Finding Funding

Locating Funding Opportunities

Locating the right funding opportunity to meet your needs can take a bit of time. First and foremost - it's important that you are clear about what you want to do, why you want to do it, and who cares about "it" or its outcomes. Since proposal development and the review / selection process take time (and more time, the more complex the project), you should embark on your funding search well in advance of when you want to do the project (i.e., when funds are needed).

So, before you go down this path, be sure you understand why you want to write one or more grant applications for external support. Common reasons include: defray the cost of your research training; partially support research leave; travel to a research site or conference; the scholarly or creative project is larger than internal resources can accommodate; or you want to develop a new course and need the time to do so, etc.

Getting started

To ensure that your (future) application is targeted to the right sponsor, reflect on:

• who might care about your project and its outcomes?
• how much support ($$) do you need for what purpose (e.g., personnel: students, postdoc's, technical staff; travel; materials or supplies; equipment, etc.).
• Is there anything unique about you or your project's focus (e.g., you are an undergraduate, junior faculty member, from an underrepresented group, member of an association or society; or the project addresses an important societal need)?

This information can help you focus your time and energy on identifying and pursuing those opportunities most likely to result in an award.

Quick tips to finding likely sponsors

1. Scan the acknowledgement section of the 'products' of the scholarly endeavors applicable to your field, e.g. installations, monographs, presentations, journal articles, etc.
2. Sign up for and review your professional society's newsletter. They often publish information about funding opportunities in your field.
3. Ask your colleagues, peers, or advisors how their work has been supported.
4. Search Pivot, Grants Advisor Plus, or the Foundation Directory Online (all subscription databases) or publicly available resources for funding opportunities and recent award information.
   • TIP: In subscription resources, look up one or more funding opportunities you know "fit" your needs and review how it is described in the database, e.g., requirements, key words, eligibility or academic qualifications, citizenship, activities supported or funding type. This information can then be used to structure your searches.
5. Review webpages of likely funders (identified by #1 - #4) for information about their current interests and recent grantees. Your goal here is to confirm strong overlap between their goals and your project's focus or outcomes and funding needs. (Not all sponsors will support all the types of items you need.)
6. **Review** sponsor's awardee databases for key words, solicitation number or names. Contact the principal investigator to ask for a copy of his/her proposal; this individual may be a future collaborator!!


- Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
- Agriculture Research Service (ARS)
- Center for Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine (CNRM)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Forest Service (FS)
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- National Science Foundation (NSF)
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Energy: [http://science.energy.gov/funding-opportunities/award-search/](http://science.energy.gov/funding-opportunities/award-search/)

NEH: [http://www.neh.gov/explore/all](http://www.neh.gov/explore/all)

NIH: [http://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm](http://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm)


US ED grant forecast: [http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edlite-forecast.html](http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edlite-forecast.html)
