Grants Funding Resource Guide

Dear Friend,

I am pleased to share this resource guide regarding the federal grant process with you. This guide is an effort to streamline this process and provide you with the best information available in a clear and concise format. As your Representative, I am committed to advocating for more federal funding that will help the residents of Maryland's Sixth Congressional District.

Federal Grants are highly competitive and the process of researching, applying for, and gathering support can be overwhelming, especially for those who are new to the process. In this guide, you will find an overview of grants generally, tips on researching federal grants and applying, how my office can be of assistance, and connections to additional resources. Hopefully, this guide serves as a starting point for your grants journey.

As always, should you be looking for my support, please let my team know. I will always support projects and grant applications that benefit our mutual constituents, and am happy to write a letter of support to any agency on your behalf.

I am committed to making sure that my constituents have the resources they need. Please reach out to my team should you have any questions.

Best of luck!

Sincerely,

David Trone
Member of Congress

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HOW MY OFFICE CAN HELP

I came to Congress to advocate for Maryland's Sixth District. It is and has been my highest priority to make sure my district is getting its fair share of federal support.

From my Grants Newsletter to Letters of Support to from research assistance to application tracking, my team and I are committed to helping you navigate what can be a complex funding system.

Grants Newsletter

My team monitors Grants.gov for new Funding Opportunity Announcements, and compiles a highlighted list of new Grants each month. You can sign up for this newsletter here.

Letters of Support

If you're seeking a grant opportunity from any level of government that would benefit Maryland's Sixth District, my Grants team may be able to write a letter of support for your project. Keep in mind that your organization must reside in or have a direct benefit to Maryland's Sixth District. If you are interested in submitting a request for a Grant Letter of Support, please visit my website at https://trone.house.gov/services/grant-applicants/. There, you will find a "Grant Letter of Support Form" button, which will allow you to submit your request with all pertinent information and a draft letter of support directly to my Grants Team. Once submitted, my Grants team will reach out within 1-2 business days with any questions or to confirm receipt.

Grant Research Assistance

My team can assist your organization by helping to identify various available federal funding opportunities if needed. If interested, please visit my website at https://trone.house.gov/services/grant-applicants/. There, you will find a "Grant Research Assistance" button, which will allow you to submit your request with

specific project details and needs. My team will reach out within 1-2 business days with any questions or to confirm receipt and start searching.

Assisting with Agency Tracking

If you have applied for a grant, but are unsure where your application stands after it was sent to the coordinating agency, my team can help connect you to the federal point of contact in some circumstances. Should you require this assistance, please reach out to my Grants Coordinator below.

Other Questions?

For any other questions you may have about Grants, or Community Project Funding please reach out to: **Trone.Grants@mail.house.gov**

UNDERSTANDING GRANTS

What is a Federal Grant?

A grant is one of the many forms of federal financial assistance. Grants are a way for the federal government to fund ideas, projects, and services that provide a public service in some way. This could be for innovation and research, economic stimulus, aiding at-risk and in-need communities, creating or maintaining critical services like recovery, and many more.

Grants typically are awarded on the state or local level for projects serving broader community needs. Most federal funding is funneled through State or Local Governments, which then are sub-awarded to local entities and eligible non-profits. Local Government and Non-Profit Organizations are eligible to tap into various Grant Programs as well.

Grants are administered by the federal agency that houses the program. All grant activity is monitored and adjudicated by the federal agency in charge. Members of Congress are able to advocate for grant applicants within or serving their districts, but ultimately do not have a final say on which requests are awarded. For more information on requesting a Grant Letter of Support, please see the information on page 3.

What is not a Federal Grant?

A Federal Grant is not for individuals and is neither a benefit nor an entitlement. Individuals seeking Government Assistance or Benefits should utilize the following resources:
- If you are looking for earned federal benefits such as disability, veterans assistance, energy costs, etc., visit https://www.benefits.gov for more information. As always, if you are looking for my team to advocate on your behalf with a federal agency, please fill out a Privacy Release Form at https://trone.house.gov/services/help-with-a-federal-agency/.
- If you are looking for student financial aid, visit https://studentaid.ed.gov/
- If you are looking to start or expand a small business using a small business loan, or trying to find information on programs and assistance or counseling,

please visit the Small Business Administration's website at https://www.sba.gov.

Grants are not typically advertised on television by private companies. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) cautions against signing up for "free grant" programs, as these are typically scams. If you see an advertisement for a free grant to pay for education, unpaid bills, etc, please contraction the FTC directly at https://reportfraud.ftc.gov or call 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); TTY: 1-866-653-4261. Many of these scams will include a processing fee for information, when grant information is freely available to the public.

These Grants are not the same as Community Project Funding (or CPF, and in the House of Representatives) or Congressionally Directed Spending (or CDS, and in the U.S. Senate). Competitive Grants are administered by Federal Agencies directly, and Members of Congress do not direct this spending. CPF and CDS are specific grants written into federal law for a single fiscal year. While every CPF and CDS grant will share the same name as a competitive grant, these are appropriated individually by Congress during the Appropriations Process, and not part of the usual grant allocation.

Community Project Funding is generally defined as spending provisions in federal legislation that:
- Are requested on behalf of constituents or constituent organizations by a Member of Congress or Senator;
- Provides, authorizes, or recommends a specific amount of discretionary budget authority, credit authority, or specific funding amount to a specific entity for a specific purpose; and,
- The purpose of the project must meet the objective of a federal program under existing law.

Community Project Funding is typically requested for projects with a clear purpose and goal above and beyond normal operating activities, for which private, non-federal funding is not available or sufficient. Community Project Funding will typically only serve as a partial contribution to the total cost of a project

If you have questions on the Community Project Funding process in the House of Representatives, please visit my website at https://trone.house.gov/services/appropriations-requests/, or you can reach out to my staff listed on page 3 of this guide.

Eligibility for Federal Grants

Determining eligibility for grants is the first step in any process. After all, if you are not legally eligible to receive a federal grant opportunity, it would be a waste of time, money, resources, and patience to then pursue that grant.

Typically, groups/organizations that qualify for Federal Grants Opportunities include:

Government Organizations
- The State of Maryland
- County Governments
- City/Town/Special District Governments
- Native American Tribal Governments (both federally recognized and other than federally recognized)
- Fire/EMS/Police Departments

Education Organizations
- Public and State Institutions of Higher Education
- Private Institutions of Higher Education
- Independent School Districts

Public Housing Authorities

Non-Profit Organizations
- Both with and without 501(c)(3) designation from the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

For-Profit Organizations
- Organizations that are not looking for a small business loan

Because each grant program can vary in eligibility and scope, it's best to carefully reach the application instructions for any grant you wish to apply for, as the awarding agency will normally define eligibility in those instructions. All federal grants and their instructions can be found on https://www.grants.gov.

Types of Federal Grants

The two main types of federal grants are *Discretionary* and *Mandatory* Grants. This guide will describe them below:

Discretionary Grants

These are a type of grant in which a federal agency selects an awardee at an eligible award level based on merit and organizational eligibility. Federal Agencies will review and evaluate grant proposals in a competitive process to inform their funding decision. These grants are administered by the federal agency directly, and have full discretion on what applicants receive, or don't receive, awards.

Mandatory Grants

These grants are typically awarded to an eligible applicant (usually a government entity) based on conditions defined in an authorizing statute. These grants are usually referred to as *Formula Grant* or *Block Grant*. These can be grants the federal agency administering must award based on eligibility, qualification, or formula in the legislative authorization statute. Non-Profits and Non-Government Entities may eventually receive this funding as part of a sub-award or pass-through funding. State or Local Government awardees may use this funding to accomplish specific funding goals, or may pass the funding down to more granular entities to accomplish the purpose of the grant.

