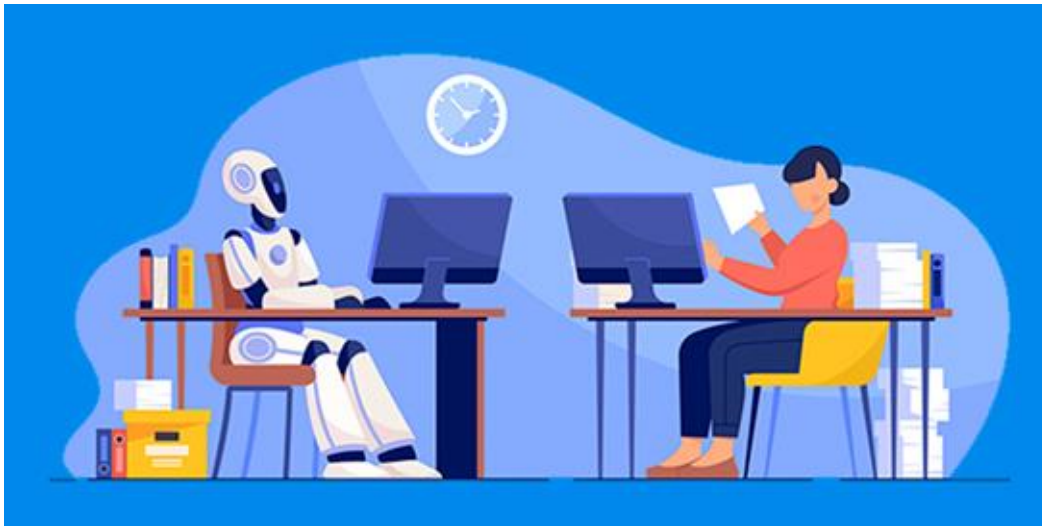


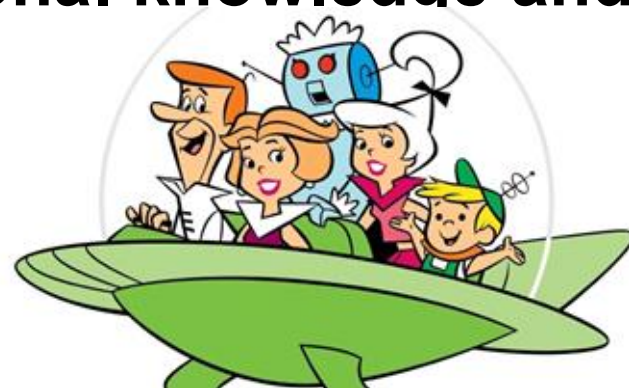
# Using AI as a Thinking Partner to Write Winning Grants



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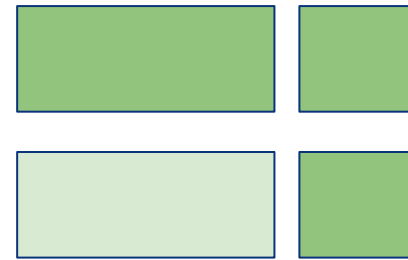
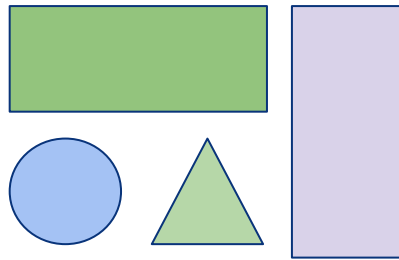
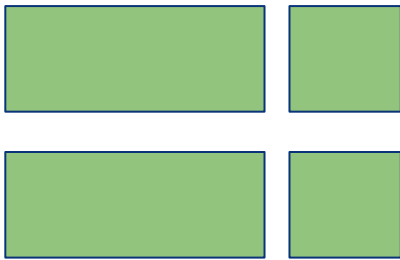
# You will leave better able to...

