Grant Basics Recordings and Resources

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This multi-part series from our Municipal Operations Support team provides a practical, large-scale perspective on the phases of preparing for, pursuing, writing, and implementing grants. It also provides perspectives and tips from funders. Each session begins with a presentation then transitions to a participant Q&A where attendees ask questions of the presenter(s).

Grant Basics: Grant Management

Grants can provide valuable opportunities for municipalities, but only when managed properly. Before applying for or accepting an award, it is essential to assess whether your municipality has the resources, time, systems, and expertise to meet the grant's requirements, including reporting, compliance, audits, and project management.

The VLCT's Municipal Operations Support (MOS) team hosted an informative session on core grant management skills, with a deep dive into:

- Understanding the grant agreement
- Implementation and oversight
- Monitoring and reporting best practices
- Evaluation methods
- Project closeout essentials

Presenter:

Bonnie Waninger, Project & Funding Specialist, VLCT

Recorded: Oct 21, 2025

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Presentation Slides: Grant Basics: Grant Management(opens in a new tab)

Grant Basics: The Application

Now that securing a grant award has become more competitive than ever, developing your grant application strategically greatly improves your chances of convincing funders that your project is worthy of their funding. Grant writing requires understanding what funders want to see in projects as well as applications. Whether you are preparing to apply for a grant, are writing the actual proposal, or just received notice that your application was not successful, this webinar will help you set yourself up for future success.

Participants joined VLCT's Municipal Operations Support staff to learn about grant applications and strategies for success. Topics included:

- Understanding the grant landscape and how it had changed
- What to know about grants and how they worked
- What funders wanted and didn't want to see in an application
- Tips and tricks to make your grant writing experience easier and your proposals more competitive

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Presenter:

Bonnie Waninger, Project & Funding Specialist, VLCT

Recorded: Aug 5, 2025

Presentation Slides: Grant Basics: The Application

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Grant Basics: Developing and Funding the Project

Transforming an idea into a well-developed project plan is essential for winning grants because funders and voters want projects that are realistic, viable, and sustainable. Project development helps ensure you know what resources are needed to build, operate, maintain, and eventually replace a grant-funded project. It identifies red flags, builds a realistic timeline and budget, and aligns expectations among stakeholders.

Learn about project development and ways to fund your project. Topics include:

- The project lifecycle and the products that help move you toward grant success.
- The important role of capital stacks in the project's funding package.
- What to know about grants and how they work, including what funders want to see in an application.

Presenter:

Bonnie Waninger, Project & Funding Specialist, VLCT

Recorded: June 3, 2025

Presentation Slides: Grant Basics: Developing and Funding the Project

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Grant Basics: Before the Grant

Setting priorities and selecting the right projects are cornerstones for winning grants. Successful projects are built on the pillars of strong leadership, communication, organization, coordination, and partnership. Use this training to learn how to implement these pillars while turning ideas into successful projects.

- Gather ideas, set priorities, and select project concepts
- Establish roles and responsibilities that set your project up for success
- Create a project team to harmonize communication and avoid surprises
- Find help when you have a capacity gap
- Understand project and grant readiness

Presenter:

Bonnie Waninger, Project & Funding Specialist, VLCT

Recorded: April 1, 2025

Presentation Slides: Grant Basics: Before the Grant Presentation Slide Deck

Register for upcoming events on our Training & Events calendar.

Recorded sessions reflect current applications of the law at the time of the recording. For the most current information, members should refer to our MAC topics page (opens in a new tab)or contact us at info@vlct.org or 1-800-648-7915. You may also submit a question on our Ask A Question webpage.

This page may expire at any time due to changes to the laws and/or topics discussed, or because a newer training replaces it.

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