

# FROM GRANT HUNTING TO GRANT WRITING

How AI is Changing the Funding Game for Nonprofits

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**"You didn't start a nonprofit  
to become a grant writer."**

Yet here you are, spending 60% of your time chasing funding  
instead of changing lives.

# THE UGLY MATH

**20+**

hours per  
grant application

**~30%**

sector average  
success rate

**70%**

of eligible orgs  
never apply


*The difference between 30% and 80% isn't luck. It's system.*

# 80% Win Rate. Here's the Receipts.

 **\$5M+** in grants & non-dilutive capital secured

 **3,000+** founders & nonprofits supported

 **15+** years in the sector

 **80%** grant success rate (vs ~30% average)

# What If 20 Hours Became 4?

In the next 80 minutes, you'll walk out with:



A discovery method that finds aligned funders in 60 seconds



A drafting system that cuts proposal time by 75%



A review framework that catches what gets you rejected

# Your New Hire Doesn't Need Benefits

## What AI does brilliantly for grants:



### Research synthesis

Reads 50 pages of funder info in seconds



### Content generation

First drafts at 3 different lengths, instantly



### Pattern matching

Aligns your language to funder priorities

## Where AI will get you rejected:



### Fabricated data

Makes up stats that don't exist



### Generic filler

Sounds good, says nothing specific



### Missed compliance

Skips funder-specific requirements

*This is why you need a system, not just a tool.*

# 5 GRANT HACKS

That'll make you wonder why  
you've been doing it the hard way.

Live demos ahead. Follow along if you brought a laptop.

HACK

01

# Know Your Funder in 60 Seconds (Not 60 Minutes)

The problem: You spend hours reading funder websites trying to figure out if you're even eligible. Most of that time is wasted on funders who were never going to fund you.

**The fix: One prompt. 60 seconds. A structured brief that tells you everything you need to know.**

I'm researching [Calgary Foundation] for a grant application.

Please analyze and provide:

1. MISSION & PRIORITIES: What do they care about most?
2. FUNDING FOCUS: What types of projects do they fund?
3. GRANT RANGE: Typical amounts
4. ELIGIBILITY: Key requirements
5. FIT SCORE: Rate 1-10 for our org

Our org: Calgary Youth Arts Society – we provide free arts programs to low-income youth aged 8-17 in SE Calgary.

Our project: After-school visual arts program, 150 youth/year.

💡 Pro tip: Always verify AI findings against the funder's actual website. AI is your first pass, not your final word.

## HACK 01 | WHAT COMES BACK

### MISSION & PRIORITIES

Community wellbeing, social inclusion, poverty reduction

### FUNDING FOCUS

Arts, youth programs, community development

### GRANT RANGE

\$5,000 – \$75,000

### ELIGIBILITY

Registered charity, Calgary-based, serving vulnerable populations

### FIT SCORE

9/10 — Strong alignment on youth, arts, and poverty reduction

***60 seconds. No guesswork. Now you know if this funder is worth your time.***

HACK  
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2

# Stop Rewriting. Start Reusing.

The problem: You rewrite your project description from scratch for every single application. That's not thorough — that's just slow.

**The fix: One input → three versions (50 words, 150 words, 500 words). Write once, deploy everywhere.**

## HACK 02 | THE PROMPT

Create 3 versions of a project description:

PROJECT: After-School Arts Program

ORG: Calgary Youth Arts Society

PROBLEM: Low-income youth in SE Calgary lack access to arts

SOLUTION: Free weekly visual arts workshops

WHO BENEFITS: 150 youth aged 8-17 per year


OUTCOMES: Improved self-expression, school engagement

TIMELINE: September–June (10 months)

BUDGET: \$45,000

Write:

1. SHORT (50 words) – for brief fields / LOIs
2. MEDIUM (150 words) – for summaries
3. FULL (500 words) – for detailed narratives

 Use the short version for LOIs, medium for summaries, long for full proposals. One source, three weapons.