- Use AI for **research, writing, review, collaboration, and reporting**
- Apply persuasive strategy to each proposal section
- Build a **responsible, transparent AI workflow**
- Strengthen your **data storytelling and impact narrative**
- Turn AI use into **institutional knowledge and repeatable success**



# Every section has a persuasive purpose

Funders give money to people who will help them achieve *their* goals. Every section of your proposal must persuade them of your project's **alignment**, credibility, and impact.



# Understand before you use AI to strengthen

- **Situation / Opportunity:** What's the problem or opportunity? Why does it matter and to whom?  
*Purpose:* Make funders *care*—connect local needs to their mission.
- **Objectives / Purpose:** What do you hope to accomplish?  
*Purpose:* Show goals that are measurable and funder-aligned.
- **Methods / Plan:** How will you accomplish it?  
*Purpose:* Prove you have a realistic, data-backed, strategic plan.

Every section is an argument for why your project helps them achieve their mission/goals.

→ **Qualifications:** Why *your* organization and *your* people?

*Purpose:* Build trust—you can deliver results.

→ **Budget:** How will funds be used?

*Purpose:* Demonstrate fiscal responsibility and logic between methods and costs.

→ **Impact / Conclusion:** What change will your project create?

*Purpose:* Leave funders confident their money will make a measurable difference.



# Do you want to drink this water?



# If you wouldn't email it to a stranger, don't upload it to AI.

- Data May Be Stored or Reviewed
- Accidental Sharing or Reuse
- Lack of Legal Protections
- Risk of Misuse or Exposure
- AI Isn't a Secure Storage Tool

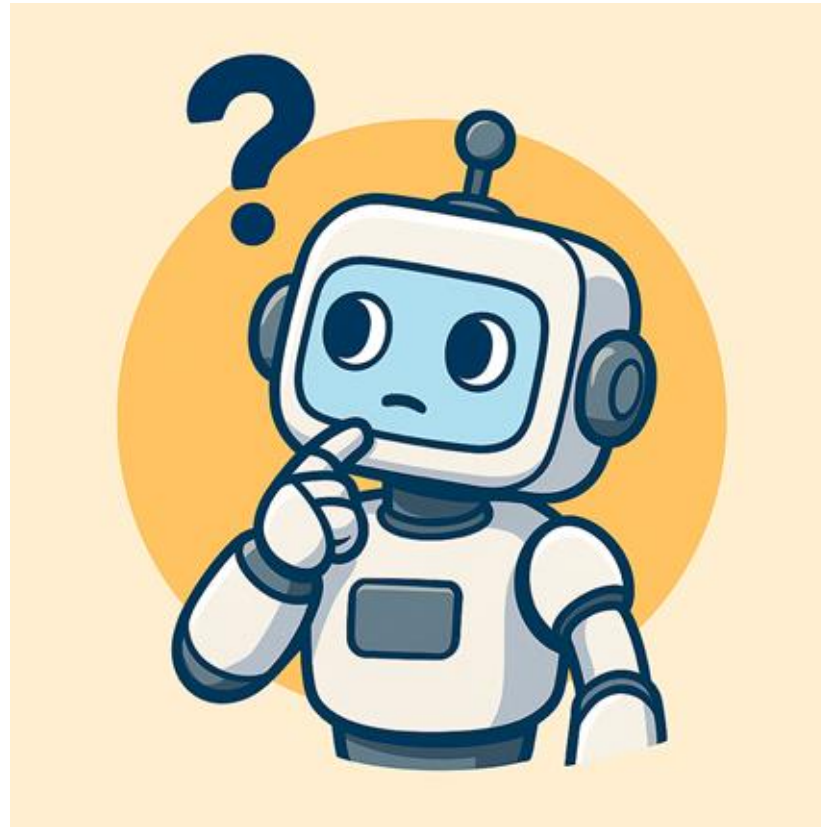


## Build trust and safety around using AI in public-sector writing.

- Follow county or IT data policies—don't upload sensitive info.
- Verify all data and citations.
- Maintain transparency: “AI tools were used to improve clarity and formatting.”
- Be ethical: AI should *assist* but not *author* official submissions.



