# Grants

Guidance
and key resources to help eligible grantseekers find information on federal grants, loans, and nonfinancial assistance for projects, as well as on private funding. Prepared by the Congressional Research Service for Members of Congress, updated October 2008.

- How Best to Find Information
- Key Federal Funding Sources
- Related Federal Sources
- Private and Corporate Funding
- Tracking Federal Funds

## How Best to Find Information

TOP

- Find out "Who is eligible for a Grant?" Other government websites may be more suitable for personal needs, student loans, small business assistance , or other business opportunities such as government contracting. The website Government Benefits, Grants, and Financial Aid may also be of help.

- If eligible, search for program information in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) by Keyword and other indexes for grants, loans, business and nonfinancial help.

- Contact federal office given in CFDA
program description: if indicated, use CFDA Appendix IV: Federal Regional or Local Office Addresses.

- Go to federal websites given in each CFDA program description for more information and for state administering agencies responsible for managing these programs.

- Check current federal grants opportunities at Grants.gov, register and obtain a DUNS number, sign up for e-mail notification, and apply online.

- Search foundations for project funding: use the
Foundation Center Web site or Foundation Center Cooperating Collections in libraries to identify national, state, and community foundations.

- Learn how to write grant proposals: follow CFDA's Developing and Writing Grant Proposals, or take the free online Foundation Center Proposal Writing Short Course.

Key Federal Funding Sources
TOP

- Grants.gov
- Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance
- CFDA Indexes and Listings
- Writing Grant Proposals
- Federal Agency Contacts in States
- State Single Points of Contact
- CFDA in Local Libraries

Grants.gov (managed by Dept. of Health and Human Services)

Federal website that allows eligible grantseekers to electronically find and apply for current competitive grant opportunities from ALL federal agencies. Grantseekers can check on notices of funding availability (NOFA) posted in the last 7 days; sign up to receive e-mail notification of grant opportunities; and apply for federal grants through a unified process by downloading the application and submitting online. The website guides grantseekers in obtaining a DUNS (Dun and Bradstreet) number and registering at Grants.gov to apply and to track applications. For full federal program descriptions, see CFDA below.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (General Services Administration)

The Catalog (CFDA), issued annually and updated continuously on the Web, describes some 1600 federal grants and non financial assistance programs. Grantseekers can identify programs that might support their projects and can learn the program's objectives, requirements, application procedures and contacts. For current notices of funding availability, see Grants.gov.

Catalog Indexes and Listings (CFDA)

Although keyword searching is often a good place to start, also browse

by broad subject ("functional area"), by federal department or agency, or by beneficiary to identify more federal funding programs. CFDA program descriptions refer to local and regional federal office addresses, to related programs, and to Office of Management and Budget circulars, all available full text on the Internet.

Developing and Writing Grant Proposals (CFDA)

Guidance in formulating federal grant applications, including initial proposal development, basic components of a proposal, review recommendations, and referral to federal guidelines and literature.

Federal Regional or Local Office Addresses (CFDA Appendix IV)

Much of the federal grants budget moves to the states through formula and block grants -- state, regional, and local federal offices often handle grants applications and funds disbursement. If the CFDA program description refers to a state or regional Information Contact as listed in Appendix IV, grantseekers should contact them before applying for funding to obtain the most up-to-date information.

State 'Single Points of Contact' (Office of Management and Budget)

Under Executive Order 12372, some states require federal grants applicants to submit a copy of their application for state government level review and comment. The state offices listed here coordinate federal financial assistance and may direct federal development. For help in identifying state-level grants, other state government agencies websites may be found at : State and Local Agencies by Topic.

CFDA in Local Libraries (Government Printing Office)

Although the Catalog is available full-text on the Internet, some may prefer a print edition. However, only the Web Catalog is continuously updated-the published volume is annual with no supplements. The Catalog is available in all states in Federal Depository Libraries.

Related Federal Resources
TOP

- A-Z Index Departments & Agencies

- Homeland Security Grants

- Disaster Assistance
- USA.gov for Business
- USA.gov for Nonprofits
- Faith-Based and Community Organizations
- Student Aid on the Web
- GovBenefits.gov
- FTC Consumer Alert
- Office of Management & Budget (OMB Circulars)

A-Z Index of U.S. Departments and Agencies (General Services Administration)

To better develop a grant proposal, search a department or agency's Home Page to learn more about its programs and objectives. The site USA.gov also links to Government Benefits, Grants and Financial Aid.

