

FAITC Grant Helpful Tips

Before you start typing your application read **ALL** the directions and rubric if there is one. Your grant application can be thrown out because you forget one small thing.

- Title: Give it something catchy (this is suggested but not essential).
- Double check your contact information.
- Your amount requested needs to match your budget.

Purpose: This is WHY you are conducting this project NOT how.

Project Description: This is where you tell HOW you will conduct your project. Be detailed and thorough but not overly wordy.

Objectives: Make sure your goals are realistic and attainable yet challenging. Qualitative results are acceptable but make sure you also include quantitative outcomes.

Quantitative examples:

- 20% knowledge gain of plant growth
- 50% of the students will eat the produce grown in the garden

Qualitative example:

- Student's attitude toward fresh fruits and vegetables changes.

Budgets: Many grants require in-kind. These items are donated time, donated money/items or discounts. Volunteers are invaluable when it comes to successful gardens but some organizations will want to see that you are also asking other places for donations. Read over what is allowed and not allowed to be funded by the grant. Do not put items in your budget that are not allowed, this gives the organization an easy way to throw out your application.

Timeline: Make sure you give details about your entire project.

Example of a good timeline:

August – Early November: Introduce students to the scientific method. Get students input for crop ideas, vote on the name of the garden and draw up garden plans. Teach unit of rocks and soil. Complete Tomatosphere experiment. Build raised beds.

November – December: Send home flyers asking for donations and volunteers. Start advertising garden club membership.

January: Initial garden club meeting. Choose appropriate plants and create harvest schedule. Make Garden Journals. Begin watching 'Nathan, The Man in Overalls' videos.

Example of a bad timeline:

*Start ASAP and have completed if possible, in time for late fall planting. Spring planning also will be done.

*Our PTO will help the children plant appropriate fruits and vegetables for these lessons.

*We will buy fruits and vegetables to explore first. They will also explore the different parts of the plant.

*Will begin in September and end in May.

Once completed: Share your application with someone who is unfamiliar with your project plans. If they have questions, the funding organization will have questions. Questions can mean application gets thrown out.