



## Komen Northeast Ohio Grant Reviewer Tips

Organizations applying to Komen Northeast Ohio for funding often wonder what it is grant reviewers are looking for when they read over grant applications. To help in the grant writing process, Komen NEO is providing funding applicants with tips directly from members of the Grant Review Committee. These tips *do not* guarantee an organization will receive any funding, but rather are intended to assist those applying for a Komen grant with a few do's and don'ts.

### **What makes a strong grant application stand out from all the others?**

- The narrative of a good application will be well written and well laid-out. It will be organized, cohesive and lay out the project's plan for the entire year right from the start.
- How the program documents their success is directly related to how the reviewers will rate the success of the program. Evaluation methods, outcome measurements and results should be logical and make sense.
- Good programs ensure follow up within the continuum of care. The program should exhibit a coordination of community resources and good use of culturally sensitive practices when applicable.
- Good programs **provide evidence to prove the program is unique and different from all the others.**
- The budget of a strong grant application does not rely on Komen alone for funding. The budget should have a solid balance of other resources (in-kind contributions, other grant funding, etc.) and leverage them effectively to maximize money and reach the most people in need.
- Strong programs coordinate their goals and objectives with those laid out explicitly in the Komen Community Profile. The program should identify regions and populations that are priorities in the eyes of Komen NEO.
- Include as many letters of collaboration as possible. These letters lend to the credibility of the program and provide evidence that capable people are already involved in the project, assuring reviewers Komen dollars will be spent effectively.

### **What do the grant reviewers not like to see?**

- The majority of a program's budget should not be designated towards staff salaries. Little bits of multiple salaries are ok because it implies multiple people, not just one person, will be involved in the program and the grant will supplement their salaries. However, if a salary is well justified within the proposal, then the proposal should, by all means, include that salary.
- Do not include a population as a priority in your proposal if that population does not reside within your service area.
- The majority of Komen funds should be directed towards the development, implementation, and evaluation of the program.
- Be aware of other services that are available to the target population in your area. Prove within the application that you are not duplicating services.
- Proofread the application as many times as you can prior to submission. If your abstract states you will serve 250 women, but your narrative says 350, reviewers are unsure as to what your true goal is.