

The Five Pillars Grant Scorecard

A simple but powerful scoring tool that helps you evaluate your organization across the Five Pillars of Grant Readiness: Programs, Proof, Partnerships, Presence, and Process. Your score reveals your strengths, gaps, and the highest-impact next steps. Rate each statement from 1–5 (1 = Not yet true, 5 = Very true). After each pillar, complete the reflection prompts.

PILLAR 1: PROGRAMS – Clarity, Strength, & Alignment

Rate Your Program Strength

1. Our program purpose can be explained in one clear sentence. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
2. Our target population is clearly defined. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
3. Staff, board, and leadership describe our program consistently. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
4. We have a documented needs statement for our program. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
5. We can articulate the transformation or outcomes we create. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
6. Our program design aligns with documented community needs. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
7. We have a clear logic model or program framework. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)

Total: _____

Reflection Prompts

- What story does your program currently tell?
- What parts feel fuzzy or inconsistent?
- What questions would a funder still have?
- What ONE action would make your program easier to explain?

PILLAR 2: PROOF – Data, Impact, & Evidence

Rate Your Proof Strength

1. We track participation (outputs). (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
2. We measure at least 2–3 meaningful outcomes. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
3. We collect surveys, evaluations, or testimonials. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
4. We use data to demonstrate program success or improvement. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
5. We have usable examples, stories, or quotes from participants. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
6. We can easily pull impact data for proposals. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
7. Our impact aligns with what funders care about. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)

Total: _____

Reflection Prompts

- What impact evidence do you already have?
- What simple data could you begin tracking this month?
- What is one “quick win” that would strengthen your proof?

The Five Pillars Grant Scorecard

A simple but powerful scoring tool that helps you evaluate your organization across the Five Pillars of Grant Readiness: Programs, Proof, Partnerships, Presence, and Process. Your score reveals your strengths, gaps, and the highest-impact next steps. Rate each statement from 1–5 (1 = Not yet true, 5 = Very true). After each pillar, complete the reflection prompts.

PILLAR 3: PARTNERSHIPS – Community Connections & Collaboration

Rate Your Partnership Strength

- We have active, current partnerships. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
- Our partnerships improve our ability to serve. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
- Our partners refer participants or collaborate meaningfully. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
- We have MOUs or documentation for key relationships. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
- Our partners would vouch for the quality of our work. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
- We participate in coalitions, work groups, or networks. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)

Total: _____

Reflection Prompts

- Which partnerships strengthen your case for funding?
- Which relationships need refreshing or re-engaging?
- What partnership is missing that would make a big difference?

PILLAR 4: PRESENCE – Public Identity & Credibility

Rate Your Presence Strength

- Our website clearly describes our programs and impact. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
- Our social media reflects active, current work. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
- Our story is expressed consistently across platforms. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
- Our organization looks “funding ready” online. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
- Staff & board information is up to date. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
- Photos/videos represent recent work. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
- A funder could get a clear understanding of us from Google alone. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)

Total: _____

Reflection Prompts

- What impression would a funder form in 30 seconds online?
- Which pages or channels need the most attention?
- What visual or narrative updates would make a big difference?

The Five Pillars Grant Scorecard

A simple but powerful scoring tool that helps you evaluate your organization across the Five Pillars of Grant Readiness: Programs, Proof, Partnerships, Presence, and Process. Your score reveals your strengths, gaps, and the highest-impact next steps. Rate each statement from 1–5 (1 = Not yet true, 5 = Very true). After each pillar, complete the reflection prompts.

PILLAR 5: PROCESS – Systems, Organization, & Preparedness

Rate Your Process Strength

- We store grant documents in organized folders. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
- We have updated program budgets. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
- We have updated program descriptions. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
- We use a grant calendar or tracking tool. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
- Roles & responsibilities for grant writing are clear. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
- We maintain past applications & reports for reference. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)
- Our process is repeatable, not dependent on one person. (1 -2 -3 - 4 - 5)

Total: _____

Reflection Prompts

- Where do your systems break down?
- What slows you down most?
- What one process change would streamline everything?

DAY 1 Wrap-Up Section

Strongest Pillar: _____

Weakest Pillar: _____

Your One Action Step Today: