

Grant Writing Workshop



Strengthening Rural Maryland Families Direct Services Grants Program

An initiative of the Rural Maryland Council
with funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation

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Part One Agenda:

Technical Assistance

- Overview of the direct services grants program
- Access Rural Maryland Council site
- Access Annie E. Casey site
- Complete the application
- Questions about technical matters?

Part Two Agenda:

Substantive Assistance

- Tips on writing a winning proposal
- Break Activity: What are reviewers looking for?
- Questions about substantive or technical matters?

Overview of the Grants Program

- ❑ Applicants can request up to \$20,000
 - ❑ Staff salary or consultant costs
 - ❑ Purchase curriculum or training
 - ❑ Program supplies or materials
 - ❑ Incentives for program participants
- ❑ Focus on Family Economic Success
 - ❑ Workforce development
 - ❑ Family economic support
 - ❑ Community investment
- ❑ Family strengthening orientation
 - ❑ Families matter
 - ❑ Place matters
 - ❑ Connections count

Application Process

- Letter of intent (accepted on ongoing basis)
- Technical Assistance
 - Grant writing workshop
 - Email Sarah Kaye at skaye@umd.edu
- Grant application due May 31
- Grantees announced June 30
- Grants period August 2006 – April 2007
- Rural Maryland Summit October 26-27th
- Reporting requirements:
 - Interim report due November 1, 2006
 - Final report due May 1, 2006

Tips for Writing a Winning Proposal



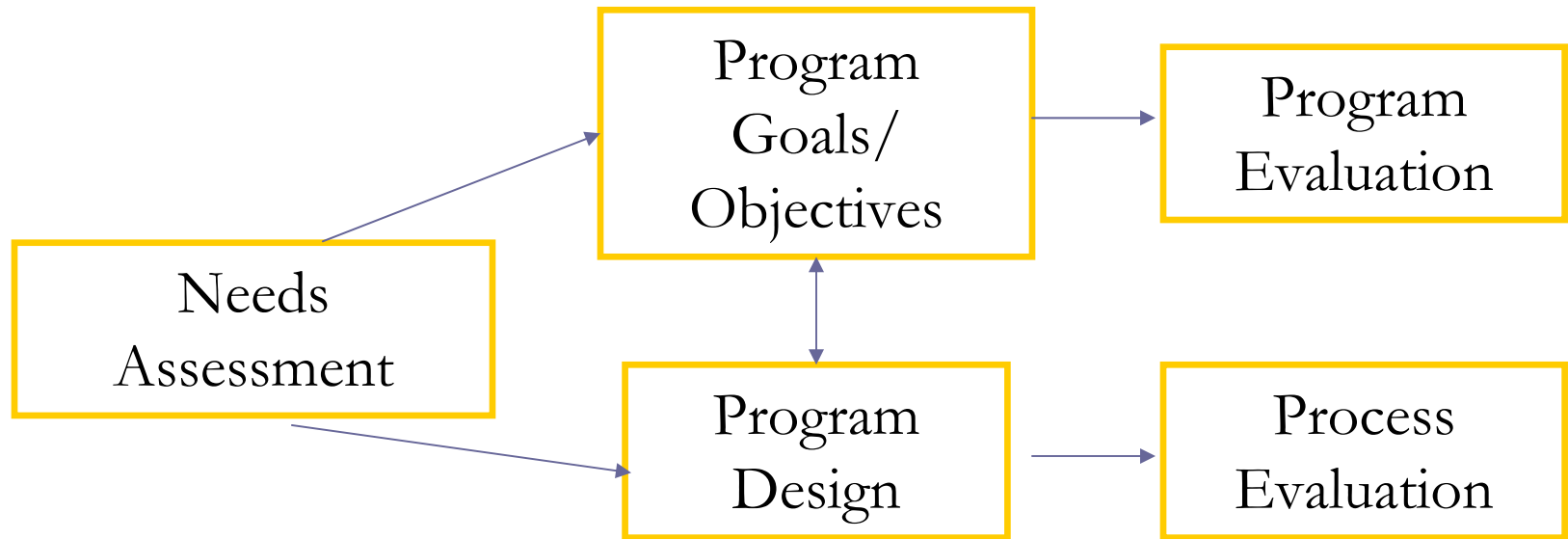
1. Follow directions

- Respond to all questions
- Follow word limits and guidelines
- Include all necessary information
- Have all application materials to the contact person by the indicated deadline

