BRACE Grant Program 2023-24 Tips & Best Practices

- **Read carefully.** Before applying, review the grant guidelines and application questions meticulously to ensure that you meet the eligibility requirements and that your project aligns well with the purpose of the grant.
- **Have a plan.** Your grant proposal should be well explained and detailed, with realistic, achievable goals that are clearly defined.
- **Answer each question.** Application questions serve as a way for funders to fully understand your needs. Make time to answer each one thoughtfully.
- **Paint a picture.** Do you have specific statistics or data points to strengthen your case? Include them! Creative, out-of-the-box approaches to a project can really make your application stand out.
- **Share your passion.** Tell your story in a compelling manner. Explain struggles your community has faced and how your project will solve them, and consider including anecdotes. Make a connection with funders and show them part of your world, and if you need inspiration, check out these examples.
- **Write to a non-specialist.** Your grant could be reviewed by someone who isn't super familiar with the work that you do. Avoid jargon, and make sure to include relevant background information.
- **Submit a detailed budget.** Your budget needs to be as clear as possible to best support your project and local needs. Feel free to utilize these helpful budget writing tips!
- **List your collaborators.** Are you going to be working with community partners? Assembling your team before you apply can help you know where your strengths lie and what everyone brings to the table. Are your partners helping with in-kind donations or resources? Be sure to include these details in your narrative.
- **Describe long-term impact.** Is this a one-time project or will it be an ongoing one? Who will maintain your project after the initial work is done? A lot can be done with a small investment and a strong project will often carry beyond the grant itself.
- **Include bonus materials.** It may sound cliché, but pictures really do tell a thousand words. Upload one or more photos to truly emphasize the importance of your project.
- **Finally, leave time for review.** If you can, share a draft of your application with a friend or colleague before you submit it. They may have important feedback that can take your proposal to the next level. Even setting it aside for a day or two and looking at it again yourself can make you realize one or two things you'd like to edit. This step can often make the difference between a good application and a great one!