- *Formula Grant:* These are based on statistical criteria for specific types of work. The authorizing legislation and regulations define this criteria when passed by Congress, as well as the amount of funds to be distributed. Medicaid is an example of a Formula Grant.. These grants are non-competitive in nature.
- *Block Grant:* These grants provide federal assistance to broadly defined functions, like social services or community development activities. They also allow the grant recipient more discretion than other grants in determining how to utilize funding to achieve the broader goal of the federal program. Generally, these grants are given to State/Territory Governments and allow the government awardee to determine specifically how to allocate the money on a state or local level. There are guidelines in the authorizing legislation that must be followed, and will vary with each grant program. Non-Profits and Non-Governmental Entities may receive partial funding via pass-through funding from the State Government.

Grant Phases and Life Cycle

The Grant Life Cycle is the entire process a grant goes through - from creation of the funding opportunity, to the application process and awarding of funding, to implementation of the award. While the grant cycle can often be long and complex, it's relatively linear, and follows a set of stages: Pre-Award, Award, and Post-Award.

Each phase itself can vary in duration depending on the type of grant, the program itself, the federal agency responsible for implementation, the authorizing legislation, etc.

This guide will try to summarize the key points of each phase for both the Grantor and Applicant. Grantor Actions will be signified in **Blue** text, Applicant Action in **Green**. All bolded actions are considered steps in the life cycle for that phase.

Pre-Award Phase

Planning an Opportunity - The federal agency plans and develops a grant program based on its mission, congressional initiatives and legislation, and the current Administration.

Announcement - The federal agency announces the funding by advertising to applicant communities and asking for grant proposals. All relevant details and grant requirements will be posted on https://grants.gov.

Searching for Opportunities - Potential Applicants use https://grants.gov search tool to find funding opportunities they may be eligible for and match their grant goal. My office's newsletter will also include highlighted programs.

Register on GRANTS.gov - All potential applicants should register on https://grants.gov to search for opportunities, set up notifications, and ultimately apply for funding.

Completing an Application - Completing an application can take weeks. Applicants should download the application package from https://grants.gov in PDF form, and progress can be saved as the form is filled in. Fields will require information on the requesting organization, financial data, timelines and project information, etc. Once the application is completed and checked for errors by the applicant, it can be submitted through https://grants.gov. The applicant will be notified by the agency via email once the application has been received, and will be able to track the status by communicating with the awarding agency.

The Review Process - Once an application has been received, the granting agency will screen it for compliance. Once it passes the initial screen, it will be reviewed by the agency in full. The review process takes time and will vary based on program and agency.

Award Phase

Award Notification - Once the review has been completed, the granting agency will make notifications to all applicants on whether or not they have been awarded the grant. If the applicant is not awarded the grant, the life cycle ends here. If they are, the agency will finalize the legal framework for funding and come up with a disbursement plan.

Implementing the Grant - After an applicant receives a Notice of Award and funds have been disbursed, the project can begin. The awardee is responsible for meeting all reporting requirements of the award, including administrative, financial, and programmatic requirements. The awardee is also responsible for using the grant in the manner requested on the application. This step begins the next phase.

Post-Award Phase

Support and Oversight - After disbursement, a grants manager from the funding agency will oversee the reporting compliance from the awardee. This extends for the entirety of the grant award. Oversight may come in the form of auditing, on-site visits, and review of reports.

Reporting - For the life of the grant award, the awardee must provide regular financial and programmatic reports to the grant manager, and will need to respond to any and all audit requests.

Closeout - After all grant money has been used, all reports have been submitted and reviewed, and all requirements have been met, the grant is closed out and the life cycle is complete.

SEARCHING FOR GRANTS

Resource for Federal Funding Opportunities

SAM.gov

Official descriptions of more than 2,200 federal assistance programs (including grants, loans, and other financial and nonfinancial assistance) can be found on SAM.gov. The website, produced by the General Services Administration (GSA) houses federal assistance listings previously found on the now-retired Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA). Each federal assistance program has a corresponding CFDA program number; these CFDA numbers are still used as numerical program identifiers. Programs are searchable at the "Assistance Listings" domain at SAM.gov; descriptions are updated by departments and agencies, and they cover authorizing legislation, objectives, and eligibility and compliance requirements.

There are about 1,800 assistance programs that are classified as grants, and the Assistance Listing descriptions include:

Federal Agency Administration	Regulations and Guidelines
Objective of Program	Authorizing Legislation
Types of Financial Assistance	Uses and Restrictions
Eligibility Requirements	Regional Office Contact Information
Range of Financial Assistance	Local Office Contact Information
Application Process	Headquarters Contact Information
Award Process	Funded Project Examples
Selection Criteria	Match Requirements
Past & Current FY Obligation Amounts	Related Programs
	And more!

GRANTS.gov

The centralized federal website that allows eligible grantseekers to find and apply for current competitive grant opportunities from ALL federal agencies. After using

SAM.gov to identify programs, applicants may be directed to register and apply for a grant here. Grantseekers can:

- Check on notices of funding availability (NOFA)
- Access an RSS feed of available opportunities
- Sign up for email notifications for grant opportunities;
- Register and Download applications for current and open grants
- Register with System for Award Management (SAM)

Registering with SAM is required for all Federal Grants.

State of Maryland Administering Agency

Some states require federal grant applicants to submit a copy of their grant application for state government level review and comment. In Maryland, the State Point of Contact is listed below:

Jason Dubow, Manager
Resource Conservation & Management
Maryland Department of Planning
301 West Preston Street, Suite 1101
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2305
Telephone: (410) 767-4490
Fax: (410) 767-4480
mdp.clearinghouse@maryland.gov
http://planning.maryland.gov/pages/ourwork/grantresources.aspx

The **Maryland State Clearinghouse for Intergovernmental Assistance** (commonly referred to as clearinghouse) does not award grants or any other financial assistance.

The primary mission of the clearinghouse is to ensure that financial and non-financial assistance projects operating within Maryland are consistent with state and local policies and programs. This is accomplished by circulating requests for financial assistance, plans, and development projects to state, regional, and local public officials.

Project applications for the [following federal and state financial assistance programs](#) should be submitted to the State Clearinghouse for notification and intergovernmental review.

The clearinghouse also provides access to information regarding state, federal, and private financial assistance programs and grantsmanship and training resources.

The role of the clearinghouse in the grant process was established through Presidential Executive Order 12372 and Gubernatorial Executive Order 01.01.1983.17, signed by President Ronald Reagan in 1982 and Governor Harry Hughes in 1983, respectively. Many federal Formula and Block Grants are awarded directly to State Governments, which allocate funding based on priorities within the state.

For more information on how clearinghouse can be helpful, please visit their FAQ or contact the State of Maryland at mdp.clearinghouse@maryland.gov or (410) 767-4490.

Additionally, the Governor's Grants Office is a one-stop resource for Grants Training, Research, and Guidance for State Agencies, Local Governments, Non-Profit Organizations, Businesses, and Academia.

Additional Funding Sources

Government Funding can be limited, both in availability and scope. Groups seeking funding for projects may need to also look at private funding. State and Local Community Foundations may be interested in helping to fund smaller or local projects, however, many projects require multiple funding sources. This could come in the form of local business donations, community fundraising, and more.

Below is a list of resources to help find non-federal funding.

Candid (formerly the Foundation Center) Grants Space
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.

- How do I find grants for my nonprofit?
- Proposal Writing Short Course (also in Spanish, French, and other languages)
- Foundation Information Network Check for locations at Grants Space, Find Us. Free funding information available in libraries, community foundations, and other nonprofit centers nationwide, including access to the Foundation Directory Online database.

The Grantsmanship Center

Information on the State of Maryland's grantmaking, community, and corporate foundations that grant seekers may consider in finding sources of alternative or private funding.

