


A collection of symbolic objects is arranged on the left side of the slide. At the top left is a wooden board with a checkerboard pattern and several small, round, light-colored pieces. Below it is a blue ribbon with a circular medallion. To the right of the ribbon is a silver star-shaped medal with a central emblem. Below the ribbon is another silver star-shaped medal with a central emblem. At the bottom left is a round, silver compass with a white face and black markings. A pair of gold-rimmed glasses with thin temples is positioned diagonally across the center of the slide, overlapping the compass and the medals.

Problem Statement & Needs Assessment

Explain and document the nature and extent of the problem that has resulted in a need for the proposed program.



Use available evidence and logical argument to establish that the situation is not what it ought to be.

Document the need for the program by presenting:

- ◆ Historical, geographic, statistical and demographic data (rural areas, housing projects, incidents of crime, etc.)
- ◆ Test results/rankings/comparison with peer groups
- ◆ Research studies



- ◆ Survey results
- ◆ Evidence of demand – waiting lists, case loads, enrollment figures
- ◆ Absence of a product or program
- ◆ Position statements of national/state organizations




Need Statement of an Arizona School District:

- ◆ The achievement gap in the Casa Grande district shows low performance in achievement levels for low socio-economic students and students in minority and underrepresented populations. The district is determined to close this gap and has stated the need for professional development to introduce equity-based strategies into classroom instruction.
- ◆ Two out of Casa Grande's seven elementary schools are labeled Underperforming Schools and two more are on School Improvement Plans.
- ◆ Poverty is pervasive in the Casa Grande community (population 25,224). The district has a 67% participation rate in Free/Reduced School Lunch program.
- ◆ Over 40% of the adult population lacks a high school diploma.
- ◆ Federal drug officers consider the Casa Grande area a primary Southwestern drug corridor and drug abuse and gang affliction are common among youth.
- ◆ Many of Casa Grande's students come from non-English speaking families.
- ◆ Arizona is ranked 49th in per pupil spending.
- ◆ Arizona faces a teacher shortage that requires them to hire emergency certified staff and do out-of-state recruitment.



Partner District	%F/R lunch	% Minority	% Passing state assessment
New Orleans, LA	100%	100% African American	77% did not reach basic level on the 4 th grade science LEAP test
Casa Grande, AZ	67%	50% Hispanic	61% unsatisfactory on 5 th grade math test (no science test is given)




Remember, you are applying for competitive funding.

- ◆ Why aren't others meeting the need?
- ◆ If others are providing this function or a similar function, how are you going to provide something different or better?



Give the documentation focus.

- ◆ How does this information support your position?
- ◆ What specific examples would help?
- ◆ How are existing programs or theories limited?
How does your program/theory differ? How will it solve the problem?
- ◆ How will your program meet the agency's goals?
- ◆ How does your program build on other projects funded by that agency?



