

Grant Writing & Strategic Planning Services

PA Dept. of Aging's Senior Community Centers Grant Program

We follow a comprehensive approach to the Senior Community Centers Grant Program. The grant writing process creates programs, develops partnerships, and proposes quality facility upgrades.

Services Include:

1. **Strategic Planning:** We answer the questions, “How was the need for your project determined?” and “How did you arrive at a solution?” by developing a Strategic Plan that takes into consideration your specific organization’s strengths and weaknesses, capacity, and community needs and opportunities.
2. **Center Survey:** It is important to involve the members of your center in the decision-making process. We have a survey that asks positive questions to engage your members.
3. **Scholarly Research:** We provide research from government resources and university studies to support the arguments we make in support of programs and renovations.
4. **Maximum Benefit:** We frequently propose projects that go beyond our clients’ expectations.
5. **Partnership Development:** Using “Asset Based Community Development” techniques, we identify programs that can be enhanced with the support of community assets.
6. **Letters of Support:** Each successful grant application includes letters of support from community partners. We draft these letters and work with our partners in submitting them.
7. **Objectives & Measurable Results:** Don’t just say you’re going to improve the center. Prove it!
8. **Contractor Bids:** We work with center managers in getting quotes for any remodeling.
9. **Grant Writing:** Once all this information has been prepared, we complete the Scope of Work, Workbook Cover, and Budget Worksheet, articulating a strong grant case statement.

Our Successes:

1. **100% Success Rate:** We have received PDA funding for every client and some more than once.
2. **Support Across the State:** Successful grants have been prepared for centers in Western, Central and Eastern Pennsylvania, including centers with 31 members to over 1,000 members.
3. **10% of All Monies Awarded:** Since 2014, 5% of all monies awarded statewide were to our clients. In 2018, the total was over 10%. Grants are judged blind and our name does not appear on any application, but we consistently receive high scores for all grants submitted.
4. **Successful Programs:** Programs created from our Strategic Plans have increased the number of activities, percentage of member participation, and number of new members for our clients.

Our Guarantee:

We guarantee that you will receive funding from grants that we write, or we will write next year’s grant at no cost. Really! We have only had to do this once, and it was for an HVAC unit when we knew the lease stated that the landlord was responsible for the HVAC, but the township/landlord did not have the funds to replace it. Generally, we are careful to go after only successful proposals.

How to use the PDA Grant:

The grant can be used for center improvements as well as to create programs and partnerships to increase participation. Ideas for use of the grant include: Flooring, painting, furniture, computers, laptops & tablets, lighting, signage, and new and diverse programs. We can show you how.

For more information, visit www.NNPRC.org/resources, or contact Stephen Forbus at stephen@nnprc.org, or call 215-245-8412. The deadline for this year’s grant is Nov. 15, 2019.