Greater Washington Community Foundation (Montgomery County, MD)

Anna Hargrave
Executive Director, Montgomery County
1325 G St. NW
Suite 480
Washington, DC 20005
Telephone: (301) 495-3036 x 161
Telephone: (202) 955-5890
Fax: (202) 955-8084
ahargrave@thecommunityfoundation.org
info@thecommunityfoundation.org

The Community Foundation of Frederick County

Diana Flchiron
Director of Community Impact
312 East Church St.
Frederick, MD 21701
Telephone: (301) 695-7660
Fax: (301) 695-7775
communityimpact@FrederickCountyGives.org
info@FrederickCountyGives.org

Community Foundation of Washington County Maryland, Inc.

Stacey Crawford
President/CEO
37 S. Potomac St.
Hagerstown, MD 21740
Telephone: (301) 745-5210
Fax: (301) 791-5752
cfwc@cfwcmd.org

Community Trust Foundation (Allegany and Garrett Counties)

Leah Shaffer
CTF Foundation Director
112 Baltimore St.
Suite 201
Cumberland, MD 21502
Telephone: (301) 876-9172
Fax: (301) 876-9174
ctf@ctfinc.org

Other Grant Resources

Frederick County Public Library
C Burr Artz Central Library
110 E Patrick St.
Frederick, MD 21701
Telephone: (301) 600-1383
https://www.fcpl.org/departments/grant-seekers-resource-center

Washington County Free Library
100 S. Potomac St.
Hagerstown, MD 21740
Telephone: (301) 739-3250 x 310
https://www.washcolibrary.org/?q=grants&q=grants

The Nonprofit Village Center
15800 Crabbs Branch Way
Suite 300
Rockville, MD 20855
Telephone: (301) 230-0111
https://thenonprofitvillage.org/

Enoch Pratt Free Library
400 Cathedral St.
Baltimore, MD 21201
Telephone: (410) 396-5320
https://www.prattlibrary.org/research/guides/writing-a-grant-proposal

Congressional Research Service: How to Develop and Write a Grant Proposal

APPLYING FOR GRANTS

Registering Your Organization

There are several steps before your organization must complete before applying for a Federal Grant.

Registering with SAM.gov

Since April 4, 2022, the Federal Government has stopped using the DUNS Number to uniquely identify entities registered in the System for Award Management (SAM). Now, organizations will need a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) created in SAM.gov.

There is no cost to use SAM, and registering is required in order for your organization to be able to apply for federal grants. SAM is a web-based, government wide application that collects, validates, stores, and disseminates business information about the federal government's trading partners in support of the contract awards, grants, and electronic payment processes.

The UEI is a 12-character alphanumeric ID assigned to an entity. If you are an entity administrator who is **transitioning from using a DUNS Number to using a UEI**, here is what you need to do.

- To find your Unique Entity ID(s), sign in to SAM.gov and go to your Workspace (the link is in the subheader menu). In the Workspace, locate the Entities widget and select its title to show a list of your entities. The Unique Entity ID is displayed on each entity summary in the list.
- You do not need to update your registration until its expiration date.
- The first time you update your entity after April 4, 2022, you will be required to validate the legal business name and physical address of your entity. You may discover that the legal business name and physical address displayed for your entity have changed. If the information provided does not match, see this article on what to do if you can't find a match for your entity. Once you have updated your entity registration, the option to update POCs only will be available.
- If you need to update your legal business name or physical address, start and complete the process by updating your registration in SAM.gov. If either is

incorrect, use the "Create Incident" option. **Do not call the Federal Service Desk for help changing your legal business name or physical address.** The front-line help desk cannot set up a ticket for this. They also do not have access to the information you provide through SAM.gov and cannot provide updates on your ticket status.

If you need to register a **new entity**, you can do so without a DUNS Number by signing in to SAM.gov and selecting Get Started. You will get a Unique Entity ID during the registration process; you don't need to get one in advance.

You will need the authorizing official of your organization to send a notarized letter. It can take up to two weeks to register with SAM, then one business day for updates in SAM to be reflected in Grants.gov.

Your organization MUST have an EIN before registering. If you do not have an EIN, you should allow an additional five weeks to request and obtain an EIN from the IRS. You can start the request for an EIN at https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/apply-for-an-employer-identification-number-ein-online

Registering with GRANTS.gov

You will also need to register with Grants.gov in order to apply for any grant. Below is a step-by-step guide to registering on Grants.gov

1. Click the "Register" link on the top right Grants.gov banner.
2. Click the red "Get Registered Now" button on the Register page.
3. Complete the Contact Information and Account Details section. All fields with a red asterisk are required.
   a. Keep in mind that the email address used here will be the email address that **all correspondence from Grants.gov** will be sent to.
   b. Your username must only contain alphanumeric characters, question marks, periods, dashes, underscores, and the @ symbol. It can not include any spaces or only numbers.
   c. The password requirements are as follows:
      i. Must contain at least 8 characters
      ii. Must contain at least 1 uppercase letter (A-Z)
      iii. Must contain at least 1 lowercase letter (a-z)
      iv. Must contain at least 1 number (0-9)
      v. Must contain at least 1 special character (!, @, #, $, %, ^, &, *, etc.)
      vi. Cannot be the same as the previous 6 passwords used.
      vii. Cannot contain dictionary words, name, or your username.

4. Select whether to subscribe or unsubscribe from Grants.gov Communication. The alerts may contain important messages about time-sensitive or major system changes. The newsletter features training, system enhancement updates, and other resources to help the federal grants community.
5. Click the "Continue" button.
6. Click the "Send Temporary Code" button, then access your email account to access the temporary code.
7. Enter the temporary code you received in the email from Grants.gov in the "Temporary Code" field, and click the "Continue" button.
8. Decide if you would like to add a profile to your Grants.gov account, or click the "Continue" button to log in. You need to add a profile to submit an application. After registering, review the work-space overview page to learn how to apply for a grant.

Additionally, in order to log in to Grants.gov, you may need to create a Login.gov account. In order to do so, click the login button on the top right Grants.gov banner. Then click the LOGIN.GOV button on the page. After creating your account and verifying, you will be able to login to Grants.gov through Login.gov.

Submit an Application

Completing an application can take time, and should be started as soon as possible. Before beginning an application, you must have a complete Grants.gov account. If not set up correctly, you risk facing delays when working on or submitting the application. You should also thoroughly check the eligibility requirements before starting. You don't want to waste your time applying for a grant only to realize as you submit that you are not eligible to apply.

Most federal grants can be completed and submitted through the Grants.gov Workspace. Workspace allows you and your grants team to simultaneously access and edit different forms within an application. Forms can be filled out online or offline depending on organizational need. How an organization manages their application in Workspace will depend on the organization itself, how many users are within the organization, and if the organization hired a consultant. For more information on using the workspace, including tutorials and guides, please visit https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/workspace-overview.html

A grant application itself will require everything from basic organizational information, to explanations of proposed work and financial data. When an application has been completed and checked over for errors, it can be submitted

directly through Grants.gov. Typical grants will include the following sections (but are not limited to them):

- Cover Letter
- Proposal Abstract (or Summary)
- Introduction of the Grant Seeker or Organization
- Problem Statement
- Project Objective(s)
- Project Method or Design
- Project Evaluation
- Future Funding
- Project Budget (in some cases, where match funding or other funding is coming from)

For help drafting a grant proposal, please refer to the "Searching for Grants" section of this guide for additional resources.

Tracking an Application

After an application is submitted, you can track the status of your application by using the Grants.gov Tracking Number listed on the confirmation screen, or provided in the confirmation email. Entering this number in the appropriate field at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/track-my-application.html will bring up the most up to date status of your application.

