care about, you can depend upon the group to supply all the information you need.

A campaigner/launcher funder: You will likely need to be much more proactive and ask for a substantive proposal. If the grant is connected to a societal norm you want to change, or you want to launch a whole new group from scratch, an in-depth proposal is advisable.

The next lesson, Best Practices for Proposals, provides sample questions you can include in a proposal application, depend-ing on whether you are *a sustainer, campaigner or launcher funder*.

Homework

1. How proactive do you want to be in your process to solicit proposals from nonprofits? Do you simply want to ask for no proposal and just offer money to groups you care about, or do you wish to be more hands on because you are a campaigner or launcher-funder?

2. Do you have any additional questions you may want to ask the nonprofit in your proposal questions based on your own lived experiences?

If you would like my direct feedback, please fill out the online assessment provided in this lesson.