

NWP Grant Award Process

This is a summary of the steps that NWP conducts in order to determine the two finalists and ultimately the winner of the annual NWP Grant. Some applicants may be eliminated at each round.

Round 1

(Determined by the Outreach Committee)

Qualifiers:

1. **NON-DISCRIMINATORY**
NWP will not support an agency that discriminates against race, religion, gender, or national origin.
2. **OPEN TO ALL RELIGIONS AND BELIEFS**
NWP will not support an agency that attempts to recruit or require clients to embrace specific beliefs or traditions.
3. **BENEFICIARIES OF YOUR AGENCY MUST BE LOCAL RESIDENTS**
NWP requires the beneficiaries of its award to be residents of Southern Nevada.
4. **NO START-UPS**
NWP will fund agencies that have been in operation in Southern Nevada for a minimum of three years. This includes new local chapters or branches of national organizations.
5. **501 c 3 REQUIRED**
NWP will fund only 501c3 tax-exempt organizations.
6. **NO DEBT RETIREMENT**
NWP will not award grants to pay off or pay down agency's loans.

Round 2

(Determined by the Grant Screening Committee)

LOI Review. Does the project make sense? Is it a good idea?

1. **ALIGNMENT**
NWP supports proposals that are in harmony with the agency's stated mission and strategic plan.
2. **URGENT NEED**
NWP seeks projects that fill vital unmet needs in our community. These may include, but are not limited to:
 - A new service that fits within the agency's mission.
 - A new delivery location site of existing services.
 - A specific expenditure that will strengthen the financial health of the agency for the long term. (Example: Purchase trucks to save huge cash drain on truck rentals.)
 - An innovative collaboration proposal that requires an initial cash outlay in order to strengthen both agencies.
3. **READINESS**
NWP requires evidence that the project can be implemented and show concrete progress within one year of the award grant date.

4. SUSTAINABILITY

NWP will fund projects that will continue to yield benefits to the community after the three-year period of NWP funding, and that can demonstrate that funds will be available to sustain the proposed project after the NWP funds are used. Examples:

- Once this program is in place, we will be eligible for the following grants that are not now an option for us. (be specific)
- If we purchase this truck we can pay for the gas, insurance and maintenance from the money we save on truck rental.
- If we install this playground the city will contribute to its upkeep, but not to its initial installation.
- **Bad example:** If we have this extra program, our donors will be so happy that they will give more.

5. IMPACT

NWP will evaluate the number of people served by the proposal, giving careful consideration to the compelling nature of the benefit.

Example: If a proposal benefits only 6 people, but it literally saves their lives, that proposal may carry as much weight with NWP as a proposal that provides 400 people with an extra meal each week, or 1,000 people with a chance to be exposed to the symphony.

If the proposal initially serves a small number of people, NWP will look for plans from the applicant to replicate the prototype and disseminate the information effectively.

6. PERCENTAGE OF THE PROJECT

NWP funding must represent a strong % of the project total. Could funding needs from other sources impede the final success of the project?

Round 3

(Determined by the Grant Screening Committee)

Doc Pac Review. Can the agency handle the money?

NWP is not looking for the perfect textbook example of a well run non-profit. It is trying to spot unacceptable risks and potential problems with a partnership between NWP and the agency.

1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NWP reviews the statements and the auditor's notes. Anything out of the ordinary will be questioned.

2. MANAGEMENT

NWP looks for a strong team that can successfully implement the proposed project. Does the Executive Director have a capable team that can operate in his or her absence? Will the organization continue effectively if the top manager is gone?

3. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NWP prefers an agency that has a diverse Board that is aware and supportive of the proposed project.

- Does the Board include members from the banking, accounting and legal communities?

- Board members may be contacted by NWP to measure their commitment to this project.
4. DONORS
NWP looks for a roster of multiple repeat donors. Reliance on a single major donor may indicate an unacceptable risk, and will be investigated.
 5. STRATEGIC PLAN
NWP will carefully analyze the agency's strategic plan, mission statement, and operating budget to confirm that the proposal is in alignment.
 6. NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
If the applicant is a local chapter of a national organization, NWP will explore the extent to which the national organization supports the local chapter and the proposal.

Round 4

(Determined by the Grant Screening Committee)

Site Interview. A picture is worth 1,000 words.

All candidates who successfully satisfy the requirements of Rounds 1 through 3 will host a site visit for the Grant Screening Committee, NWP Executives, and other interested NWP members. The goals of the site visit are:

- Meet the managers who will be responsible for implementation of the project.
- View the agency's facilities.
- Meet current clients if appropriate.
- Ask any remaining questions.

Round 5

(Determined by a vote by the entire NWP membership)

Grant Hearing. At this point only two Finalists remain.

- Each of the two finalists prepares a ten page written proposal that reiterates the agency mission, project description, and expected impact, incorporating answers to the questions that have arisen during the screening process. This proposal, along with the project budget, is distributed to the entire NWP membership.
- The finalists conduct a 30-minute presentation to the entire NWP membership followed by a 15 minute Q and A session.