



The Meadows Foundation

Serving the People of Texas

REVIEWING APPLICATIONS EFFICIENTLY

Lizette Villarreal-Montes, Senior Program Officer

February 2026




WELCOME

Quick Introductions

- Name
- Organization
- What's your favorite snack?



FINDING THE RIGHT MATCH



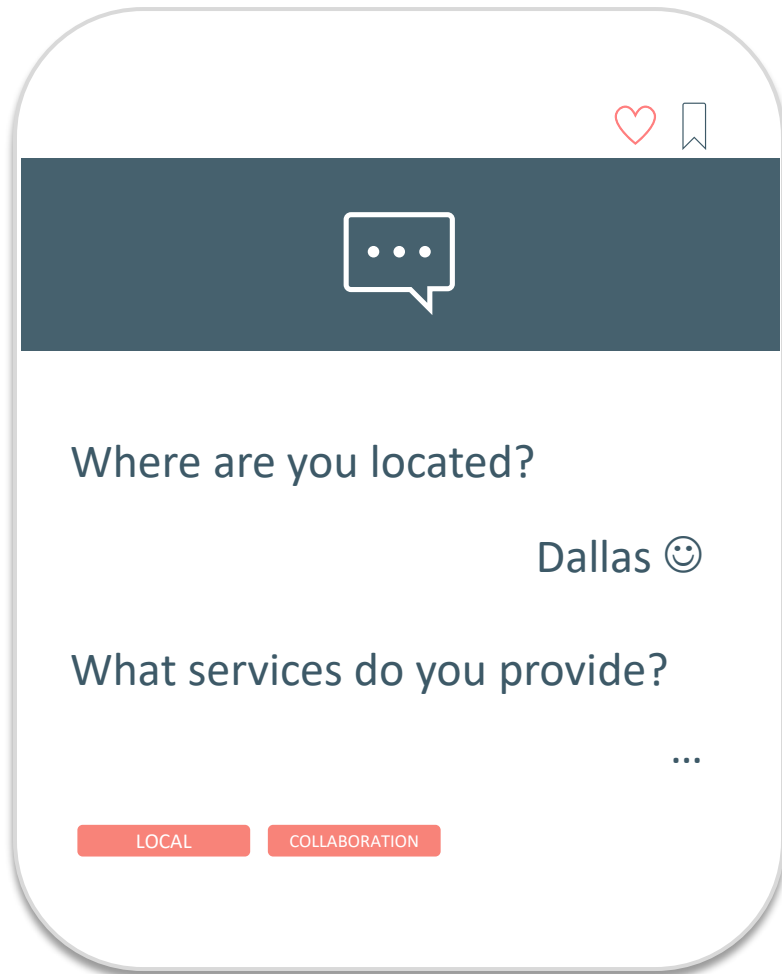
Community Programs, \$250,000
Workforce Development Initiative
Serving Rural Counties

A 12-month workforce training program serving 150 adults in three rural West Texas counties, partnering with local employers to increase placement rates by 35%.

RURAL WORKFORCE COLLABORATION



TALKING STAGE



Where are you located?

Dallas 😊

What services do you provide?

...

LOCAL COLLABORATION

- Alignment of priorities
- Project sustainability
- Urgency of request
- Tax status



FLAG HOW WE'RE FEELING

Green

- Aligns to strategic frameworks (local, regional, state, national)
- Industry trends and best practices
- Key partnerships in place with major players
- Pilot project with long-term financial sustainability plan
- Sophisticated data usage

Beige

- Newer nonprofit, limited track record in field
- Big idea with limited partnerships
- Goals are output-based, immature outcomes
- Early in project fundraising

