

The Athens Foundation Grant Evaluation Criteria

The grant should be ranked on its own merit and not compared to other proposals reviewed. These are only guidelines.

Values Statement: The Athens Foundation believes that a healthy, inclusive community is one that preserves and expands on those things that are working well and values local input, solicits diverse perspectives, inspires cooperation and collaboration, stewards valued resources, encourages self-assessment and continuous learning, and promotes shared values of trust, respect, honesty, and openness.

Category 1: Projects goals/outcomes that align with or promote the mission and values of the Athens Foundation

Is documentation of the needs present? What is the target population? Are proposed activities outlined in detail? Is there evidence that the activities will bring about desired results? Does a long range plan exist? Is this a new activity or approach? How does this proposal relate to/improve upon past attempts to deal with the problem? Does the project propose continuing collaboration or problem solving activities?

Category 2: Has a good methodology, including diverse perspectives, and has clear, realistic and measurable goals.

Is there a realistic time table for implementation of project? Are the objectives realistic and measurable? Do the objectives relate to the stated problem or need? Does the organization have a plan to evaluate their project measured? Do they plan to measure potential impact on the target population? Is this a pilot or model project? Are there plans to share the results? Is there representation of the community/population served in the planning process?

Category 3: Presents a detailed budget that is realistic for the scope of the project

Does the budget exhibit project cost effectiveness? Are expenses appropriate? Is the budget clear? Does the budget appear inflated or understated?

Category 4: Leverages additional resources and collaborations with others to secure additional financial, in-kind or volunteer contributions from other sources.

Do the funds leverage other dollars or bring new funds to the community? Is there community support? Will there be collaboration with other groups, organizations, or neighborhoods? Is this proposal a duplication of services? Does the proposal include evidence of possible future funding/other funding? What other funding sources have been identified?

Category 5: Is presented by an organization that is healthy and strong, and sustainable, has the personnel, administrative structure, and financial stability required to execute the proposal.

Does the organization have a reputation for credibility in the community? How long has the organization been in business? Are there notable key achievements? Are reference letters submitted? Is the organization financially strong and stable? Does the organization demonstrate financial stability over time? Does the agency meet day-to-day operational needs? Is there stability and competence exhibited by key staff? Does organization have a strong and active board?