Homeland Security State Contacts & Grant Award Information (Dept. of Homeland Security)

Click on map for state allocations and contact information. Most Homeland Security non-disaster grant programs are designated for state and local governments and specific entities such as colleges, etc. Unsolicited applications from individuals are generally not accepted. Includes Urban Area Security Initiative, Citizens Corps, Medical Response System, Operation Stonegarden (border security), Infrastructure Protection. Programs for firefighters may be found at Assistance to Firefighters.

Disaster Assistance (Federal Emergency Management Agency)

Disaster assistance programs activate only after a Presidential disaster declaration is issued and is restricted to those residing within the disaster area. FEMA disaster assistance falls into three general categories: Individual and Households; Public Assistance for emergency services and repair or replacement of damaged public facilities; and Hazard Mitigation funding to reduce future losses to public and private property.

USA.gov for Business (GSA)

Includes contracting with the U.S. government, international trade and exporting, and small business. See also financial assistance links atBusiness.gov and the Small Business Administration websites.

USA.gov for Nonprofits (General Services Administration)

Links to federal department and agency information and service for nonprofit organizations, including fundraising and outreach, grants, loans and other assistance, laws and regulations, management and operations, online services, registration and licensing, and tax information.

Faith-Based and Community Organizations (Office of Faith-Based and Community Organizations)

Federal departments and agencies operate a number of programs to serve Americans in need for which faith-based and community organizations may apply. Consult Guidance to Faith-Based and Community Organizations on Partnering with the Federal Government and Federal Funds for Organizations That Help Those in Need , and A Guide to Federal Economic Development Programs for Faith-Based and Community Organizations.
Many are "formula grants" made available to states and local governments, which in turn award grants to grassroots and local organizations. To learn about them, contact local and state agencies responsible for managing these programs. [Download a free PDF reader]

Student Aid on the Web (Dept. of Education)

Information on funding education beyond high school, including grants, loans, and work-study assistance to qualified students.

GovBenefits.gov (via Department of Labor)

Includes information on over 1,000 government assistance programs, and how to apply. Covers direct payment, loan, insurance, training, or other services.

FTC Consumer Alert (Federal Trade Commission)

The FTC
warns consumers to beware of paying "processing fees" for information that is available free to the public. Ads claiming federal grants are available for home repairs, home business, unpaid bills, or other personal expenses are often a scam.

OMB Grants Management Web Site (Office of Management and Budget)

OMB establishes government-wide grants management policies and guidelines through circulars and common rules.  OMB Circulars  are cited in Catalog program descriptions and may be printed out fulltext.

Private & Corporate Funding Sources
TOP

The Foundation Center

Gateway to information about private funding sources, the grant seeking process, guidelines on writing a grant proposal, addresses of state libraries with grants reference collections, and links to other useful Internet websites. The Center maintains a comprehensive database on foundations; produces print and electronic directories and guides; conducts research and publishes studies in the field; and offers a variety of training and educational seminars.

- Guide to Funding Research
An overview of the funding research process for those seeking grants from foundations, corporations, and grantmaking public charities.

- Proposal Writing Short Course (also in Spanish, French and other languages)

- Foundation Finder Search for information about more than 70,000 private and community foundations.

- Requests for Proposals Daily postings of requests for proposals (RFPs) from private funding sources by broad subject category.

- Foundation Center Cooperating Collections Free funding information available in libraries, community foundations, and other nonprofit centers nationwide.

Grant Resources by State (Grantsmanship Center)

Click on state map to find links to information about a state's foundations, community foundations, corporate giving programs and the state's home page.

Community Foundation Locator (Council on Foundations)

Community foundations have special interest in funding local and community projects.

Tracking Federal Funds
TOP

Tracking of Federal Funds

- USAspending.gov (Office of Management and Budget)

A free, searchable database of federal government spending based upon Census and General Services Administration statistical data. Grants (Assistance tab) and Contracts must be searched separately: by individual organization or grant recipient; by place of performance, including by congressional district; or by federal department or agency.

- Federal Aid to States
(Census Bureau)

FAS
details actual expenditures of federal grant funds to state and local governments. Figures are presented to the state level by program area and agency.

- Consolidated Federal Funds Report (Census Bureau)

In CFFR,
grants generally represent obligations and include payments both to state and local governments and to nongovernmental recipients. Data is provided for state and county levels.

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