National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

Finding Federal Funding

Overview

By law, all federal grants must be included in the searchable on-line database **Grants.gov**. This is the official government site for information on federal grants and funding. Managed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the site includes more than 1,000 grant programs administered by 26 federal agencies, searchable by agency, category, eligibility or Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number. Users can also browse listings of grant opportunities by agency or category. Another official source of information on government funding (both grants and loans) is the *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance* (www.cfda.gov).

Using Grants.gov

Point your Internet browser to www.grants.gov and select the "search" tab at the top. You can search by selecting the criteria of the grant opportunities you seek (see figure on right):

Keyword: Enter a key search term such as "broadband," "Internet," training," "computers," "education," and/or "workforce development." Enter as many keywords as you wish.

Status: Always check "open" if you are looking for new grant opportunities.

Funding Instrument Type: If you are looking for a straight-forward grant, select that item.

Eligibility: Select the type of organization you represent.

Category: Choose the type of project for which you are seeking funding: arts, community development, etc.

Agency: Unless you wish to work with one specific agency, select "all agencies." You can refine your search later if you wish.

Once you have selected your search criteria, click on the "search" button on the upper left of your screen. This will return all the grant opportunities that meet your criteria, organized by Funding Opportunity Number, Opportunity Title, Agency, Open Date, and Close Date.

Click on the Funding Opportunity Number for Synopsis Details, Version History, Full Announcement, and Application Package. This will provide you with more information and assist you in determining whether this is an appropriate source of funding based on the organization eligibility and purposes of the grant program.
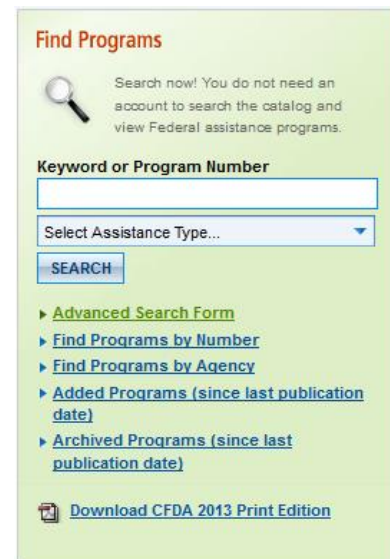
Using CFDA.gov

Point your Internet browser to www.cfda.gov and use the "Find Programs" box in the upper right. You can use cfda.gov by selecting the criteria of the grant opportunities you seek (see figure on right):

Keyword: Enter a key search term such as "broadband," "Internet," "training," "computers," "education," and/or "workforce development."

Select Assistance Type: Choose "B – Project Grants" or whatever form of assistance you are seeking.

Once you have selected your search criteria, click on the "search" button. This will return all the grant opportunities that meet your criteria, organized by CFDA number, Program Title, Agency/Office, and Types of Assistance. Click on the little picture of the magnifying glass to see details of each opportunity. This will provide you with more information and assist you in determining whether this is an appropriate source of funding based on the organization eligibility and purposes of the grant program.

Additional Information and Training

Other sources of information about federal grants and other kinds of financial assistance include public libraries and nonprofit technical assistance centers. Some also offer training in grant writing. The Foundation Center, a national resource (http://foundationcenter.org), operates the Funding Information Network, which provides free resources and information to the public through partnerships with libraries, community foundations, and other nonprofit resource centers. Partners provide a core collection of Foundation Center publications and a variety of supplementary materials and services in areas useful to grant seekers. This information is offered as an example of the other resources available to you and does not constitute an endorsement of these products and services by NTIA.

Books and Articles

Many books and articles may be helpful in providing advice on securing federal funding. This list is offered as an example and does not constitute an endorsement by NTIA.

The Official Federal Grants Prep Guide: 10 Tips to Position Your Organization for Success, by Kimberly Richardson (Mar 26, 2013)

The Essential Fundraising Handbook for Small Nonprofits, by Kirsten Bullock CFRE, Betsy Baker, Gayle L. Gifford and Pamela Grow (Sep 18, 2013)

The Only Grant-Writing Book You'll Ever Need: Top Grant Writers and Grant Givers Share Their Secrets, by Ellen Karsh and Arlen Sue Fox (Aug 25, 2009)

Effective Fundraising for Nonprofits: Real-World Strategies That Work, by Ilona Bray (Aug 30, 2013)

Grant Writing 101: Everything You Need to Start Raising Funds Today, by Victoria Johnson (Dec 14, 2010)

Grant Writing for Dummies, by Beverly A. Browning (Mar 5, 2014)

Winning Grants Step by Step: The Complete Workbook for Planning, Developing and Writing Successful Proposals, by Tori O'Neal-McElrath (Aug 26, 2013)

Grant Management: Funding for Public and Nonprofit Programs, by Jeremy L. Hall (Mar 3, 2009)