

# Hey grant folks, let's #FixTheForm!

What is this? A brief survey to identify top pain points in grant applications, to influence funders to change.

Why now? 2020 has brought epic disruptions to our ways of being and doing, with special attention on power differentials and systems that perpetuate inequities. Grantmaking systems have the potential to increase access or create barriers to crucial resources. Small changes (ie. eliminate word limits!) can have big impacts (reduced tech barriers and time costs, increasing the likelihood that smaller, resource-limited charities can and will apply). Let's use this window of opportunity to work together to learn and do better.

Why you? As a fundraiser, you are the community most impacted by how grant applications are designed. Your experience and voice have power. The grantmaking community is ready to hear your feedback.

Why us? We're Laura and Kari, two fundraisers on either side of the Atlantic Ocean (more about us at the end). Like you, we've spent countless hours in online grant applications. We know there are small, significant fixes that would make our lives better, work stronger, and systems more equitable.

Who else? We're connected to networks throughout the U.S. and U.K. who are eager and ready to identify and make these changes. We will be sharing results with key industry groups in an effort to #FixTheForm!

What next? Please join our coalition and take 5 minutes to identify the top 3 things you'd change in grant applications. Your responses will be confidential. You have the option of providing an email address if you'd like to stay connected to this work as it evolves. We may anonymously quote responses to this survey in public presentations, writings, and stakeholder meetings.

## 1. Please pick up to 3 pain points and how much they impact you:

Mark only one oval per row.

	1 - needed a cup of tea after	2 - mildly annoyed	3 - vented to a colleague	4 - had a little cry	5 - considered changing my profession
word/character limits in online forms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
unclear eligibility requirements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
requiring information that's already publicly available	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
forms that you can't save and return to	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
not being able to see the full application ahead of time (ie. surprise pop-up questions)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
not having the application in an easy to edit and share document	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
no one to answer the phone or email (technical assistance, priorities clarification, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
poor and nonsensical formatting (ie. requiring manual entry of each board member, requiring numerical values to add up, separate fields for first and last names)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
questions are different between online form and downloadable version	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
not being able to use your own templates for attachments (ie. budgets, board members, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
repeating same or similar questions and expecting different answers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
time taken disproportionate to funding amount awarded	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
fixed multiple choice options/fields with no "other" option to explain or self-describe	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

needing to register/create an account to apply

☐☐☐☐☐

use of jargon or uncommon phrases

☐☐☐☐☐

online form doesn't save formatting (ie. bullet points or underlining)

☐☐☐☐☐

2. 2. Are there any pain points in grant applications missing from the list above that you would rank in your top three?

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3. 3. How would you describe the impact of these pain points on your life and work? (How much time do you lose? What's the opportunity cost? etc.)

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4. 4. Anything else? What would you say to funders if you could?

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5. How long have you been a fundraiser?

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Just started!
- ☐ 1-3 Years
- ☐ 4-7 Years
- ☐ 8-14 Years
- ☐ 15+ Years
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Please provide your email if you'd like to stay connected to this work

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Country in which you're located:

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Questions or want to connect? [fixtheform@gmail.com](mailto:fixtheform@gmail.com) -- For more info about us, scroll to the end!



### About Us

Kari Aanestad serves as Co-Director of GrantAdvisor.org (a free, anonymous review site of grantmakers) and is the Director of Advancement at the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits. In this role, Kari advances the mission and work of Minnesota's nonprofit sector through strategic visioning, fundraising, relationship development, sector research, and education. She is also the Vice President of the Minnesota-Northstar Chapter of the Grant Professionals Association.

Laura Solomons sits on both sides of the proverbial fundraising table: In the day Laura is the head of donor relations for the Sutton Trust, a foundation that champions social mobility in the UK through evidence-based programmes, research, and policy advocacy. Also in the day Laura serves as a trustee of the Peter Minet Trust, which aims to improve the quality of life for people living in the inner city boroughs of South East London.

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