2. Hook reviewers

- Capture reviewers interest early
- Demonstrate how your application stands out
- Play to your strengths

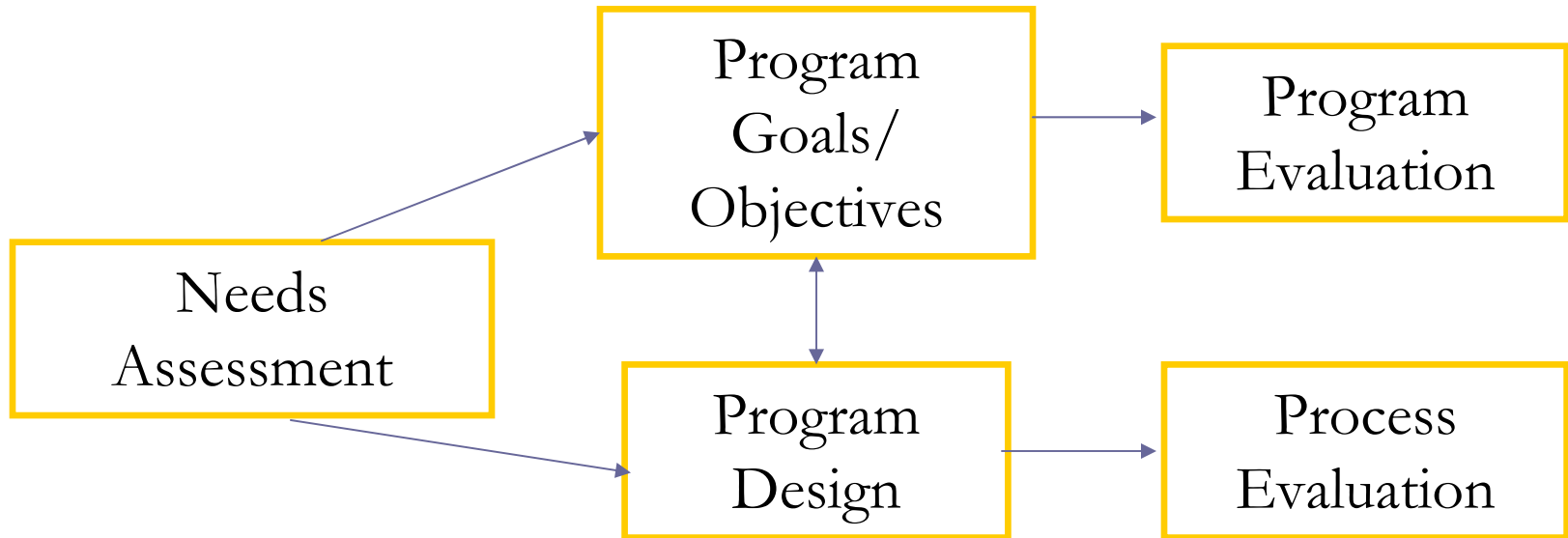
3. Clarity, Logic, Simplicity



4. Recognize Contextual Factors

Contextual Factors:

Characteristics of the target population and surrounding community



5. Write for any audience

- Define professional jargon
- Spell out all acronyms
(at least once)
- Make it easy to locate information

6. Write for reviewers

- Use all available materials when completing your application
 - Call for proposals
 - FAQ
 - Scoring criteria
 - Referenced literature

- Use funders' terminology

Other grant writing tips
