COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT 2023-24   **[SCREAMSHEET]**

Review the application procedure.
Review the online application and scoring rubric carefully. Make sure your grant narrative addresses the scoring criteria. Prep your document in a Word processor. Create a separate budget document PDF.

The Project Narrative is short – plan accordingly.
This is not a long grant application, and your project narrative should be short and get right to the point. Be concise and clear. Don't waste your limited words on fluff.

Target a specific project with your grant proposal.
Focus your grant application on a single project; it will increase your chances of getting funded. Be detailed—it will show that you've clearly thought through how the project will be executed.

Spell out the need for the grant.
To increase your chances of being awarded, clearly describe the need that your project will meet in the community and how your work will make a significant impact for good in Lincoln County.

Tell a good story.
Make sure your narrative tells a compelling story and make it easy for the reviewers to understand the problem and how your solution will make a real difference.

Write in short, hard-hitting sentences.
Long-winded sentences almost always lose the reader. Simple verbs and simple nouns are the best and avoid abbreviations or industry jargon. Be as clear as possible.

Differentiate yourself.
Tell how your organization's work is different from other nonprofits to set yourself apart. Highlight past successes. Build trust and confidence in your ability to manage grant funds and deliver good results.

Defend the viability of your project.
If your project is "one and done," tell us how you'll measure success and impact. If your project carries on beyond the grant period, how will it be sustained. Show the reviewers a realistic timeline.

Collaboration and Other Funding Sources.
This grant program is about making an impact – you can do more with collaboration and additional funding, tell us about it. If you can show other funding sources, it will help your application.

Be sure your budget makes sense.
Be sure your math adds up, your budget makes sense, and it supports the objectives you're proposing to accomplish. Remember that grant funds can't be used for operational expenses.

Have a trusted source review your application.
Have someone review your application and proofread your writing. If possible, share with them the scoring rubric and have them score your application to see how your narrative stacks up.