There are multiple different statuses you may see. Here are some the more common ones and their definitions:

- **Received**: Grants.gov has received the application, but the application is awaiting validation.
- **Validated**: Grants.gov has validated the application and it is available for the agency to download and review.
- **Rejected with Errors**: Grants.gov was unable to process your application because of an error (or errors) and cannot accept the application until you correct the error(s) and successfully resubmit the application. When this status occurs, you will receive an email with a list of errors. You can also view the errors at any time via the "Check Application Status" page. In order to do so, just click the "Details" link associated with the rejected application.
- **Received by Agency**: The agency has confirmed receipt of your application.
- **Agency Tracking Number Assigned**: The agency has assigned an internal tracking number to your application. NOTE: This is the last status that

Grants.gov tracks. All updates beyond this point must be checked with the agency directly. Unfortunately, not all agencies provide tracking numbers. If you do not see an agency tracking number, it does not infer that the agency did not receive or process your application.

Once the federal agency with oversight over the grant you applied for receives the application, you will need to contact the agency point of contact directly for additional tracking and status information during the review period. When reviewing the grant announcement, it is helpful to write down the agency contact name and information listed in the opportunity. This may help you track your application once it's received by the agency, and if you have any program-related questions throughout the application process.

GRANT-MAKING AGENCIES

What Federal Agencies Award Grants?

Grants.gov provides access to information about federal Grant-making agencies. Included in the pages below are brief descriptions of each grant-making agency and some of their highlighted programs from Grants.gov.

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Mission and Vision

USAID partners to end extreme poverty and to promote resilient, democratic societies while advancing our security and prosperity. Poverty is multidimensional, requiring an approach to address hunger and food insecurity, illiteracy and innumeracy, ill-health, dis-empowerment, marginalization, and vulnerability. USAID's Feed the Future, Global Health, Global Climate Change, and Power Africa initiatives target symptoms of and pathways out of poverty. USAID's work on education is already reaching millions in extreme poverty. Similarly, the organization's cross-cutting efforts in promoting democracy, rights and good governance, empowering women and girls, advancing prosperity, building resilient societies, and mitigating climate change are all essential to ending poverty.

Grant Program Highlights

American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) Grant Programs
USAID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) program provides assistance to schools, libraries, and medical centers outside the United States that serve as study and demonstration centers for American ideas and practices. ASHA's grants help these institutions train future leaders in a wide variety of disciplines, support local and regional infrastructure to foster development, and cultivate positive relationships and mutual understanding among citizens of the United States and other nations.

Denton Program
The Denton Program allows private U.S. citizens and organizations to use space available on U.S. military cargo planes to transport humanitarian goods to countries in need. The program is jointly administered by USAID, the Department of State (DOS), the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) and the Department of Defense (DoD). DSCA is the primary agency responsible for administering the program. The Denton Program provides transportation for approved humanitarian assistance commodities destined for approved countries. Approved countries include those that are supported by DoD transportation services, and where civil systems, local infrastructure and the supply chain will support immediate onward distribution of the commodities.

[Development Innovation Ventures (DIV)](#)
Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) is an open competition supporting breakthrough solutions to the world's most intractable development challenges—interventions that could change millions of lives at a fraction of the usual cost.

[Food for Peace](#)
USAID's food assistance efforts are an expression of the compassion and goodwill of the people of the United States. The lifesaving assistance helps to stabilize fragile situations. The emergency food assistance and multi-year development programs monitor food insecurity throughout the world; save lives in times of crisis; tackle chronic undernutrition; and help the most vulnerable break the cycle of poverty and hunger through agriculture and livelihoods support.

[Grand Challenges for Development](#)
The Grand Challenges for Development initiative is rooted in two fundamental beliefs about international development: Science and technology, when applied appropriately, can have transformational effects; and engaging the world in the quest for solutions is critical to instigating breakthrough progress. Under the Grand Challenges for Development initiative, USAID will focus on defining problems, identifying constraints, and providing evidence based analysis. Addressing these challenges will require the creation and support of self-perpetuating systems, rather than one-off inventions or interventions.

[Limited Excess Property Program (LEPP)](#)
The Limited Excess Property Program (LEPP) was established through sections 607 and 608 of the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA) as amended in 1961. LEPP allows non-profit organizations registered as Private Voluntary Organizations (PVOs) with USAID to access government excess property through the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) and the Defense Logistics Agency's (DLA) Disposition Services' excess property programs. LEPP program partners leverage excess property to build the capacity and further the efficiency of local in-country organizations. These local partners range from community hospitals seeking medical equipment and supplies to technical training facilities and schools in need of computer equipment and school furniture. These items allow our partners to provide a higher quality of service to a larger community which facilitates a higher level of education and human resources development. An average of 30 million dollars' worth of United States Government (USG) excess property is transferred annually.

[Ocean Freight Reimbursement](#)
The Ocean Freight Reimbursement (OFR) Program is the oldest ongoing Private Voluntary Organization (PVO) support program, allowing recipients to ship a wide

variety of goods overseas for use in privately-funded development and humanitarian assistance programs. The Program provides small competitive grants to approximately 50 U.S. PVOs each year. Funds are used to reimburse the PVOs' costs to transport donated commodities, such as medical supplies, agricultural equipment, educational supplies, and building equipment, to developing countries.

AmeriCorps (AC)

Mission and Vision

AmeriCorps, a federal agency, brings people together to tackle the country's most pressing challenges, through national service and volunteering. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities. AmeriCorps helps make service to others a cornerstone of our national culture.

By bringing people together to serve communities, AmeriCorps is making service to others an indispensable part of the American experience. We offer individuals and organizations flexible ways to make a local impact through our programs: State and National, VISTA, NCCC, Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, RSVP, and Volunteer Generation Fund, along with initiatives including September 11 and MLK Day of Service.

Our purpose is to bring out the best of America.

Grant Program Highlights

AmeriCorps State and National
Each year, AmeriCorps members serve in thousands of service settings, including nonprofits, public sector, local government, colleges and universities, tribal communities, and faith-based organizations to better meet their missions. These powerful service experiences also help AmeriCorps members develop skills and passion for lifelong civic engagement, increase their personal growth, and open opportunities for diverse career paths. AmeriCorps programs are designed to deliver direct and/or capacity building service.

AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP
The AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP program provides grants to organizations with a dual purpose: to engage Americans 55 years and older in volunteer service to meet critical community needs, and to provide a high-quality experience for the volunteers. RSVP is one of the agency's most flexible grant programs. Organizations determine where the need is greatest and how volunteers can respond to the need as long as it falls within one of AmeriCorps' six focus areas: Disaster Services,

Economic Opportunity, Environmental Stewardship, Education, Healthy Futures, and Veterans & Military Members.

AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program

The Foster Grandparent Program provides grants to organizations with a dual purpose: to engage Americans 55 years and older in volunteer service and to provide one-on-one support to children with special needs to improve their academic, social, or emotional development. The volunteers in this program help children learn to read and provide one-on-one tutoring; mentor troubled teenagers and young mothers; care for premature infants or children with disabilities; help children who have been abused or neglected.

AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion Program

The Senior Companion Program provides grants to organizations with a dual purpose: to engage persons 55 years and older, particularly those with limited incomes, in volunteer service to meet critical community needs; and to provide a high quality experience that will enrich the lives of the volunteers. The AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in this program provide supportive, individualized services to help older adults with special needs maintain their dignity and independence.

Volunteer Generation Fund

The Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) focuses on investments in volunteer management practices that increase both volunteer recruitment and retention. At a time of social need, when Americans of all ages are looking for ways to give back, we need to be ready to engage all those who answer the call to serve.

September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance

September 11th is Patriot Day and a National Day of Service and Remembrance. On this day Americans across the country are called to volunteer in their local communities in tribute to the individuals lost and injured in the attacks, first responders, and the many who have risen in service to defend freedom.

