



Infrastructure, or a programme? A one-page test

Most applications that fail were never eligible. Different funds pay for different shapes of thing, and the shape is decided before you write a word. Run your project through this first.

1 Write one sentence describing what exists at the end

No adjectives. Just the thing.

2 Could you photograph it in twenty years?

Pipes, a road, a pump station, drainage, a building: yes. A staff post, a curriculum, a study: no.

This single question sorts most projects correctly.

3 Does it have a useful life of twenty years or more?

Infrastructure funds usually say this in the notice. If your answer is five, you are in the wrong fund.

4 Who owns it when it is finished?

Public infrastructure money generally needs a public or nonprofit owner and a maintenance plan.

5 Is the main cost construction, or is it people?

If more than half the budget is salaries, you are looking at a programme fund, not an infrastructure one.

6 Is there an engineering estimate?

Infrastructure applications are judged on whether the number is real. A round figure reads as a guess.

7 If it is a programme, that is not a lesser project

Workforce, planning, capacity and business development have their own funds with their own money.

The mistake is the door, never the merit.

Then call your development district and read them the sentence from step one. They will tell you which door in about four minutes, and it costs nothing.