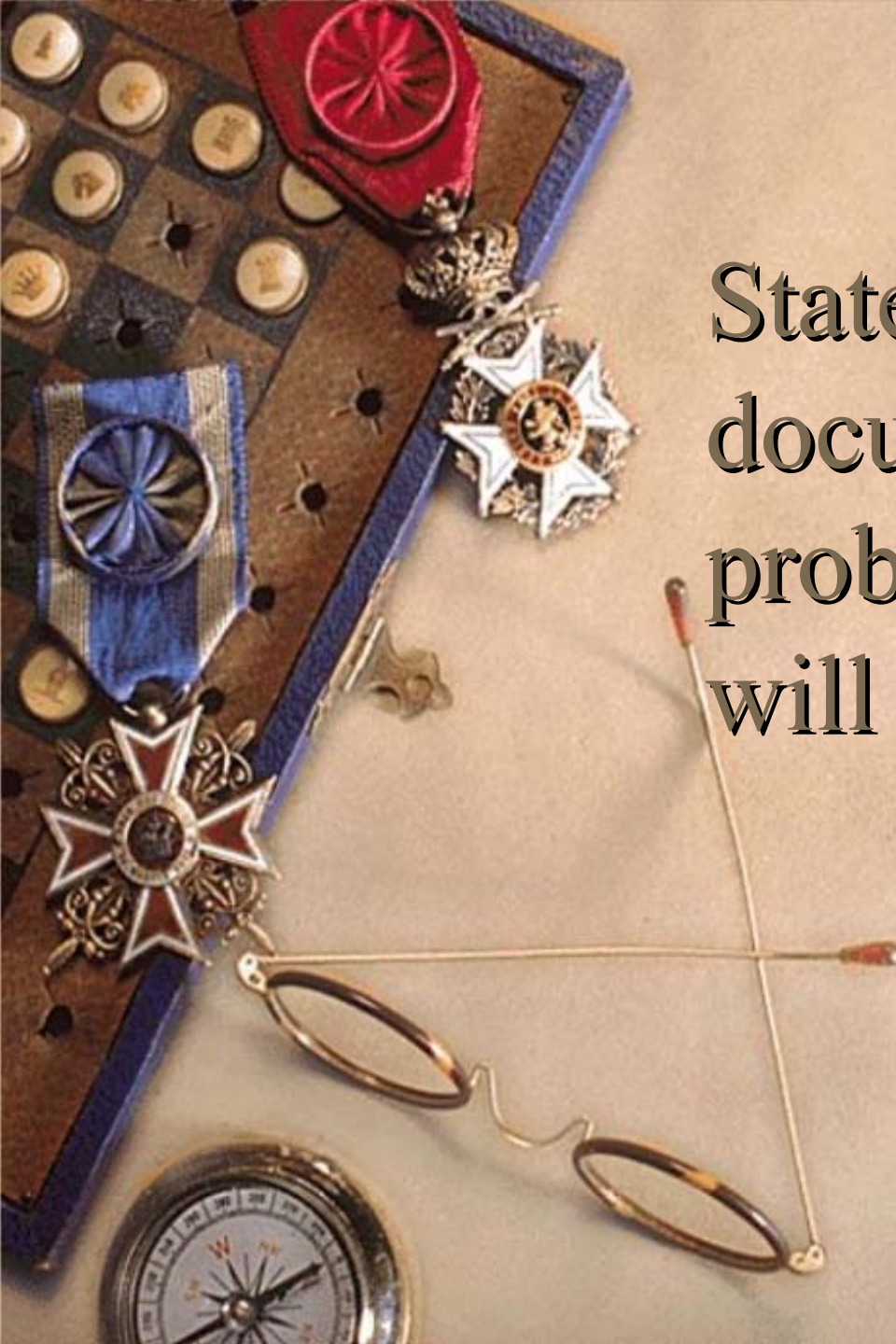
Indicate the significance of your project.

- ◆ What will be the result or end product of your project?
- ◆ What impact will it have? Will that impact continue after funding?
- ◆ Will your project serve as a model?



Review questions for the development of a need section.

- ◆ What significant needs are you trying to meet? What needs to be done?
- ◆ What is the current status of the situation?
- ◆ Will this project help meet the need? What services will be delivered? To whom?
- ◆ What does the literature say about the significance of the problem? Do organizations involved in this area see the need as important?
- ◆ Is there evidence that this project will lead to other significant studies?
- ◆ What previous work has been done to meet this need? Was it effective?
- ◆ What will be the impact of this study?

A collection of objects is arranged on a light-colored surface. On the left, a portion of a chessboard with a blue and brown checkered pattern is visible, featuring several chess pieces. Below the chessboard, there are two medals: one with a red ribbon and a white star, and another with a blue ribbon and a white star. A pair of gold-rimmed glasses with thin temples lies across the middle. In the bottom left corner, a circular compass with a white face and black markings is visible. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

State the problem,
document that it is a
problem, tell how you
will solve it.