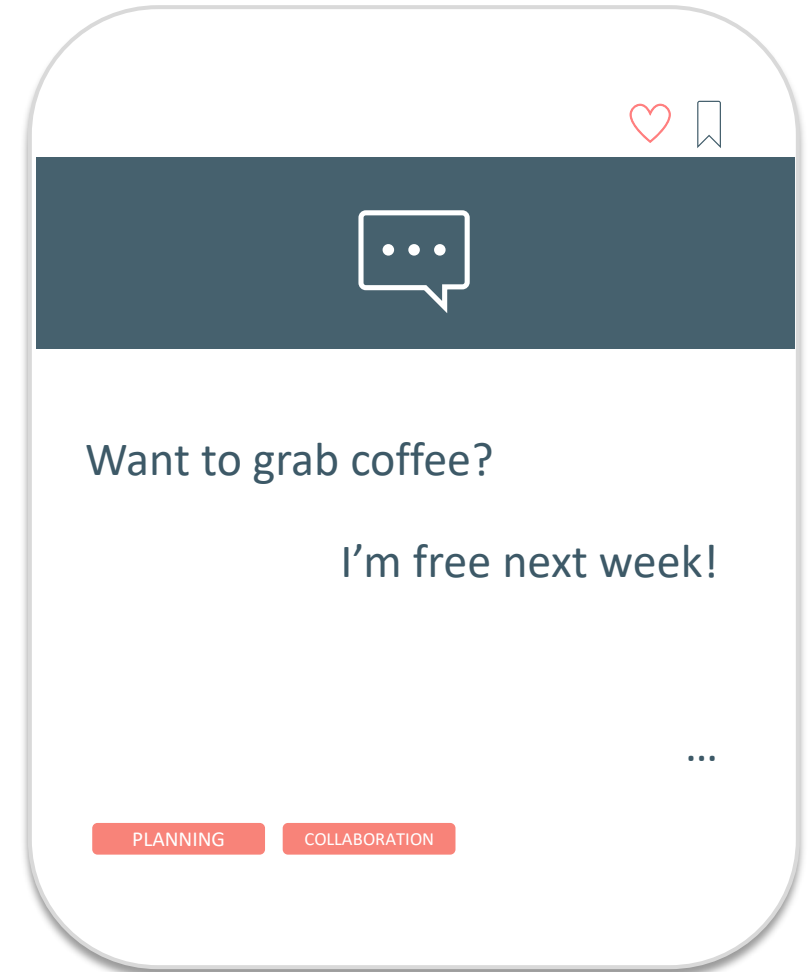
Red

- No track record in field
- Vague project goals
- Unrealistic timeframes for project completion
- Reluctance or inability to provide reasonable documentation
- Budget does not match proposed activities or scope of work



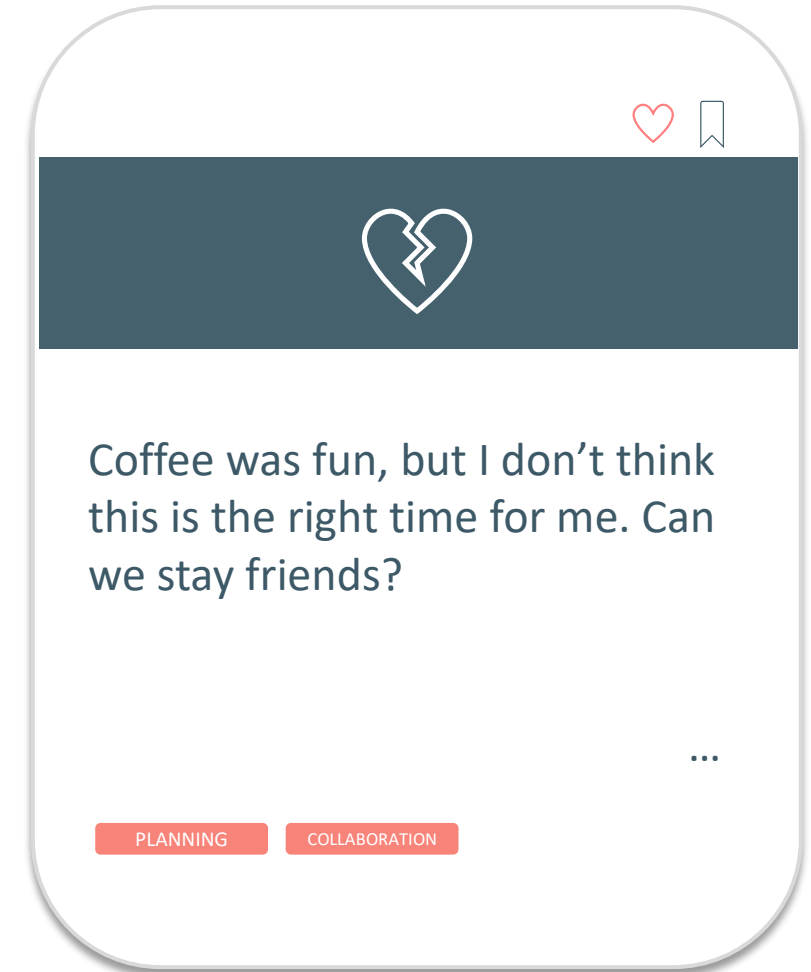
“LET’S MEET UP!”

