

# Grant Budget Development

*Show the story behind your numbers – and win the funding.*



## Why Budget Development Matters

**A strong grant budget is more than numbers – it's a tool that demonstrates the why behind your request:**

- **Community Need** – The budget reflects a real problem to solve.
- **Population Served** – It shows who will benefit and how.
- **Activities & Timeline** – It maps dollars to actions and schedules.
- **Sustainability** – It proves you can maintain impact beyond the grant.
- **Outcomes** – It connects costs to measurable change.



## Best Practices: Tying the Why to Each Line

**Every budget line should answer:**

- Why is this expense critical to the project's success?
- How does this cost support your outcomes and activities?



## Key Components of Income Budget

**Your budget also tells the story of how you'll pay for the work. Consider:**

- Diversified revenue streams (see Giving Pie Chart from Giving USA: individuals, foundations, corporations, government, earned income) [givingusa.org](http://givingusa.org)
- Match and in-kind contributions
- Add potential income as well as secured income



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## Example Expense Line Items

- **Salaries & Benefits** – Who does the work and why they are essential.
- **Supplies & Equipment** – The tools needed to achieve your goals.
- **Printing, Postage, Mailing** – Critical for outreach, reporting, and engagement.
- **Occupancy** – Space to operate – can't do it out of your car!
- **Travel** – When and why staff or volunteers must be mobile.
- **Consultant/Professional Fees** – When outside expertise is required.
- **Insurance** – Protecting your mission and people.
- **Indirect Costs/Overhead** – Funders may allow a federally approved rate or set a cap.



## How We Help

**Resolute Nonprofit Consulting supports nonprofits in:**

- Creating grant-ready, funder-aligned budgets
- Developing budget narratives that tell your story
- Training teams on budget strategy and compliance
- Reviewing and refining budgets for accuracy and impact



## Let's Connect

**Reach out now to find out more:**

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**Your Partner in Grant Strategy, Fund Development & Nonprofit**