

First Peoples' Cultural Council

Grant Writing for Language Advocates



FIRST PEOPLES'
CULTURAL COUNCIL

Overview

- ❖ FPCC's grant proposal process
- ❖ Stages of grant writing
- ❖ 10 reasons why an application does not receive funding
- ❖ Language Needs Assessments



FPCC's Grant Proposal Process

1. Call for applications
2. Apply!
3. Peer Review Committee (PRC)
4. Notification



Call for Applications

Sign up for email notifications for FPCC funding opportunities: www.fpcc.ca/Signup/default.aspx

Check the application form and website for deadlines



Apply

Make sure this is the right funding program for your project.

Call us! We are happy to discuss your project idea and offer support.

Submit your completed application before the deadline in one package.



Peer Review Committee

All grants are reviewed by a *Peer Review Committee* (PRC).

The PRC reviews the applications and recommends successful applicants to FPCC.



Notification

Successful applicants sign **grant agreements** prior to receiving funding.

Unsuccessful applicants are provided with constructive **feedback** for improving future applications.



Three Stages of Proposal Writing

1. Preparation
2. Writing
3. Submission



Preparation Stage

1 tip: **start early!**

Check the application **deadlines**

Research the grant program:

- READ the program description, funding guide, and any other materials provided
- What are the program goals and outcomes?



Preparation Stage

Read through the application form carefully

Create a schedule for completing your application

Pay attention to application requirements:

- ✓ BCR
- ✓ letters of support
- ✓ cover letter
- ✓ Language Needs Assessment, etc.



Writing Stage: 5 Steps

- 1) Identify what attachments are required
- 2) Fill out a draft
- 3) Review
- 4) Put all the pieces together



Writing Tips

Clarify your project idea

- What would you like to gain from this project? (**outcome**)
- **What** is the main language focus?
- **Who** will be involved?
- **Why** is this project important to you, your community and your language?



Writing Tips

Be clear about the **OUTCOMES**

- What will this project achieve?
- **What** materials will be created? **How** will they be used?
- **What** language will be learned?



Writing Tips

Don't confuse *activities* with ***outcomes***.

Activity	Outcome
Language Nest	Children are exposed to language and learn basic language skills.
Language House for 4 weeks	Participants increase proficiency from low- to mid- beginner
Record fluent speakers for FirstVoices website	100 new words and 25 phrases uploaded to FirstVoices website
Fishing	Participants learn how to use 30 words and phrases for fishing.
Language in the home classes for adults	Adults learn words and phrases to use at home.



Writing Tips

Develop a clear budget

Make sure your budget matches your work plan

- Eg.: the work plan mentions Elders recording 50 phrases, but no payment for Elders is listed in the budget



Writing Tips

Develop a clear budget

Compare the two budgets below. Which is more clear?

Description	Total FPCC Amount	Total In-kind / Other
Elders (\$150 honorarium/day x 3 Elders x 12 days)	\$ 2,100	\$ 3,300 from ABC Band

Description	Total FPCC Amount	Total In-kind / Other
Elders	\$ 5,000	\$



General Writing Tips

Answering application questions

Paraphrasing approach – restate the question in your answer:

Q: *What are the community benefits of this project?*

A: *The community benefits of this project are that there will be more language available to community members on FirstVoices, creating more opportunities for language learning.*



General Writing Tips

Answer ALL questions in the application form.

Don't leave any spaces blank!

If you need more space, add an extra page.



General Writing Tips

Be concise.

Provide a detailed but succinct explanation of your project.

REMEMBER! The PRC does not know you or your community! All they know is what you include in the application.



General Writing Tips

Review your draft before submitting!

Have someone unrelated to the project read through your application.

Send your application to FPCC at least 2 weeks before the deadline for feedback!



Submitting Your Application

- Submit your application in the appropriate format before the deadline
- Include all of the required documents in one package
- Double-check to make sure everything is there



Characteristics of Successful Applications

- Include **well-planned** language revitalization strategies
- Demonstrate the language **outcomes** for the community
- Demonstrate that the **project team** has the capacity to do the work



Characteristics of Successful Applications

- Have a **realistic** and effective plan for using funds
- Demonstrate **community support** for the language project



10 Reasons Applications are Unsuccessful

1. Application was incomplete
2. Budget was incomplete or unclear
3. Application was late
4. Proposal doesn't meet program guidelines
5. Project was unclear



10 Reasons Applications are Unsuccessful

6. Lack of speaker involvement
7. Lack of continuation
8. Competition with applications from the same language/community
9. Applicant not in good standing with the FPCC
10. **Limited funding**



If you are not successful, please don't be discouraged!

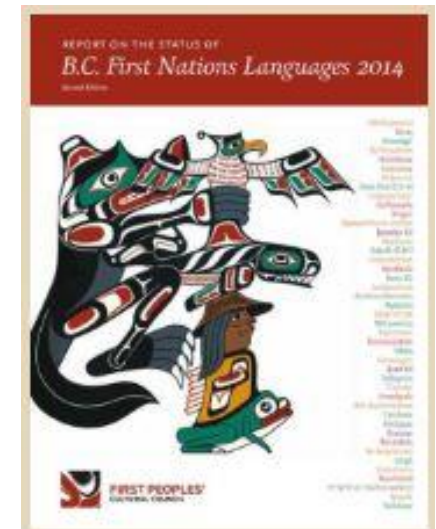
- Use the feedback provided to help strengthen your future applications
- Contact FPCC for support
- Re-apply next year!



Language Needs Assessments

Why do we ask communities to fill out Language Needs Assessments?

- Best data available on the status of First Nations languages in B.C.
- Valuable information to advocate for First Nations languages



How to Complete Your Language Needs Assessment

- <http://fp-maps.ca/>

