



Writing Fundable Grant Proposals: SAMPLES

Keep it clear and simple

We request a grant of \$15,000 to expand our after-school arts education program for children ages 11-18. Expanding this program will mean we can offer classes to more students who are at risk of dropping out of school.

Use (credible) data

A recent study of 25,000 students showed that involvement in the arts leads to higher grades and standardized test scores and lower dropout rates. (Source: Americans for the Arts, americansforthearts.org) Our own experience reflects this. In our first two years of operation, we offered after school art classes to 84 students, all of whom had been identified by their teachers or school counselors as being at high risk to drop out of school. 62% of these students have now graduated or are currently on track to graduate.

Use real-life stories

Randy S. was 12 when one of her teachers referred her to our Tuesday afternoon painting class. She had been a good student, but recently her grades had dropped and she was acting out at school.

Randy had a turning-point moment when her painting class worked together to create a mural outside our building. She learned not only how to express herself creatively as an individual, but also how to communicate with the other students and make compromises when they disagreed about what to create.

Now Randy is 17. She student teaches with us twice a week and is on track to graduate. She says that she wants to go to college to study art education.

Be specific

By adding four new art classes a week to our schedule, we will be able to work with 48 new students, primarily those who are at risk of dropping out of school within the next year. Since we see an improvement in grades and classroom participation for the children and teens who participate in our classes, we expect that nearly two thirds of those students, who would otherwise drop out, will eventually go on to graduate high school.

Use language that the person reviewing the grant will understand

We plan to use these funds to purchase clay, paint and paint brushes.

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We plan to use these funds to purchase oil paint, acrylics and paint brushes (mop brushes, Filbert brushes, fan brushes, etc.), as well as air-dry clay since we do not yet have use of a professional-grade kiln.