- Site visit
- Review financial statements
- Utilize network of partners and peers for insight
- Consider competing priorities and funds available

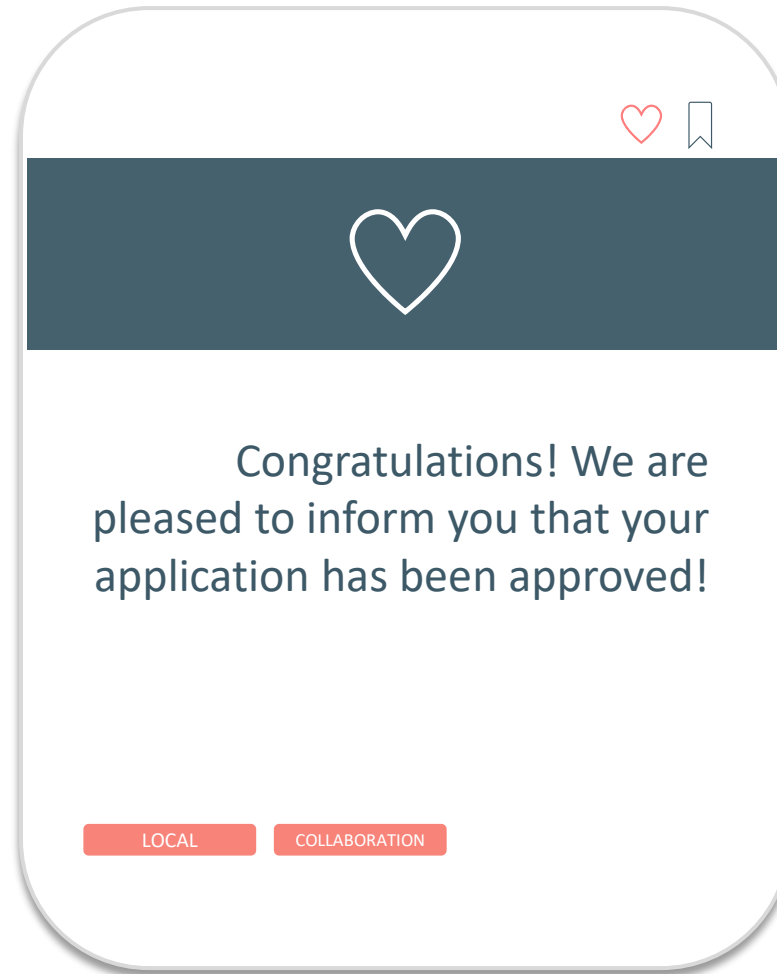


“YOU’RE REALLY GREAT BUT...”

- Clear communication of misalignment
- Recommendations of other appropriate funding sources
- Concise feedback for areas of improvement
- Indication if it’s not now or never and how you’d prefer to keep in touch



IT'S A MATCH!



TAKE AWAYS

- How does the program/organization fit in with the goals and strategies of your organization?
- Key areas of importance or issues of significant importance to your foundation
- Scale and system changes
- Understanding outcomes vs. outputs
- Clarity of request
- Sound financials
- Project addresses gap with demonstrated need





SCENARIO

**TWO ORGANIZATIONS APPLY FOR \$100K EACH, BUT WE ONLY HAVE \$100K TOTAL TO GRANT.
WHAT RECOMMENDATION WOULD YOU MAKE?**



