

**April MLN Meeting Recap**  
**“Tips for Strengthening Your Next Grant Proposal”**  
**Facilitator: Maureen Ryan, Write Connections, LLC**

**Core Components of a Grant Proposal**

1. Abstract or executive summary
2. Organization description/capacity
3. Need statement or problem being addressed
4. Program/project description
5. Evaluation plan
6. Budget

**Do I Need a Need Statement?**

The need statement is one of the most important sections of the grant proposal. It answers the question: “What problem exists and how does your program/project address that problem?”

One of the main errors in compiling the need statement is not including research. *Always* include research and don’t be afraid to consult several sources: the Internet, local colleges and universities and even government agencies.

**Partner, Partner, Partner**

As you consider your program/project description, it can be easy to think about your organization in a vacuum. But you don’t operate in a vacuum...you need to be aware of what other organizations in the area are doing.

Take a closer look at what other organizations are doing – is there an opportunity to partner? Partnerships can be beneficial not only to you, but also to the public you serve. And talking about these partnerships in a grant proposal can go a long way to show how you’re serving the community.

**More News and Resources!**

Mark your calendars – the **2011 Magic of Mentoring event** will be held on Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. And we’re looking for nominations for the Excellence in Mentoring Awards. All nominations must be received by August 1<sup>st</sup> – so please take the time to nominate someone in your organization. For questions, please contact Arlene Sparks at [asparks@mentoringpittsburgh.org](mailto:asparks@mentoringpittsburgh.org).

The **Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community** is being held at Heinz Field on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. We’re one of 67 organizations participating and we’d love to have you join us! Click [here](#) to register.

**Webinar** – “Presenting to a Funder,” by The Bayer Center for Non-Profit Management April 25 and 26 from 10-11 a.m. Fee: \$25; To register, call 412-397-6009 or register online at [www.rmu.edu/bcnmregistration](http://www.rmu.edu/bcnmregistration)

**Workshop** – “Essential Grant Skills Workshop,” by The Bayer Center for Non-Profit Management June 7-8; Fee: \$445; Register online at [www.tgci.com](http://www.tgci.com) or, for more information, contact Carrie Richards at 412-397-6008 or [richardsc@rmu.edu](mailto:richardsc@rmu.edu).

**Online Mentor Training** – Check out Education Northwest’s [“Talking it Through” video series](#), featuring 13 online videos on how to effectively communicate within the mentor/mentee relationship.