## HACK 02 | THREE VERSIONS, ONE INPUT

### SHORT (50 words) — LOIs & Quick Fields

Calgary Youth Arts Society provides free after-school visual arts workshops for 150 low-income youth aged 8-17 in SE Calgary. Over 10 months, participants develop creative expression and school engagement through structured art programming, addressing a critical gap in accessible arts opportunities for underserved families.

### MEDIUM (150 words) — Summaries

In SE Calgary, low-income youth have limited access to arts programming. Calgary Youth Arts Society bridges this gap with free weekly after-school visual arts workshops reaching 150 youth aged 8-17 over a 10-month program year.

Participants build creative skills, self-expression, and measurable improvements in school engagement.

### FULL (500 words) — Narratives

The full version expands with:

- Community context and needs data
- Detailed program methodology
- Staff qualifications
- Partnership descriptions
- Evaluation framework
- Sustainability plan

→ Ready for detailed proposal sections

*This is the seed of your boilerplate library. Write it once, adapt it forever.*

HACK  
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3

# Funders Don't Speak Jargon. Neither Should You.

Hands up if your grant applications sound like this:

*"Our trauma-informed, wrap-around service model utilizes evidence-based CBT frameworks to address ACE scores and build resilience through co-designed programming with lived-experience leaders across our continuum of care."*

**Funders aren't rejecting your programs.  
They're rejecting your language.**

Translate this internal language into funder-friendly terms:

"Our trauma-informed, wrap-around service model utilizes evidence-based CBT frameworks to address ACE scores and build resilience through co-designed programming with lived-experience leaders across our continuum of care."

Our sector: Youth mental health and social services  
Funder: Calgary Foundation (community foundation)

*Watch what happens next...*

**✘ BEFORE**

*"Our trauma-informed, wrap-around service model utilizes evidence-based CBT frameworks to address ACE scores and build resilience through co-designed programming with lived-experience leaders across our continuum of care."*

**✔ AFTER**

*"We support young people facing mental health challenges through a proven, team-based approach. Our programs combine professional counselling with peer mentorship, designed together with the youth and families we serve. This wraparound support helps young people build coping skills, strengthen family connections, and re-engage with school and community life."*

***Same program. Same impact. Completely different chance of getting funded.***

HACK  
0

4

# You're Reporting Activities. Funders Fund Outcomes.

This is where most applications fail. You list what you do. Funders want to know what changes.

## HACK 04 | THE PROMPT

Help me develop strong outcomes for my grant application.

ACTIVITIES: Weekly 2-hour visual arts workshops


POPULATION: Low-income youth aged 8-17, SE Calgary

DURATION: 10 months (Sept-June)

Generate:

1. OUTPUTS (immediate, countable results)
2. SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES (0-6 months)
3. MEDIUM-TERM OUTCOMES (6-12 months)
4. LONG-TERM IMPACT (1+ years)

For each: measurement method + target number.

 Match your metrics to what the funder tracks in their own annual report.

## HACK 04 | FROM ACTIVITIES TO IMPACT

### OUTPUTS

150 youth enrolled  
40 workshops delivered  
6 community exhibitions

### SHORT-TERM (0-6 months)

85% report improved  
self-expression  
70% show increased  
school attendance

### MEDIUM-TERM (6-12 months)

60% maintain attendance  
gains year-over-year  
40% join additional  
community programs

### LONG-TERM (1+ years)

Reduced youth isolation  
in SE Calgary  
Stronger creative  
community identity

*Each column includes a measurement method and target. This is what funders actually read.*

HACK

05

# The Budget Section Everyone Skips. Funders Don't.

A budget narrative isn't a spreadsheet explanation — it's a story about why every dollar matters. This is the section that separates funded applications from rejected ones.

