Mission Statements For Grant Writers

Does your organization or client have a mission statement? As a grant writer for 501(c) 3 charitable foundations it’s important to be aware of issues and concepts surrounding strategic planning. There are three things that nonprofit organizations should state candidly and clearly: Vision, values and mission.

If you are working as a freelancer then you need to speak on the same level as your client. If they trust you as a competent advisor then you have the chance to add something to the writing process. You’ll be able to explain how the need fits the donor’s cause.

# This Is What A Nonprofit Mission Statement Looks Like

Mission statements express what the organization is doing, in the present tense. An excellent example is the Ford Foundation's, which states:

"The Ford Foundation supports visionary leaders and organizations on the frontlines of social change worldwide"

This is a simple, to-the-point statement of what the organization is currently doing. What I really like about is that it's smart and pithy, without being cute. It also manages to tie into the broader concept of vision.

Another great example is “*Edutopia”*, The George Lucas Education Foundation, whose mission statement is:

" . . .Dedicated to improving the K-12 learning process by documenting, disseminating, and advocating for innovative, replicable, and evidence-based strategies that prepare students to thrive in their future education, careers, and adult lives."

It follows up with a vision statement that extends the mission, explaining where they intend to be in the long-term future. That's a knockout combination.

## Indicate Your Alignment To The Cause

All nonprofit organizations need to have a mission statement that clearly states their purpose. Funders will use it to judge whether or not your program is aligned to their objectives. Likewise, there is no point in wasting time applying to them if their mission statement clashes with your own. Of course this is just a basic indicator and further research will show their funding goals in detail. However, an obvious misalignment of goals can save you the trouble of applying further.

# The Breakdown For Grant Writers

* The following points sum up ways to construct your statement:
* State what your organization does
* Get to the point in one or two sentences
* Create action with your words
* Use the present tense
* Turn it into a statement where alignment to their cause may be judged

Mission statements are essential tools to communicate your goals to all of your stakeholders, not just prospective grant funders. They support all fund raising ways and means, they provide guidance to your staff and volunteers and they build hope to the beneficiaries of your actions that you can provide the programs for change.

In grant proposals you need to communicate alignment and create confidence that your cause should be funded. As an expert grant writer, having a mission clear statement, which tells people what your cause is about, will make your job much easier.