



FEDERAL GRANT GO/NO-GO CHECKLIST

Is this federal grant worth the lift?

Score the opportunity before your team writes a word. Saying no to the wrong grant is how you protect your yes to the right one.

Who scores. Your finance lead and your program lead, in the same room. The program side sees the mission; the finance side sees the cash.

How to score. Give each factor 0, 1 or 2 points. A 1 means "possible, with work." Be honest.

Hard stops. A 0 on eligibility, match or cash flow is a no-go, however large the award.

	Factor and the question to ask	2 points	0 points	Score
1	Fit Would we do this work anyway?	Core work we already do	A program we would invent for the money	☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2
2	Eligibility HARD STOP Are we clearly eligible, and is our SAM.gov registration active?	Clearly eligible; registrations active	Unclear eligibility or lapsed registration	☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2
3	Match HARD STOP Can we meet any required cost share with real, documented resources?	None required, or secured and documented	Required and unidentified	☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2
4	Indirect costs Will the award cover our real costs at our negotiated rate, or the de minimis rate of up to 15 percent of modified total direct costs?	Negotiated or de minimis rate fully allowed	Award leaves real costs uncovered	☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2
5	Reporting Can we carry the reports, and a single audit if federal spending reaches \$1,000,000 in a year?	Systems and staff in place	No one assigned; first single audit unplanned	☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2
6	Partners Are essential partners committed in writing?	Signed roles and budgets	Verbal interest only	☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2
7	Timeline After registrations and approvals, how much writing time is left?	Comfortable runway after registrations	Days, not weeks, to write	☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2
8	Capacity Can we manage the award, not just win it?	Grant management experience on staff	No one to run the award	☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2
9	Cash flow HARD STOP Can we front costs and wait to be reimbursed?	Reserves or credit cover the reimbursement lag	Cannot front payroll	☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2

TOTAL SCORE

of 18

Go

14 to 18 points, and no hard stops.

Fix first

Nine to 13 points. Go only if you can fix the low scores before you start writing.

No-go

Eight or fewer points, or any hard stop. Track the program for its next round; a no can become a yes.

Why we said no, and what to fix before the next round:

Figures from the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR 200.1, 200.306, 200.414, 200.501) and 2 CFR 25.200 as of November 11, 2025. The scoring scale, bands and hard stops are Viking's own rubric, not a federal standard. Always read the notice of funding opportunity for program-specific rules.