Treat AI like an **eager intern**—fast, helpful, but needs training *and* supervision.



# What is a prompt?

A **prompt** is simply what you type to tell AI what you want it to do. Think of it as your *instruction, request, or idea in plain language*.

## Examples:

- A **question**: “What federal grants are available for rural road improvements?”
- A **task**: “Draft a professional email to announce a new county safety program.”
- An **idea**: “Write a short success story about how our emergency management team improved response times.”

# Use AI to find, evaluate, and align funding opportunities.

**Scenario:** You're the county emergency manager looking for flood mitigation funds.

## Example Prompts

- “List current federal and Idaho-based grants for flood prevention.”
- “Summarize eligibility and funding priorities for FEMA BRIC grants.”
- “Compare our county’s emergency mitigation plan to FEMA’s BRIC objectives.”

## Add the Strategic Layer

Use AI to **analyze patterns in past funded projects** and **track emerging funding priorities** (rural broadband, public safety, housing, resilience).

*Tip:* AI can scan trends faster than humans—but *you* decide which align with local needs.

# Use AI and collaborative tech to brainstorm, draft, and refine persuasive text.

**Scenario:** Writing the *Situation/Opportunity* section for a road safety grant.

## Example Prompts

- “Draft a 150-word summary of crash risk and safety challenges in rural Idaho counties.”
- “Rewrite this to sound more urgent and aligned with Idaho Transportation Department priorities.”

## Add the Tech Layer

- Use shared tools like **Google Docs with Gemini** or **Microsoft Copilot** for real-time co-drafting.
- Use **AI transcription (Otter.ai, Fireflies)** to turn planning meetings into proposal-ready notes.

*Tip:* Use AI to accelerate brainstorming—then rewrite with local data and human judgment.



Turn numbers into narratives and strengthen persuasive impact.

**Scenario:** Your broadband grant proposal needs to show measurable benefit.

### Example Prompts

- “Turn this broadband access data into a 3-sentence narrative showing community impact.”
- “Suggest visuals (charts or infographics) to represent these outcomes.”
- “Act as a grant reviewer—what metrics are missing from this section?”

### Add the Review Layer

Use AI to critique your *objectives*, *methods*, and *impact* sections for clarity and alignment with the funder’s mission.

*Tip:* Ask AI to review tone, clarity, and logic flow—not to rewrite your work.



**Act as if** you're a proposal reviewer for [funding source], using the proposal guidelines [criteria, rubric, etc.] assess our draft and make recommendations for improvement.

# Use AI for both proposal preparation *and* post-award management.

## Example Prompts:

- “Create a sample line-item budget for a \$400,000 communications upgrade project.”
- “Suggest 3 measurable evaluation metrics for a workforce training grant.”
- “Draft a quarterly report update summarizing project milestones and community benefits.”

## Add the Post-Award Layer

AI can help draft progress reports, summarize compliance data, and generate dashboards for elected officials.

*Tip:* The best use of AI after you win the grant is *telling the story of your success.*

# Build institutional capacity and repeatable success.

## Example Prompts

- “Summarize lessons learned from our last grant proposal process.”
- “Draft a simple county ‘AI for Grant Writing’ checklist to share with department heads.”

## Why it matters

Turning AI use into a **repeatable, transparent county workflow** ensures long-term benefits across departments.



*Tip:* Debrief with AI—then humanize the insights and apply them next cycle.



# To recap

- Learn with AI—don't just finish the task.
- Brainstorm and outline—but stay in the driver's seat.
- Draft and revise—use AI like an editor, not a replacement.
- Reflect and improve—don't just hit 'copy and paste.'

## Challenge

Before next week, ask AI to analyze one grant you've submitted—ask how it might better align with the funder's mission. What insights does it surface?



# THANKS FOR ATTENDING!

## Any questions?

