

Elements of a Good Proposal

MCAF Interests & Priorities

While the Morrison County Area Foundation remains open to proposals that identify emerging needs outside the areas listed below, we offer priority consideration to those that include the following interests and priorities:

- Arts & Culture
- Economic Development
- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Historical Preservation
- Human Services / Strengthening Families

Elements to Consider

The Morrison County Area Foundation looks for certain key principles as we consider grant proposals. As you complete your application, consider how your program or project takes the following elements into account.

Accountability - Does the proposal use reliable data to design and implement strategies that address a critical community need or opportunity? Does it avoid duplication of existing services and document the need for additional services?

Collaboration – Does the proposal bring people and organizations together to form effective partnerships and collaborations?

Evaluation – Does the proposal include an effective mechanism for measuring the program outcomes?

Innovation – Can the pilot project, if successful, be duplicated by other organizations?

Leverage – Does this proposal provide a way to amplify our resources by forming partnerships with other grant makers, government agencies, or the private sector?

Management – Does the nonprofit organization comply with Core Operating Standards for Start-Up Organizations and demonstrate the expertise and experience necessary to accomplish the project?

Planning – Does the project advance the mission of the organization? Is it driven by the organizations board? Does it include clearly stated goals, timelines, and objectives?

Prevention – Does the proposed strategy allow intervention at a point where it is possible to focus on the root cause of a problem?

Sustainability – Does the nonprofit organization operate under sound financial principles and have a plan for ongoing financial and community support to ensure its own future and that of the project?

Systems approach – Does the proposal take a broader, systematic approach to meeting community needs, recognizing that such needs do not exist in isolation?