MLK Day of Service

The Martin Luther King Jr. day of service celebrates the Civil Rights leader's life and legacy. Observed each year on the third Monday in January as "a day on, not a day off," MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to

encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. AmeriCorps has been charged to lead this effort for the last quarter century.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Mission and Vision

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on sound public policy, the best available science, and efficient management.

The USDA's vision is to expand economic opportunity through innovation, helping rural America to thrive; to promote agriculture production sustainability that better nourishes Americans while also helping feed others throughout the world; and to preserve and conserve our Nation's natural resources through restored forests, improved watersheds, and healthy private working lands.

Grant Program Highlights

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Loans
FSA makes direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution, or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed, and supplies. Loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

Housing Assistance
USDA provides homeownership opportunities to low- and moderate-income rural Americans through several loan, grant, and loan guarantee programs. The programs also make funding available to individuals to finance vital improvements necessary to make their homes decent, safe, and sanitary. USDA Multi-Family Housing Programs offer Rural Rental Housing Loans to provide affordable multi-family rental housing for very low-, low-, and moderate-income families; the elderly; and persons with disabilities. In addition, rental assistance is available to eligible families.

Beginning Farmers and Ranchers
USDA, through the Farm Service Agency, provides direct and guaranteed loans to beginning farmers and ranchers who are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources. Each fiscal year, the Agency targets a portion of its direct and guaranteed farm ownership (FO) and operating loan (OL) funds to beginning farmers and ranchers.

Crop and Livestock Insurance

USDA helps producers manage their business risks. The mission of USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) is to promote, support, and regulate sound risk management solutions to preserve and strengthen the economic stability of America's agricultural producers. As part of this mission, RMA operates and manages the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC). RMA has three divisions: Insurance Services, Product Management, and Risk Compliance. Seventeen private-sector insurance companies sell and service the policies. RMA develops and/or approves the premium rate, administers premium and expense subsidies, approves and supports products, and reinsures the companies. RMA also sponsors educational and outreach programs and seminars on the general topic of risk.

Federal State Marketing Improvement Program

This matching grant program, also known as FSMIP, provides matching funds to State Departments of Agriculture and other appropriate State agencies to assist in exploring new market opportunities for food and agricultural products, and to encourage research and innovation aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the marketing system.

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

The SCBGP funds can be requested to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and nursery crops (including floriculture).

The Farmers Market Promotion Program

The FMPP was created through a recent amendment of the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing Act of 1976. The grants, authorized by the FMPP, are targeted to help improve and expand domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities.

Organic Cost Share Program

AMS administers two organic certification cost share programs. Each program provides cost share assistance, through participating States, to organic producers and/or organic handlers. Recipients must receive initial certification or continuation of certification from a USDA accredited certifying agent (ACA).

U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC)

Mission and Vision

The U.S. Department of Commerce promotes job creation, economic growth, sustainable development and improved standards of living for all Americans by working in partnership with businesses, universities, communities and our nation's workers. The department touches the daily lives of the American people in many ways, with a wide range of responsibilities in the areas of trade, economic development, technology, entrepreneurship and business development, environmental stewardship, and statistical research and analysis.

To drive U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace, the Commerce Department works to strengthen the international economic position of the United States and facilitates global trade by opening up new markets for U.S. goods and services. Here at home, the Commerce Department promotes progressive business policies that help America's businesses and entrepreneurs and their communities grow and succeed. Cutting-edge science and technology at the department fosters innovation, and a focus on research and development that moves quickly from the lab to the marketplace generates progress and new 21st century opportunities. No matter where businesses are in their life cycle, whether just getting off the ground or looking to expand into overseas markets, the Commerce Department is singularly focused on making U.S. companies more innovative at home and more competitive abroad, so they can create jobs.

Grant Program Highlights

[Economic Development Administration](#)
As the only federal government agency focused exclusively on economic development, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) plays a critical role in fostering regional economic development efforts in communities across the nation. Through strategic investments that foster job creation and attract private investment, EDA supports development in economically distressed areas of the United States. Guided by the basic principle that communities must be empowered to develop and implement their own economic development and revitalization strategies, EDA works directly with local economic development officials to make grant investments that are well-defined, timely, and linked to a long-term, sustainable economic development strategy.

[Market Development Cooperator Program](#)

Market Development Cooperator Program (MDCP) awards include financial and technical assistance from the International Trade Administration (ITA) to support projects that enhance the global competitiveness of U.S. industries. An MDCP award establishes a partnership between ITA and non-profit industry groups such as trade associations and chambers of commerce. Such groups are particularly effective in reaching small- and medium-size enterprises. The non-profit groups compete for a limited number of MDCP awards by proposing innovative projects that generate exports that create or sustain U.S. jobs. Industry groups pledge to pay a minimum of two-thirds of the project cost and to sustain the project after the MDCP award period ends.

[National Telecommunications & Information Administration Programs](#)

National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA) administers grant programs that further the deployment and use of broadband and other technologies in America, laying the groundwork for sustainable economic growth; improved education, public safety, and health care; and the advancement of other national priorities. The agency manages two broadband grant programs funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) and the State Broadband Initiative (SBI) (formerly called the State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program). Through these programs, NTIA is overseeing an investment of approximately $4 billion in projects throughout the United States to support the deployment of broadband infrastructure, enhance and expand public computer centers, encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service, and promote statewide broadband planning and data collection activities.

U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)

Mission and Vision

The mission of the Department of Defense is to provide the military forces needed to deter war and to protect the security of our country. The department's headquarters is at the Pentagon.

Grant Program Highlights

[National Security Education Program](#)

The David L. Boren National Security Education Act of 1991 mandated that the Secretary of Defense create and sustain a program to award scholarships to U.S. undergraduate students, fellowships to U.S. graduate students, and grants to U.S. institutions of higher education. These awards are for study or program development in languages and regions critical to national security. Based on this legislation, the National Security Education Program (NSEP) was established. NSEP is one of the most significant efforts in international education since the 1958 passage of the National Defense Education Act, and it continues to play a critical role within the Department of Defense.

U.S. Department of Education (ED)

Mission and Vision

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access. Created in 1980 by combining offices from several federal agencies, the department's 4,400 employees and $68 billion budget are dedicated to establishing policies on federal financial aid for education, and distributing as well as monitoring those funds; collecting data on America's schools and disseminating research; focusing national attention on key educational issues; and prohibiting discrimination and ensuring equal access to education.

Grant Program Highlights

Institute of Education Sciences

The mission of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) is to provide rigorous and relevant evidence on which to ground education practice and policy and share this information broadly. By identifying what works, what doesn't, and why, IES aims to improve educational outcomes for all students, particularly those at risk of failure. IES is the research arm of the U.S. Department of Education.

Academic Improvement and Teacher Quality Programs

Academic Improvement and Teacher Quality (AITQ) Programs administer several major formula and discretionary grant programs authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. These programs provide financial assistance to state and local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, community and faith-based organizations, and other entities. Funding supports activities designed to recruit and retain a high-quality teaching staff for America's schools, to strengthen the quality of elementary and secondary education, including through after-school programs, to test and disseminate information on new approaches for improving educational results, to improve literacy skills for children and students from birth through 12th grade, and to raise the educational achievement of at-risk students, such as Native Hawaiian and Alaska Native children and youth.

[Click here for information about many other Department of Education programs offering grants »](#)

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

Mission and Vision

The Department of Energy (DOE) has one of the richest and most diverse histories in the federal government. Although only in existence since 1977, the Department traces its lineage to the Manhattan Project effort to develop the atomic bomb during World War II and to the various energy-related programs that previously had been dispersed throughout various federal agencies. The mission of the Energy Department is to ensure America's security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental, and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions.

