# State Grant Ready: Building Stronger Applications One Step at a Time Training Session Series Overview

## **Compendium Curriculum List**

### Session 1: Applications: Getting it Right from the Start

This 90-minute training is designed to help nonprofits and community-based organizations understand what makes a state grant application complete, eligible, and reviewable. Whether you're new to state funding or looking to strengthen your internal process, this session will walk you through common requirements, key risks, and practical strategies for submitting a strong, disqualification-proof application.

* Complete Application Checklist: This checklist helps organizations make sure their application is truly complete—no missing forms, wrong file names, or skipped steps. It’s like a final walkthrough before they hit “submit,” so their hard work doesn’t get tossed out over something small.
* Readiness Self-Assessment: This self-assessment helps organizations take a step back and ask: Are we ready for this grant? It walks them through key things to consider—like staffing, systems, and partnerships—so they can apply with confidence or know what to work on first.

### Session 2: What Works: Real Tips to Strengthen Your Grant Narrative

This session helps organizations write stronger, funder-aligned grant narratives by breaking down what to include, how to say it, and how to match it to the scorecard. After viewing this session, you’ll have real tools and examples to turn good ideas into competitive proposals.

* Capacity Narrative Builder: A do-it-yourself worksheet that helps organizations to describe readiness and infrastructure, even if they’re a small or emerging organization. Includes sentence starters and example prompts.
* Grant Narrative Planning Worksheet: Helps organizations outline the four main narrative sections — need, program design, outcomes, and capacity — with prompts to connect each to the funder’s scoring criteria.

### Session 3: Building Better Budgets: Why it Matters

In this hourlong session, attendees will learn about building budgets that actually make sense — to you and to the funder. We’re cutting through the fluff and getting real about what DEED expects, what reviewers look for, and how to explain your costs without sounding like you’re guessing.

* Budget Narrative Alignment Outline:A simple planning tool that helps organizations link their deliverables and activities directly to their budget lines. If you have ever worried your organization’s budget doesn’t quite match the work plan — this fixes that.
* Budget Justification Builder: A guide to help organizations explain their budget costs clearly and confidently. It walks them through each major budget category — what it is, why they need it, and how the amount was calculated.