

Have a great idea and no money to drive it? The funding is out there, and with a little effort, it can be yours.

Do Your Homework

Before you go after the money, outline the mission of your project. Most funding sources will require a detailed outline of the problem your project addresses, how you plan to address it and what resources will be needed. Check out these sites for grantwriting tips:

- [A Guide to Proposal Planning and Writing](#)
A condensed version of a book on the subject by Lynn E. and Jeremy T. Miner. The essay covers everything from foundations' motivations to proofreading guidelines.
- [A Proposal Writing Short Course](#)
The Foundation Center breaks down the components of a good proposal.
- [Grantwriters.com Free Info](#)
This guide for grantwriters offers tips on finding funding, the latest news from Philanthropy Digest and links to related resources.
- [Proposal Writer Search Engine](#)
Search the directory for grant information or browse the directory for a list of grants by government agency.
- [GiveSpot: Grantseeker Resources](#)
From foundation directories to proposal-writing courses, these links to Grantseeker Resources will help you find funding quickly.

Government Sources

For one-stop government grant shopping, head to the [Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance](#). This robust guide outlines more than 1,300 grant, loan, scholarship, training and insurance programs offered by the federal government. Popular government grants include:

- [Department of Education Grants](#)
You'll find grant announcements, applications and forecasts. A Guide to [U.S. Department of Education Programs](#) is browsable by topic or by who may apply.
- [Environmental Protection Agency Grants](#)
Grants administered by the EPA address air pollution, hazardous waste, water pollution, wetlands protection and more.
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#)
Offers individual and public assistance programs designed to help rebuild towns after a disaster. Read the [disaster-specific assistance programs](#) to learn how FEMA can help disaster victims.

- [HUD Community Development Block Grants](#)
Provides eligible metropolitan cities and urban counties with annual grants to revitalize neighborhoods, expand affordable housing and economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services, principally to benefit low- and moderate-income persons.
- [National Institutes of Health](#)
Supports the research of non-federal scientists in universities, medical schools, hospitals, and research institutions throughout the country and abroad.

Foundations

Many breakthroughs have been made with the help of foundation grants. [Great Grants](#) showcases some of the most influential grants. Learn how the Carnegie Corporation of New York gave Children's Television Workshop a 2-year grant to launch Sesame Street, the Dorr Foundation of New York put white lines on the outside of highways and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation demonstrated the success of the emergency 911 system. Yours could be next! The following resources will open the door to foundation funding opportunities:

- [The Foundation Center](#)
Offers a database of more than 48,000 foundations. It also offers an [Guide to Grantseeking](#) and a [Guide to Funding Research](#). Use the [Foundation Finder](#) to locate foundations near you.
- [The Council on Foundations](#)
This site helps break down the many types of foundations, including community, corporate, family, private, public and international.

Offline Help

While online resources abound, not all foundations have found their way to the Internet. For offline opportunities, look for the following reference books at your public library:

- **The Foundation Directory**
Provides information on the top 10,000 foundations by total giving. Together these foundations donate over \$19 billion a year. Offers addresses, phone numbers, types of support, application information and contacts.
- **The Foundation Directory, Part 2**
Contains the same information as Part 1 for 10,000 smaller foundations.
- **The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance**
A print version of the online guide mentioned above, the CFDA describes federal government programs that give money. Includes information on the grant programs, eligibility, application and award processes, addresses and contacts.