

Village of Morrill Success Story

Grants Received in 2020



APPLIED FOR 16 GRANTS	RECEIVED 16 GRANTS
CDBG Owner Occupied Rehab	\$ 462,500.00
CDBG Public Works	\$ 435,000.00
FEMA Generator Grants	\$ 11,207.25
USDA Grant for Police Vehicle	\$ 16,800.00
USDA Grant Fire/Pumper Truck	\$ 50,000.00
LARM Safety Grants	\$ 1,000.00
COVID FEMA Grants / Cares Act Funding	\$ 2,164.75
Care Act Funding Grant Presumed Payroll Costs	\$ 54,883.72
APPA/DEED Electrical Internship Grant	\$ 8,000.00
MEAN Grant for Clerk Training	\$ 500.00
MEAN Grant for Electrical Training	\$ 1,500.00
NDEQ Rubber Mulch Grant	\$ 5,827.00
PPHD Mosquito Spraying Grant	\$ 500.00
NE DHHS Water GIS Mapping Grant for Water Safety	\$ 9,000.00
NDEQ Concrete Crushing Grant	\$ 23,438.00
Trees from Re-Tree Nebraska	Received 10 Trees
TOTAL GRANT FUNDING FOR 2020	\$1,082,320.72

Tips for Grant Writing

- Follow directions
- Before typing a single word, read the instructions – all of them. Make a list of questions you might have regarding the grant directions.
- Remember, padding a grant proposal with unrequested information can be a good way to have your submission pushed to the bottom of the pile.
- More is not always better!

More Tips

- Start early.
- Know your grant submission deadline and put it on the calendar. Make sure everybody involved in the effort knows the deadline as well.
- Create a priority checklist based on items or actions which will take the most time, such as securing letters of support, past municipal audits, etc.
- For projects such as infrastructure improvements, determine if any design or a feasibility study is required ahead of time.
- If you are starting the grant proposal or application process late, consider waiting until the next round in the following year rather than rushing your submission.

- Make friends
- Find out who the appropriate person is at the funding organization and call them. This may be your first contact with a decision maker for your grant so make sure you have a very clear understanding of the project and what you are requesting before you call.
- Be professional and courteous during your call and thank the person for their time. Ask the individual what is the best way to contact them with any questions during the grant writing process.
- End your conversation on a positive note by saying you are looking forward to working with the individual.

- Write clearly and persuasively. Sloppy or unfocused writing detracts from and obscures the vision of your project.
- Don't underestimate the importance of sentence structure, word choices and proper grammar. Be mindful of including too much technical jargon.
- Remember to know your audience and tailor your writing accordingly. Take the time to effectively use relevant figures, charts, diagrams, and photographs. Remember the old adage, a picture is worth a thousand words!
- Flow charts and timelines can be effective as well.
- These tools can help save space by conveying large amounts of information in a condensed form and simplifies complex concepts for reviewers who might not be experts in the field.







- Define your project
- Create a clearly defined picture of what your project will look like once completed and what role receiving your grant will play in the project's success.
- Define overall project goals and objectives, project milestones in measurable terms. Talk about WHO will benefit from your project and WHAT will happen if you do not secure funding under this grant.

- Think like a reviewer.
- Remember that many grant application or proposal reviewers make up their minds very quickly in the review process.
- This is where the ability to quickly make a compelling case for the reviewer funding your project becomes important. Make things easy, enjoyable, and interesting to review.

- Proofread, proofread, proofread
- Read your writing two or three times, then stop. At this point, find a fresh set of eyes to peruse your masterpiece.
- At least one proofreader should know little or nothing about your project.
- In addition to getting input on spelling and grammar, ask the proofreader if they actually understood your project vision and funding request.

- If at first you don't succeed, KEEP trying!
- Make corrections, reach out and find out what you can do to make your application stand out and tell the story.