Typical Questions Funders Ask

- Does the organization have 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, or is it a governmental entity?

- How does the proposal fit within the funder's policies and priorities?

- Is the project integrated into the organization's mission, purpose, and long-range plan?

- Will a vital, unique or under met need be addressed? Is the need well-documented?

- Is the proposal feasible? Is the plan well-designed?

- Will the project be used as a model for future programs? Are there similar projects which have been attempted elsewhere? What worked? What didn't?

- Are there similar or complementary services available in the community? If so, how do they fit with what is proposed? Necessary or unnecessary duplication? No duplication?

- How will the success or failure of the project be evaluated?

- Is the organization capable of carrying out the program?

- Are the organization's finances and management stable?

- Is there a special role that a grant could play? (challenge for financial support from other organization: lend credibility; etc.)

- What other monetary and/or volunteer support will be part of the project?

- Is there a reasonable plan in place for obtaining ongoing support?

- Does the organization have a strong Board?

- Are the organization's consumers, staff and board members representative of the community? What is the breakdown of minority, female and male individuals for these groups? Do consumers have any method for providing input? Does the organization select (discriminate against) volunteers, staff, board or consumers on the basis of ethnicity, gender, religious affiliation or sexual orientation?

- Is the organization's facility barrier-free and easy to access?

- Are signage, programs and behaviors welcoming of persons of all ethnicities, religious beliefs and sexual orientations?

- What is the project's timetable for raising funds, beginning services, etc.?

- For capital projects: Will the building be LEED Certified? Has an environmental study been completed? Are zoning changes necessary? Will the project result in increased impact on the community?