

## Rubicon at Grants conference Information

1.  
Government  
funding at its best
  - a.  
Has the  
potential, in combination with system change, to make lasting impact on  
society's most intransigent problems
  - b.  
Can  
harness valuable evaluation and policy change resources to funding for  
direct services
  - c.  
Can  
provide sustainable resources for activities core to an agency's mission
  - d.  
Funding  
can be at significant levels
  
2.  
Pitfalls -  
not all money is good money
  - a.  
Government  
funding can be prescriptive and circumscribed in terms of population  
served/eligibility criteria
    - i.  
Potential  
to be a distraction from agency's mission or even worse, detract from other  
services that are core
    - ii.  
Important  
to know the difference between chasing funding and using a new filter to  
address an issue that is focal to your organization/developing new tools to  
address an important problem
  
1.  
Four  
assessment questions to determine whether to apply:
  - a.  
will we be

serving the population we are dedicated to serving

b.  
will be be  
providing interventions we are qualified to provide,

c.  
will we  
use a service philosophy that is true to our organization

d.  
is what we  
are prepared to do addressing the problem the funder wants to solve (and not  
some other problem, even if it's an important one)

b.  
Often  
requires a cash match - not all agencies have the capacity to generate this

c.  
Reporting  
and recordkeeping requirements necessitate fairly sophisticated systems

d.  
Financial  
and accounting systems must be sophisticated

e.  
Need to  
have clear sense of what your deliverable outcomes will be at time of  
proposal -if you don't know how to measure something that is important -  
find out before you commit to delivering those outcomes

### 3. Recommendations

a.  
If you can  
build an infrastructure with personnel dedicated to reporting, budgeting,  
and evaluation (three different functions) - do so

b.  
If you are  
not imminently in this position, partner with organizations that can

c.  
Get to  
know your local public funders and gain an understanding of what the  
locality's priorities are, through written plans and public forums, and ask  
how can your organization can fill a unique role in meeting these public  
priorities

