Module 1 Assignment

PGD in Grant Management Module 1 Assignment

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1. Discuss four motivations that make grant makers (donors) to enter into grant making endeavors.

The first thing the grant makers would consider upon receiving the proposal is to quickly assess in the application is the purpose of the organization and that of the project matches their current interest and priorities and contributes towards the wider and bigger goal of the grant maker organization. Critical aspect of a project proposal will be closely scrutinized by a grant maker, exactly how the propose project will address the problem highlighted. At this point, the grant maker will asked some few questions to evaluate the proposed project in its written form. Is the solution innovative? Does it have any past success? Have similar projects worked elsewhere? Have they considered any downsides to their proposal and how will they mitigate risks identified? Any value for money? Will the project be accepted by the community? Does the organization has the capacity to deliver the envisage project? And many more questions as deemed necessary by the grant maker

Secondly grant makers will always be interested in the credibility of the organization. They may investigate the current status and reputation of grant making organization within the community they work in and other previous donors, this will helps indicate experiences of previous worked. That is why it's very crucial to invest in donor management so that even if a particular project doesn't quite work as you intended, the funder will still report positively on your organization because donors are intrigued by past funders

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Thirdly, grant makers would be interested to see if a project fits within their current priorities in terms of beneficiaries, location, impact, delivery strategies. These are always outline in the guideline for call for proposals as eligibility criteria on the types of organization and project that can apply. These criteria will be rigorously checked against proposal to ensure conformity to eligibility and that the project will be delivered in the desired way that fits within their established portfolio and philosophy.

Fourthly, the grant maker will want to see in the proposal the sustainability component well discussed how it will keep living after the funding period ends. Is there an exit strategy in place?

2. What are the components of a winning proposal? Explain four

There are many factors that lead to acceptance or rejection of a proposal by grant maker. The key elements begins with a innovative idea, continue with clear and focus objectives and plan and end with deliverables that are evidence based with sustained results and impact.
Specifically the winning proposal composed of the following

Goal and objective component: The goal is what the project wants to do and objectives is what the project one component that all proposals share is an initial goal or mission. The goal or mission is usually the very first part of your proposal. That has to be clear, concise, and persuasive. And objective has to be Specific, measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time bound. The two has to be focus that is well aligned and tailored to the goals and values of the founder

The strategy of implementation component. A winning proposal has clear strategy of implementation in place. This must be linked to the available resource,

context, target group and the population/community so that desired results can be realized

Evaluation component of the project. A winning proposal must have a clear and detail the purpose for evaluation, how will the finding be used

Sustainability component

Project budget component. That presents the specifics of your proposal in a logical manner is your business plan. The donor must understand what you intend to do throughout the lifetime of the proposal. You should include a clear goal, measurable objectives, activities that can easily be budgeted, and outcomes that clearly parallel and are related to the objectives. If an organization feels forced into donating X amount of money without the possibility of cutting or shifting costs, then the chances of obtaining funding decrease substantially

3. Giving examples explain four challenges your organization faces in Grant Management.

Low execution rate: When the organization fail the consume all the fund they request and yet the donor has already committed to targets and funds. This will result to a No Cost Extension which is the last thing a donor would like to hear from an implementer

Fraud or misappropriation of funds: This is a big vices in grant management. Many organizations lost donor because they failed to account fo the fund disbursed by the donor. This left many community blaming donors for work un accomplished.

Communication and collaboration challenges: It's tricky when there are multiple people involved in the management of grants. Whether it's the development

office, grant office or research staff, it can be hard to manage communication across all involved stakeholders.

Staff turnover can cause confusion, delays, and other problems that have the potential to jeopardize grant funds and diminish the credibility of your organization. When personnel involved with managing grant awards leave an organization, it can negatively impact communication with the funding agency. In many organizations, there is often one individual who has maintained communication and established a relationship with the funding agency; if that individual leaves, steps must be taken to maintain the organization's relationship with the funding agency.

Non compliancy to donor requirements: When the organization has trouble managing compliance requirements, and meeting stick and time-consuming reporting documenting the use of funds, this becomes a big issues which can lead to termination of the grant agreement or contract.

4. Identify and explain any four features or characteristics of a Project.

The key feature of a project include scope, time, resources and quality:

The scope or objective defines what will be covered in a project. During the process, projects pass through several distinct phases, which form and are called the project life cycle. The tasks, people, organizations, and other resources will change as the project moves from one phase to the next. The organizational structure and the resource expenditures build with each succeeding phase; peak; and then decline as the project nears completion.

Resource: what can be used to meet the scope? Project differs from what was previously done, it also involves inputs to achieve outputs, results and impact at different level. Because project encompasses new technology and, for the organization/firm undertaking the project, these bring into play significant

elements of uncertainty and risk. Every project needs funding or budget to function

Schedule / Time: Operates on defined time to accomplished plan activities. A project is an ad hoc organization of staff, material, equipment and facilities that is put together to accomplish a goal. This goal is within a specific time-frame. Once the goal is achieved, the organization created for it is disbanded or sometimes it is reconstituted to begin work on a new goal (project).

Quality: the spread or deviation allowed from a desired standard.

Life-cycle: A project has a life cycle reflected by growth, maturity and decay. It has naturally a learning component

Risk and uncertainty: defines in advance what may happen to drive the plan off course, and what will be done to recover the situation. Every project has risk and uncertainty associated with it. The degree of risk and uncertainty will depend on how a project has passed through its various life-cycle phases. An ill-defined project will have extremely high degree of risk and uncertainly

Team-work: A project calls for team-work. The team again is constituted of members belonging to different disciplines, organizations and even countries.

5. Discuss the five components of a good monitoring and evaluation design.
    Successful project or proposals has well-articulated and detail monitoring and evaluation framework or design which includes who does the monitoring, and When the monitoring is done. Who uses the data and where is the data stored and how is it disseminated.

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Measurable indicators to track the project performance. Normally referred to as log frame. It includes overall goal of the project specific objective, results and activities with the inputs. The objectives must be qualifiable

Monitoring and evaluation plan: Sometimes refers to as data collection plan. A good project conduct baseline survey to enable project set realistic indicators. Mid way the project lifespan, it's important to conduct midterm evaluation and reviews to assess if the implementation is achieving its milestone. The recommendations helps streamline any deviations as it takes care of emerging issues.

Data analysis plan: What tool will the project officer or the organization use to analyze the data or information or the result? The tools may be developed from the inception of the project. The tools can be modified

Risk Monitoring and Mitigation matrix: A good monitoring and evaluation has a component on how to mitigate the identified project risk. This matrix help in monitoring risk whether they are progressing, diminishing or reoccurring in the course of project implementation. As the organization monitors the project performance, it's very critical to monitor the risk while capturing lesson learnt.

Data dissemination plan: Components signal that you will give back to your community what you learned throughout the lifespan your grant. This section is often extensive in some proposals that require broader impacts to address education, while in others it might be a presentation at a conference or a publication.

Lesson learnt component: A good monitoring and Evaluation framework must have the component of lesson learnt. Some organization refer to it as action research component. Any learning and growing organization ensures all the

lessons are well documented and shared with the stakeholders to inform feature projects. However this has to be well captured in the proposals