Grant Program Highlights

Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs Office
The Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs Office (WIPO) collaborates with state and local governments, Indian tribes, and overseas U.S. territories to leverage resources to achieve near-term and measurable reductions in overall energy use, improvements in energy efficiency, growth in renewable energy capacity, and expanded economic opportunities. WIPO provides funding only to state and local governments, overseas U.S. territories, and Indian tribes to support their clean energy programs. WIPO does not provide any funding or assistance of any kind to private companies or individuals.

State Energy Program
The State Energy Program (SEP) provides leadership to maximize the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy in each state through communications and outreach activities and technology deployment, and by providing access to new partnerships and resources. Additionally, SEP helps states improve the security of their energy infrastructure by assisting them with the development of state energy plans. SEP provides financial and technical assistance to states through formula and competitive grants. States use their formula grants to develop state strategies and goals to address their energy priorities.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Mission and Vision

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the U.S. government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves. The mission of HHS is to enhance the health and well-being of Americans by providing for effective health and human services and by fostering sound, sustained advances in the sciences underlying medicine, public health, and social services.

Grant Program Highlights

[Administration for Children & Families](#)
The Administration for Children & Families (ACF) promotes the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals and communities. ACF programs aim to empower families and individuals to increase their economic independence and productivity; encourage strong, healthy, supportive communities that have a positive impact on quality of life and the development of children; create partnerships with front-line service providers, states, localities and tribal communities to identify and implement solutions that transcend traditional program boundaries; improve access to services through planning, reform and integration; and address the needs, strengths and abilities of vulnerable populations including people with developmental disabilities, refugees and migrants.

[Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality](#)
The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ's) mission is to produce evidence to make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable, and to work within HHS and with other partners to make sure that the evidence is understood and used. Grants from AHRQ support research to improve the quality, effectiveness, accessibility, and cost effectiveness of health care.

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Procurement and Grants Office (PGO) awards over 25,000 acquisition and assistance actions each year and obligates approximately $11 billion in federal funds. PGO aids in achieving CDC's mission by quickly and effectively allocating funds to where they are needed.

[National Institutes of Health](#)

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) provides financial support in the form of grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts. This assistance supports the advancement of the NIH mission of enhancing health, extending healthy life, and reducing the burdens of illness and disability. While NIH awards many grants specifically for research, we also provide grant opportunities that support research-related activities, including: fellowship and training, career development, scientific conferences, resource and construction.

[Click here to read more about other grant programs »](#)

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Mission and Vision

The Department of Homeland Security has a vital mission: to secure the nation from the many threats we face. This requires the dedication of more than 240,000 employees in jobs that range from aviation and border security to emergency response, from cybersecurity analyst to chemical facility inspector. The vision of homeland security is to ensure a homeland that is safe, secure, and resilient against terrorism and other hazards.

Grant Program Highlights

Federal Emergency Management Agency Grants
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror. FEMA offers both non-disaster grants and disaster assistance.

Transit Security Grant Program
DHS provides security grants to mass transit and passenger rail systems, intercity bus companies, freight railroad carriers, ferries, and the trucking industry to help protect the public and nation's critical transportation infrastructure against acts of terrorism and other large-scale events.

Science and Technology Directorate
The Department's Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate invests in scientific research leading to the development of new and innovative technologies. Technologies are developed and transitioned by the Directorate to enhance the mission capabilities of its customers.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Mission and Vision

The mission of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; and build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination.

Grant Program Highlights

[Appalachia Economic Development Initiative](#)
The Appalachia Economic Development Initiative (AEDI) is a collaborative effort among three federal agencies – the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund), and the Department of Agriculture - Rural Development (USDA-RD). The AEDI's goal is to increase access to capital for business lending and economic development in the chronically underserved and undercapitalized Appalachia Region. Specifically, it will provide investment and technical assistance to State community and/or economic development agencies that apply on behalf of local rural nonprofit organizations or community development corporations which focus on small business development to benefit the residents of the Appalachia Region.

[Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant Program](#)
The Choice Neighborhoods program supports locally-driven strategies to address struggling neighborhoods with distressed public or HUD-assisted housing through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation. Local leaders, residents, and stakeholders, such as public housing authorities, cities, schools, police, business owners, nonprofits, and private developers, come together to create and implement a plan that transforms distressed HUD housing and addresses the challenges in the surrounding neighborhood. The program is designed to catalyze critical improvements in neighborhood assets, including vacant property, housing, services, and schools.

[Click here to read about other HUD grant programs »](#)

U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)

Mission and Vision

The U.S. Department of the Interior uses sound science to manage and sustain America's lands, water, wildlife, and energy resources, while honoring our nation's responsibilities to tribal nations and advocating for America's island communities.

Grant Program Highlights

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Fish and Wildlife Service administers a variety of financial assistance programs that award grants and cooperative agreements to commercial organizations, foreign entities, Indian tribal governments, individuals, institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, and state and local governments.

Indian Affairs

Indian Affairs provides services directly or through contracts, grants, or compacts to 567 federally-recognized tribes with a service population of about 1.9 million American Indian and Alaska Natives.

National Park Service

The State, Tribal, and Local Plans and Grants Division of the National Park Service provides preservation assistance through a number of programs that support the preservation of America's historic places and diverse history. The division administers grant programs to state, territorial, tribal, and local governments, educational institutions, and non-profits in addition to providing preservation planning, technical assistance, and policy guidance. This work supports historic properties and place-based identity, key components to the social and economic vitality of our communities.

Additionally, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Grants program provides assistance to museums, Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations for the purposes of assisting in consultation, documentation, and repatriation of Native American "cultural items," including human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony.

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)

Mission and Vision

The mission of the U.S. Department of Justice is to enforce the law and defend the interests of the United States according to the law; to ensure public safety against threats foreign and domestic; to provide federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime; to seek just punishment for those guilty of unlawful behavior; and to ensure fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans.

Grant Program Highlights

[Office of Justice Programs](#)
The Office of Justice Programs offers federal financial assistance to scholars, practitioners, experts, and state and local governments and agencies. Many of the program bureaus and offices award formula grants to state agencies which sub-grant funds to units of state and local government. Discretionary grant funds are announced in the Federal Register or through program solicitations that can also be found through bureau and OJP Websites.

[Office on Violence Against Women](#)
The Office on Violence Against Women administers 19 grant programs to help provide victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking with the protection and services they need to pursue safe and healthy lives and enable communities to hold offenders accountable for their violence.

[Community Oriented Policing Services Office](#)
The Community Oriented Policing Services Office (COPS) offers grants to help law enforcement agencies to hire more community policing officers, to acquire new technologies and equipment, to hire civilians for administrative tasks, and to promote innovative approaches to solving crime. The COPS Office Response Center provides information on programs, grants, and application assistance for the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. The COPS Office Response Center also assists COPS grantees with financial questions and grant-related inquiries about COPS.

[Click here to learn more about funding opportunities through the Department of Justice »](#)

U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)

Mission and Vision

The mission of the U.S. Department of Labor is to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers, and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights.

Grant Program Highlights

[Employment and Training Administration](#)
The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) administers federal government job training and worker dislocation programs, federal grants to states for public employment service programs, and unemployment insurance benefits. These services are primarily provided through state and local workforce development systems.

[Susan Harwood Training Grant Program](#)
The Susan Harwood Training Grant Program awards grants to nonprofit organizations on a competitive basis. Awards are issued annually based on Congressional appropriation. The focus of the program is to provide training and education for workers and employers on the recognition, avoidance, and prevention of safety and health hazards in their workplaces, and to inform workers of their rights and employers of their responsibilities under the OSH Act. Target audiences include underserved, low-literacy, and workers in high-hazard industries. Since 1978, over 1.8 million workers have been trained through this program.

