

PROJECT PROPOSAL WRITING

SUSTAINABILITY

Preamble

Sustainability refers to the long-term financing of the program, after the initial funding period has concluded. Developing a clear plan for sustainability is important, given the growing competition for grant dollars. A proposal that indicates a lack of financial support after the grant period is not likely to be funded. Sustainability is a critical aspect in all the grant proposals. The proposal should outline the steps to be taken before, during and at the completion of project implementation to ensure that once all the funds have been disbursed, the activities of the project and the organization will continue for many years thereafter.

Project sustainability means maintaining the outcomes, goals, products and Institutionalizing the process.

Learning Objectives

1. To understand what sustainability mean.
2. To identify and explain different types of sustainability.

Learning Outcome

1. By the end of this topic, students will be able to understand the definition of sustainability.
2. Students should be able to explain various types of sustainability.

Types of Sustainability

There are different types of sustainability, namely: organizational sustainability, financial sustainability and community sustainability. Organizational sustainability is how the organization will continue to sustain in absence of the donor support. Financial sustainability is about the financial support required for the project or the organization after the grant has ended. Community sustainability is how the community will continue to carry out the project activities when there is no grant available.

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When developing the sustainability plan, you need to mention how the community or the primary beneficiaries of the project will be participating in the implementation process. A community is an important project stakeholder and its involvement is ensured from day one of the project. When you explain this in the plan, you are able to convince the donor that sustainability is built into the core of the project. The organization will give the impression to the community that it is the owner of the project and it has to continue implementing it even after the support has been withdrawn.

The next part of the plan is to guarantee financial sustainability. In simple terms, where will the money for activities come from when the grant support has ended? For this, you can refer back to your project strategy where you have specifically mentioned about building community-based mechanisms such as a cooperative or a community association and the project costs would be covered from member contributions. This is an important element of project sustainability.

In some cases, the donor also wants to know how the organization will sustain after the grant. Here you can mention that the organization has its own fundraising skills which will be applied as a continuous process to raise funds from other funding agencies.

Template for a Formal Sustainability Plan

Sustainability Plan for the Drafted Date	
Program Summary	[Provide a few sentences about what your program offers, who it serves, where it operates, who your community partners are and how it is funded.]
Program Vision:	[Provide a few sentences about what your program's vision is, the results it aims to achieve, the activities that will lead to those results and who it benefits.]
Program collaborators and their roles for sustainability	[Provide a few sentences about who your community partners are. what resources they bring and what roles they play in sustainability.]
Program	Provide a few sentences about your program's supporters, their aims, their

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Advocates and for Funding	target decision makers and their tactics.]
Potential funding sources and steps toward securing them.	[Provide a few sentences about potential new funding sources, who is responsible for finding out more about them and the public.]
Quality program offerings	[Provide a few sentences about how your program addresses the needs and assets of youth participants partners in your community]
Management Systems in place	[Provide a few sentences about resources and information systems in place]
Evaluation Data:	[Provide a few sentences about the data and information your program has collected in relation to your intended results, the tools used to collect the data and how that data is used to ensure your program is meeting goals and being adapted as necessary]

Reflective Question

1. Explain the meaning of the term sustainability.
2. Differentiate various types of sustainability.

Reference

Ziegler, M. *Essentials of Writing Biomedical Research Papers*