# Fix the Form

# WHAT IS #FIXTHEFORM?

#FixTheForm is a grassroots international movement to identify and fix the worst elements of funding application forms that waste time and money.

Over 2,500 reviews on GrantAdvisor.org say small (but impactful) changes to grant applications represent the top opportunity for improvement in the field.

# ACCORDING TO WHOM?

We launched a survey in November 2020, and in less than four weeks got 500 responses from grantseekers across nine countries, representing every shape, size, and activity area of the nonprofit sector. They had a lot to say...

RESPONDENTS - YEARS OF GRANTSEEKING EXPERIENCE



## **TOP THREE FIXES**

- Not being able to see the full application ahead of time (411 votes)
- 2. Time taken to apply is disproportionate to funding amount awarded (398 votes)
- 3. Forms you can't save and return to (377 votes)

"WE LOVE YOU, MOST OF THE TIME...BUT TOO OFTEN YOU PLACE AN EMPHASIS ON LOW ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND THEN CREATE PROCESSES THAT REQUIRE A LOT OF ADMINISTRATIVE TIME."

"FOR MANY ORGANIZATIONS, ESPECIALLY ONES THAT ARE BLACK- OR BROWN-LED AND FAR MORE LIKELY TO BE CHRONICALLY UNDER-FUNDED, THESE ARE PARTICULARLY HARMFUL [PRACTICES]."

### WHAT ELSE NEEDS TO BE FIXED?

## #FixTheForm Full Results



Not being able to see the full application ahead of time (ie. surprise pop-up questions) Time taken disproportionate to funding amount awarded Forms you can't save and return to Repeating same or similar questions and expecting different answers

Word/Character Limits

Poor and nonsensical formatting (ie. requiring manual entry of each board member)

Not being able to use your own templates for attachments (ie. budgets, board members, etc.) Not having the application in an easy to edit and share document

Unclear eligibility requirements

Online form doesn't save formatting (ie. bullet points or underlining) Questions are different between online form and downloadable version Requiring information that's already publicly available

Fixed multiple choice options/fields with no "other" option to explain or self-describe No one to answer the phone or email (technical assistance, priorities clarification, etc.). Needing to register/create an account to apply

Use of jargon or uncommon phrases

1-Least Negative Impact, 5-Greatest Negative Impact

#### ■1 ■2 ■3 ■4 ■5

"I WOULD LOVE TO RANK ALL OF THE ABOVE!"

"THANK YOU FOR THAT LIST. JUST READING IT WAS CATHARTIC."

## WHY THIS MATTERS

"I have literally lost hundreds of hours to troubleshooting and navigating poorly designed grant applications and portals."

"Making the application process pain-free and userfriendly will lower the barriers for the organizations that need your support the most."

"These changes will really help us be able to spend less time and money on form filling and more on the causes and people we support." "WHY????? TRY FILLING OUT ONE OF YOUR GRANT APPLICATIONS FIRST AND SEE HOW YOU LIKE IT."

## WHO WE ARE





Co-Director of GrantAdvisor.org and Associate Director at the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits

Kari Aanestad is

Laura Solomons is a fundraiser for a social mobility charity and former Trustee and Chair of a grant-giving foundation

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Join a growing community of early adopters pledging to #FixTheForm.

Contact: fixtheform@gmail.com

## WHAT WE ARE NOT

We are NOT:

- Selling Anything: We are leaders volunteering time to center the perspectives of grantseekers who are most affected by this issue

Consultants: We will not fix your form; We are giving you the feedback and information to make changes yourself
Thought Leaders: Our end goal isn't to speak

at a conference - We want to stop talking and start fixing