[Click here to learn more about funding opportunities through the Department of Labor »](#)

U.S. Department of State (DOS)

Mission and Vision

The State Department's mission is to shape and sustain a peaceful, prosperous, just, and democratic world and foster conditions for stability and progress for the benefit of the American people and people everywhere.

Grant Program Highlights

[Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs](#)
The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) aims to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange that assist in the development of peaceful relations. ECA awards grants and cooperative agreements to non-profit organizations to support academic, cultural, and professional exchange programs to promote mutual understanding.

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

Mission and Vision

The mission of the Department of Transportation is to serve the United States by ensuring a fast, safe, efficient, accessible and convenient transportation system that meets our vital national interests and enhances the quality of life of the American people, today and into the future.

Grant Program Highlights

TIGER Discretionary Grant program

The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER Discretionary Grant program, provides a unique opportunity for the DOT to invest in road, rail, transit, and port projects that promise to achieve critical national objectives. Since 2009, Congress has dedicated more than $4.1 billion for six rounds to fund projects that have a significant impact on the Nation, a region or a metropolitan area.

Surface Transportation Program (STP)

The Surface Transportation Program (STP) (23 U.S.C. 133) is one of the main sources of flexible funding available for transit or highway purposes. STP provides the greatest flexibility in the use of funds. These funds may be used (as capital funding) for public transportation capital improvements, car and vanpool projects, fringe and corridor parking facilities, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and intercity or intracity bus terminals and bus facilities. As funding for planning, these funds can be used for surface transportation planning activities, wetland mitigation, transit research and development, and environmental analysis. Other eligible projects under STP include transit safety improvements and most transportation control measures.

Click here to learn more about funding opportunities through the Department of Transportation »

U.S. Department of the Treasury (TREAS)

Mission and Vision

The mission of the Department of the Treasury is to maintain a strong economy and create economic and job opportunities by promoting the conditions that enable economic growth and stability at home and abroad; strengthen national security by combating threats and protecting the integrity of the financial system; and manage the U.S. Government's finances and resources effectively.

Grant Program Highlights

Restore Act

On April 20, 2010, the largest offshore oil spill in the United States occurred, exacerbating the effects of previous natural disasters. Oil flowed unchecked for three months. On July 6, 2012, the President signed into law the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act; Subtitle F of Public Law 112-141). The Act established the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund in the U.S. Treasury Department. Eighty percent of the civil penalties paid after July 6, 2012, under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act in connection with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, will be deposited into the Trust Fund and invested. Under the Act, amounts in the Trust Fund will be available for programs, projects, and activities that restore and protect the environment and economy of the Gulf Coast region.

Click here to learn more about funding opportunities through the Department of the Treasury »

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Mission and Vision

The mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is to fulfill President Lincoln's promise "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan" by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans.

Grant Program Highlights

Veterans Cemetery Grants Program

The Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Cemetery Grants Program was established in 1978 to complement VA's National Cemetery Administration. The program assists states, territories and federally-recognized tribal governments in providing gravesites for Veterans in those areas where VA's national cemeteries cannot fully satisfy their burial needs. Grants may be used only for the purpose of establishing, expanding or improving Veterans cemeteries that are owned and operated by a state, federally-recognized tribal government, or U.S. territory. Aid can be granted only to states, federally-recognized tribal governments, or U.S. territories.

Rural Veterans Coordination Pilot

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs created the Rural Veterans Coordination Pilot (RVCP) grant program to support Veterans and their families who reside in rural and/or underserved areas of the country. Grantees are expected to use the funds to aid Veterans with the transition to civilian life.

Grant and Per Diem Program

VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program is offered annually (as funding permits) by the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Programs to fund community agencies providing services to homeless Veterans. The purpose is to promote the development and provision of supportive housing and/or supportive services with the goal of helping homeless Veterans achieve residential stability, increase their skill levels and/or income, and obtain greater self-determination. Only programs with supportive housing (up to 24 months) or service centers (offering services such as case management, education, crisis intervention, counseling, services targeted towards specialized populations,

including homeless women Veterans, etc.) are eligible for these funds. The program has two levels of funding: the Grant Component and the Per Diem Component.

[Click here to learn more about funding opportunities through the Department of Veteran Affairs »](#)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Mission and Vision

Born in the wake of elevated concern about environmental pollution, the EPA was established on December 2, 1970 to consolidate in one agency a variety of federal research, monitoring, standard-setting and enforcement activities to ensure environmental protection. Since its inception, the EPA has been working for a cleaner, healthier environment for the American people.

Grant Program Highlights

[Exchange Network Grant Program](#)
The Exchange Network Grant Program provides funding to states, territories, and federally-recognized Indian tribes to support the development of the National Environmental Information Exchange Network. All 50 states, five territories, and 87 federally-recognized tribes have received grants to facilitate their involvement in the Exchange Network.

[Environmental Justice Small Grants Program](#)
The Environmental Justice Small Grants Program provides financial assistance to eligible organizations to build collaborative partnerships, to identify the local environmental and/or public health issues, and to envision solutions and empower the community through education, training, and outreach.

[Click here to learn more about funding opportunities through the Environmental Protection Agency »](#)

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

Mission and Vision

The mission of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. We provide leadership through research, policy development, and grant-making.

Grant Program Highlights

[Museums for America](#)
The Museums for America (MFA) program supports projects that strengthen the ability of an individual museum to serve its public.

[National Leadership Grants for Libraries](#)
The National Leadership Grants for Libraries (NLG) program supports projects that address challenges faced by the library and archive fields and that have the potential to advance practice in those fields. Successful proposals will generate results, such as new tools, research findings, models, services, practices, or alliances that can be widely used, adapted, scaled, or replicated to extend the benefits of federal investment.

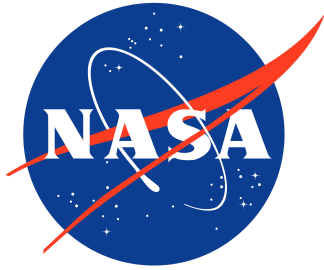[National Leadership Grants for Museums](#)
The National Leadership Grants for Museums program supports projects that address critical needs of the museum field and that have the potential to advance practice in the profession so that museums can improve services for the American public.

[Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program](#)
The Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program supports projects to recruit and educate the next generation of librarians, faculty, and library leaders; and to support early-career research. It also assists in the professional development of librarians and library staff.

[Click here to learn more about funding opportunities from the Institute of Museum and Library Services »](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Mission and Vision

The mission directives of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are to enable a safer, more secure, efficient, and environmentally-friendly air transportation system through aeronautics research; operate the International Space Station and prepare for human exploration beyond low Earth orbit; explore the Earth-Sun system, our own solar system, and the universe beyond; and develop the crosscutting, advanced and pioneering new technologies needed for current and future missions, benefiting the aerospace industry and other agencies, and addressing national needs.

Grant Program Highlights

Space Grant
NASA initiated the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program, also known as Space Grant, in 1989. Space Grant is a national network of colleges and universities. These institutions are working to expand opportunities for Americans to understand and participate in NASA's aeronautics and space projects by supporting and enhancing science and engineering education, research, and public outreach efforts.

NASA Research Opportunities
Supporting research in science and technology is an important part of NASA's overall mission. NASA solicits this research through the release of various research announcements in a wide range of science and technology disciplines. NASA uses a peer review process to evaluate and select research proposals submitted in response to these research announcements. Researchers can help NASA achieve national research objectives by submitting research proposals and conducting awarded research.

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs
The NASA SBIR and STTR programs fund the research, development, and demonstration of innovative technologies that fulfill NASA needs as described in the annual Solicitations and that have significant potential for successful commercialization.

