Funder’s perspective:
Grant application problems and solutions
Avoidable Mistake #1

The applicant organization is not actually eligible for the grant.
Avoidable Mistake #2

The project is not a strong match for the funding program.
Avoidable Mistake #3

The project is too ambitious for the applicant's capacity.
Avoidable Mistake #4

The project lacks clarity, focus, tangible goals, and/or measurable outcomes.
Take Away

A. Read funding guidelines carefully.
Take Away

B. Make sure project is a good match and organization is eligible.
Take Away

C. Line up partners well in advance.
D. Most program officers are approachable people who want applicants to be successful.
The most important adjectives for a good grant proposal are:

- straightforward
- clear
- achievable
Take Away

F. Allow adequate time for feedback from a colleague or advisor AND from program partners.
And two more things:

G. Follow all instructions!

H. Do not submit an incomplete application.