Grant Opportunity for Rural Ambulance Services

If your service is a rural first responder group, you may qualify for this Grant! The Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Safety has federal grant funding available from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The rural emergency response programs funds can be used to fund initial equipment and training for rural first responder groups in targeted high risk areas.

To apply for this Grant, your service will need to show a need for the funds and complete and return the grant application and budget to WisDOT prior to May 15, 2010. The funding from this grant must be used prior to September 30, 2010. The dollar amount that can be requested is flexible and based upon need. WisDOT has the final approval on all submittals.

To receive the EMS grant application packet or to get more information, contact:

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In order to assist you in writing this grant, we thought it appropriate to rerun an article that may assist you in writing the grant.

Grant Writing 101: The Cover Letter
Originally Published on January 29, 2010

Not all grants your service will apply for will be government grants (AFG, SAFER, FP & S, etc.). Some of the best funding sources when it comes to available grant opportunities today are those that are offered through foundations and private corporations. The strategies for writing a successful grant package differ when it comes to these types of groups. While a well-written proposal for charitable organizations is, of course, very important, sometimes it is the cover letter that can be the deciding factor as to whether or not your organization will
receive the funding it is requesting. It is not necessary to include cover letters for state or federal grants but you will want to include one if your grant proposal is to a corporation or foundation.

So what makes a phenomenal cover letter?

- Your cover letter should be brief (one page, 3-4 paragraphs at most). Make sure you get to the point as quickly as possible but yet do not merely repeat the information contained in the proposal itself.

- Use your service’s letterhead and make sure that the date on the cover letter is the same as the one on the proposal. It is recommended that you use the date your proposal will be sent.

- Try to avoid “To Whom it May Concern” as the contact name at the top of your letter. Do your research and double check, if you can, the contact name and address. This information is easily verified through email or a quick telephone call.

- In your opening paragraph, tell the organization how much money you are requesting and why it is needed. Include a sentence or two about how your service is organized and also be sure to mention the need for fire/EMS services in your community. Include one factual statement to pique the reader’s interest (i.e. “Our call volume increased 20% in 2009”).

- The next one or two paragraphs should be very clear and to the point. Explain to the reader how well you understand the organization you are presenting to and how your grant meets the organization’s expectations, mission, and/or purpose. Be sure to include that your municipality, board of directors, or other governing body is fully supporting your project.

- The final paragraph should be a summary illustrating to the funder what a partnership between your service and their organization could mean to the community as a whole.

- Sign your letter with the closing, “Sincerely.”
• Have a governing member of the organization sign the letter and type that person’s name below his/her signature. If the contact person is different, that information (name and contact information) can be included at the end of the last paragraph.

• Include the word “ENCLOSURE” at the bottom of the letter in all capital letters.

Portions of this article were taken from
http://nonprofit.about.com/od/foundationfundinggrants/a/coverletters.htm