[International Space Station Funding Opportunities](#)

There are several sources of funding available to scientists to be used for International Space Station (ISS) research and development, payload development, payload processing at NASA facilities, on-orbit operation, and more. NASA funding for space station use is obtained through NASA Research Announcements (NRAs). National Laboratory funding for space station use is obtained through research opportunities with other government agencies, as well as with entities in the private and non-profit sectors.

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

Mission and Vision

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) drives openness, cultivates public participation, and strengthens our nation's democracy through public access to high-value government records. The National Archives' mission is to provide public access to federal government records. Public access to government records allows Americans to claim their rights of citizenship, hold their government accountable, and understand their history so they can participate more effectively in their government.

Grant Program Highlights

[National Historical Publications and Records Commission Grant Program](#)
The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), a statutory body affiliated with the National Archives and Records Administration, supports a wide range of activities to preserve, publish, and encourage the use of documentary sources, created in every medium ranging from quill pen to computer, relating to the history of the United States. The NHPRC supports projects to research and develop means to preserve authentic electronic records; assist archives through a network of state partners; preserve and make accessible records and archives; publish papers documenting America's founding era; publish papers documenting other eras and topics important to an understanding of American history; and improve professional education for archivists and historical documentary editors.

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

Mission and Vision

The National Endowment for the Arts is an independent federal agency that funds, promotes, and strengthens the creative capacity of our communities by providing all Americans with diverse opportunities for arts participation.

Grant Making HIghlights

[National Council on the Arts](#)
The National Council on the Arts advises the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, who also chairs the Council, on agency policies and programs. It reviews and makes recommendations to the Chairman on applications for grants, funding guidelines, and leadership initiatives.

[Click here to learn more about funding opportunities through the National Endowment for the Arts »](#)

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

Mission and Vision

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is an independent federal agency created in 1965. It is one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States. Because democracy demands wisdom, NEH serves and strengthens our republic by promoting excellence in the humanities and conveying the lessons of history to all Americans. The Endowment accomplishes this mission by awarding grants for top-rated proposals examined by panels of independent, external reviewers.

Grant Program Highlights

Division of Education Programs
The Division of Education Programs works to strengthen humanities education through programs aimed at pre-collegiate and post-secondary levels of study. Through intensive summer programs of reading and discussion with recognized scholars, individual teachers have opportunities to strengthen their mastery of the subjects they teach in history, philosophy, literature and languages, world cultures, art history, and political science, among others. These residential programs encourage schoolteachers and college teachers to study common texts, visit collections in libraries and museums, exchange ideas about the art of teaching, and share insights and materials with their colleagues and students. The Division has several grant programs to support institutional endeavors.

Division of Preservation and Access Programs
A substantial portion of the nation's cultural heritage and intellectual legacy is held in libraries, archives, and museums. These repositories are responsible for preserving and making available collections of books, serials, manuscripts, sound recordings, still and moving images, works of art, objects of material culture, and rapidly expanding digital collections. The challenge is great: to preserve diverse formats of materials that are threatened by factors inherent in their physical structures or by the environments in which they are housed, and to create a level of intellectual control sufficient to enable users to find and use the materials relevant to them. Increasingly, these humanities collections are being used to create the kind of Web-based resources that NEH supports, such as encyclopedias, dictionaries, descriptive catalogs, and digital archives. Both the creators and users of these

resources also need our support to develop digital tools to enhance access to and promote integration of these materials. The division's grant programs recognize that good stewardship of cultural resources requires equal attention both to preservation and to access. All of the division's programs focus on ensuring the long-term and wide availability of primary resources in the humanities.

Division of Public Programs
The Division of Public Programs supports a wide range of public humanities programs that reach large and diverse public audiences. These programs make use of a variety of formats—interpretation at historic sites, television and radio productions, museum exhibitions, Web sites, and other digital media.

Division of Research Programs
The Division of Research Programs supports scholarly research that advances knowledge and understanding of the humanities. Awards are made to scholars working on research projects of significance to specific humanities fields and to the humanities as a whole. For example, grants support projects as diverse as the deciphering and editing of the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the editing of the correspondence of Charles Darwin.

Click here to learn more about funding opportunities through the National Endowment for the Humanities »

National Science Foundation (NSF)

Mission and Vision

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is the only federal agency whose mission includes support for all fields of fundamental science and engineering, except for medical sciences. NSF is tasked with keeping the United States at the leading edge of discovery in areas from astronomy to geology to zoology. So, in addition to funding research in the traditional academic areas, the agency also supports "high-risk, high pay-off" ideas, novel collaborations and numerous projects that may seem like science fiction today, but which the public will take for granted tomorrow.

Grant Program Highlights

[Biological Sciences Program](#)
The mission of the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) is to enable discoveries for understanding life. BIO-supported research advances the frontiers of biological knowledge, increases our understanding of complex systems, and provides a theoretical basis for original research in many other scientific disciplines.

[Computer and Information Science and Engineering Program](#)
The Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) supports investigator-initiated research in all areas of computer and information science and engineering, fosters broad interdisciplinary collaboration, helps develop and maintain cutting-edge national computing and information infrastructure for research and education, and contributes to the development of a computer and information technology workforce with skills essential for success in the increasingly competitive global market.

[Advanced Cyberinfrastructure Program](#)
The Advanced Cyberinfrastructure (ACI) Division supports and coordinates the development, acquisition, and provision of state-of-the-art cyberinfrastructure resources, tools, and services essential to the advancement and transformation of science and engineering. ACI also supports forward-looking research and education to expand the future capabilities of cyberinfrastructure.

[Click here to learn more about funding opportunities through the National Science Foundation »](#)

Small Business Administration (SBA)

Mission and Vision

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953 as an independent agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise, and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation. Although the SBA has grown and evolved in the years since it was established, the bottom line mission remains the same. The SBA helps Americans start, build, and grow businesses.

Grant Program Highlights

Small Business Innovation Research Program

The Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) is a highly-competitive program that encourages small businesses to explore their technological potential and provides the incentive to profit from its commercialization. By including qualified small businesses in the nation's R&D arena, high-tech innovation is stimulated and the United States gains entrepreneurial spirit as it meets its specific research and development needs. SBIR targets the entrepreneurial sector because that is where most innovation and innovators thrive. However, the risk and expense of conducting serious R&D efforts are often beyond the means of many small businesses. By reserving a specific percentage of federal R&D funds for small business, SBIR protects the small business and enables it to compete on the same level as larger businesses. SBIR funds the critical startup and development stages and it encourages the commercialization of the technology, product, or service, which, in turn, stimulates the U.S. economy.

Small Business Technology Transfer Program

The Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR) is an important small business program that expands funding opportunities in the federal innovation research and development arena. Central to the program is expansion of the public/private sector partnership to include the joint venture opportunities for small business and the nation's premier nonprofit research institutions. STTR's most important role is to foster the innovation necessary to meet the nation's scientific and technological challenges in the 21st century.

Social Security Administration (SSA)

Mission and Vision

The Social Security Administration (SSA) delivers a broad range of services online at SocialSecurity.gov and through a nationwide network of over 1,400 offices that include regional offices, field offices, card centers, teleservice centers, processing centers, hearing offices, the Appeals Council, and our State and territorial partners, the Disability Determination Services. We also have a presence in U.S. embassies around the globe. The mission of SSA is to deliver Social Security services that meet the changing needs of the public.

Grant Program Highlights

Research and Demonstration Grants
The Social Security Administration's Office of Acquisition and Grants (OAG) funds research and demonstration grants involving the Old-Age Survivors Program, the Social Security Disability Insurance Program (SSDI), and the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Program. Grants are awarded for innovative research and demonstrations, adding to existing knowledge and improving methods and techniques for managing and administering SSA programs.

Service Grants
This program provides funding to support beneficiaries in their efforts to return to work and to gain self-sufficiency. Such services include trial work periods, early referral for rehabilitation services, and greater use of employers and others in the rehabilitation and placement process.