

Info session Mar 2023
Excerpts from Otter transcript

General

- the most compelling applications will articulate clearly why support is needed at the stage, and how the grant will be used to bring the book to its highest level of completion
- why time off or a course release would enable you to focus on your book, or how it would help you really look at the book with fresh eyes, look at the writing with fresh eyes
- In both the statement of work to be completed and this use of funds, we really encourage you to be as specific as possible. The two statements combined should really outline a concrete and achievable, achievable plan for finishing the writing of the book.
- as far as accounting for work that will occur between April 25, so the application deadline, and when we make the grant, I know that it is it is it is a long stretch of time, and it can be hard to predict exactly what will happen between now and then. And, you know, we we know that we take that into account when we're evaluating applications. So I'd say do your best to to give us a sense of where you believe the book will be in November and the work that you have ahead.

Writing samples

- the best writing samples are comprehensive, beautifully written and they make very clear the central project are some essential aspects of your book. So we advise you to submit writing that is as close as close to complete as possible. You can certainly annotate to indicate indicate to the readers where you expect you to do to do more work in the material that you're that you're showing.
- a question about formatting the writing sample. I don't remember the I don't remember our formatting specifications offhand. But they are an application. I'm fairly certain it's double spaced. But that is all spelled out in the actual application.
- does the cover letter to the sample chapters count against the 25,000 words. And I would say no, I mean, the cover letter, it shouldn't be terribly long. It should be like a one a one pager. And if that it's fine, if that puts you a little bit over the 25,000 words. Okay.

Budget

- I hope it wasn't confusing for me to say that the grant can be made over multiple years. So we can give you the grant in one installment, we can make the \$40,000 grant all at once, if you prefer. If you need to use the grant within six months, that's fine.
- You don't you don't need to use the grant over a full year or two years. If you want to use it within a six month period, that would be totally fine. I would just say that, you know, if that's what you're planning to, do, we just you'll need to make a compelling case for how \$40,000 in that window would be put to good use as far as finishing book.
- a competitive application would be proposing making a good case for how they would use \$40,000. If you're proposing using less than that, it probably you probably won't have the strongest application.
- A question about how specific in terms of line by line budgeting do competitive applications get? Okay, so we would like you to estimate or approximate costs. So I wouldn't say I need money for this, this and this, I would encourage you to say I need approximately this amount to do this thing, approximately this amount to do this thing,

etc.

- A moderate level of specificity just so the reviewers have a sense that you've thought carefully, you've sat down, you've looked at the numbers, you've responsibly estimated what it's going to take you to complete it, rather than sort of a blue sky, you know, this will add up to 40,000.

Living expenses

- Don't feel that you need to necessarily justify your living expenses, but do make clear how having funds to pay for how to cover your living expenses will help you write the book.
- giving up freelance work, and taking up time teaching and using your grants to support your living expenses to focus on writing that is an eligible expense.
- I think health costs are a cost of living. And you could propose you could propose healthcare as a cost of living, that'd be finished writing the grant.
- Childcare is absolutely an eligible cost. As with health care, cost of living, anything that's associated with their cost of living to help you write the book is eligible.
- A question about what is a reasonable living expense per month? That's a great question. It's a really hard question to answer. We don't even know people's living expenses, they vary drastically based on you know, the experience of just sort of like the nature of your family where you live. So I don't have numbers to share on that.
- I mean, I think I wouldn't submit a budget that has it like an extravagant cost of living but what are reasonable expenses to help you live a healthy safe life and to support your family? That's, that's completely within the realm of things that we expect to see and hope to see. So and I can't give you specific numbers on living expenses. But yeah, if you have questions on that, please let us know.

Taxes

- It is taxable income. And so you would receive a 1099.
- it is taxable and it is taxable income and Um, I would not I would not, like include paying the taxes in the budget for the grant, I would say propose to use the \$40,000. And I know it's, there's, I understand that a slightly counterintuitive, but the grant isn't meant to be paying taxes.

Covered expenses

- can you upgrade your computer and tape recorder? I would say I think I think no, no. Okay. So no equipment costs, but costs for time and writing.

Misc

- there are no citizenship or residency requirements. The only requirement is that the book have Are we under contract with a publisher in the US, UK or Canada.