Write a budget narrative for this grant application:

BUDGET LINE ITEMS:

- Program Coordinator (0.5 FTE): \$22,500
- Art Supplies & Materials: \$8,000
- Venue Rental (community centre): \$6,000
- Guest Artist Honoraria (6 sessions): \$3,000
- Transportation Support for Youth: \$3,500
- Evaluation & Reporting: \$2,000

TOTAL: \$45,000

Connect each line item to program outcomes.  
Explain why each cost is necessary and reasonable.

💡 AI turns line items into a narrative that connects spending to impact. Treasurers, this one's for you.

**HACKS ARE CUTE.  
SYSTEMS GET  
FUNDED.**

Now let's connect what you just learned  
into a repeatable process.

# THE AI GRANT CYCLE

1

RESEARCH

Hack 1:  
Funder Brief

2

QUALIFY

5-Question  
Fit Filter

3

DRAFT

Hacks 2-5:  
Proposal Sections

4

REFINE

5-Pass  
Review

5

SUBMIT

Confidence,  
Not Hope

*Each hack plugs into a specific stage. Together, they're a complete grant engine.*

BEFORE YOU WRITE A WORD:

# The 5-Question Fit Filter

- 1 Does our mission align with theirs?
- 2 Are we actually eligible?
- 3 Is the timeline realistic for our team?
- 4 Do we have the data they'll want to see?
- 5 Is the ROI worth 4 hours of our time?

*If any answer is 'no' — move on. This filter saves you 15 hours on grants you should never have started.*

# THE CHEAT CODE NOBODY TEACHES

The 5-Pass Review Framework

This is the difference between a 30% success rate and an 80% one.

## 5-PASS REVIEW FRAMEWORK

1

### ALIGNMENT

Does every section answer exactly what the funder asked?

2

### CLARITY

Would someone outside your sector understand this?

3

### EVIDENCE

Is every claim backed by a number or a source?

4

### BUDGET

Does the narrative match the numbers?

5

### COMPLIANCE

Did you hit every requirement in the guidelines?

*Run all 5 passes before you hit submit. Every. Single. Time.*

# THE MATH

Traditional Process

**20+ hours**

With AI Hacks

**4 hours**

With Boilerplate Library

**90 minutes**

With 5-Pass Review

**Confidence**

# Who Does What? (And Who Does AI Help Most?)

## BOARD

Strategic oversight  
Relationship building  
Final review & approval

## STAFF / VOLUNTEERS

Research & discovery  
Drafting & submission  
Data collection & reporting

## AI

The multiplier for whoever  
is doing the work.  
Research, drafts, reviews,  
faster.

# What's Possible Beyond Today

- ✓ Automated funder alerts when new grants match your profile
- ✓ Deadline tracking that keeps your pipeline organized
- ✓ Auto-populated boilerplate that adapts to each funder
- ✓ Application status dashboards for your board
- ✓ AI-powered first drafts that know your organization
- ✓ Review checklists that catch compliance gaps before you do
- ✓ Impact reports generated from your program data  
*This is where it goes when you build the system.*

# Your 30-Day Quick Start

## WEEK 1

Try Hacks 1 & 2 on your next grant application

## WEEK 2

Build a basic boilerplate library (3 descriptions, 3 lengths each)

## WEEK 3

Run the 5-Pass Review on one application before submitting

## WEEK 4

Calculate your time savings. Feel the difference.

**So now you have the hacks.  
You have the system.  
You have the review framework.**

*But what if...*

**What if you could train an AI to deeply understand your organization —**

your mission, your programs, your data —

and each funder's priorities...

**and bring those two things together in perfect alignment?**

# grants-ease.ai

Everything you learned today, built into a platform  
made for nonprofits.

**Try it free. No credit card required.**

# Or build it yourself.

Everything I showed you today works with ChatGPT, Claude, or any AI tool.

The prompts are yours. The framework is yours.

grants-ease.ai just makes it faster.

[ QR CODE HERE — link to digital resource page ]

SCAN FOR ALL PROMPTS, FRAMEWORKS & FREE TRIAL

[ QR CODE ]

[grants-ease.ai/blc2026](https://grants-ease.ai/blc2026)

# Thank You

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