



DocSong Grant Readiness Checklist

Before you apply for funding or request fiscal sponsorship support

Use this checklist to reflect on whether your project is ready for grant development.

1. Project Clarity

- I can describe my project in 2–3 clear sentences
- I know what will actually happen (activities, workshops, events, etc.)
- My idea is focused and specific (not overly broad)
- I can explain why this project matters right now

2. Community Connection

- I am already connected to the community I want to work with
- I have existing relationships or trust within this community
- Participants will play an active role in shaping the work
- This project is grounded in a real community context, not an abstract idea

3. Project Design

- I have a clear timeline (start and end dates)
- I know where the project will take place
- I have a realistic sense of how many people will participate
- I know what the final outcome will be (song, performance, recording, etc.)

4. Budget Awareness

- I have a rough understanding of project costs
- I can identify key expenses (artist fees, materials, space, documentation, etc.)
- My own labor/time is included in the budget
- I know whether I will need a fiscal sponsor or partner organization

5. Outcomes & Impact

- I can describe what will change or happen because of this project
- My outcomes are specific and observable (not vague or abstract)
- I can explain the impact in human or community terms

- I can imagine how I would report or reflect on the project afterward

6. Narrative Readiness

- I can explain my project clearly to someone outside my field
- I know who the project serves and why
- I can articulate why I am the right person to lead this work
- I can describe the project without overcomplicating it

7. Alignment with DocSong (if seeking partnership)

- My project aligns with or uses the Documentary Songwriting Method
- I am open to collaboration and feedback on shaping the project
- I understand that support depends on alignment and capacity
- I am prepared to refine my idea if needed

Reflection

If you checked most boxes, your project is likely ready for a conversation about funding or fiscal sponsorship.

If not, that's okay! This checklist is meant to help strengthen your idea before you apply.