

FUNDED



A GRANTS OFFICE PUBLICATION

**THE OPIOID
EPIDEMIC,
THE FEDERAL
BUDGET, &
GRANTS!**

THE BRAND NEW "STOP SCHOOL VIOLENCE ACT"

STEM EDUCATION FUNDING AVAILABLE NOW

**HOW TO DEFINE A "PRECIPITOUS INCREASE IN
CRIME" FOR YOUR NEXT PROPOSAL**

**PLUS SUMMARY INFO ON 8 EXCITING GRANT
OPPORTUNITIES!**

THE 2018 FEDERAL BUDGET ISSUE

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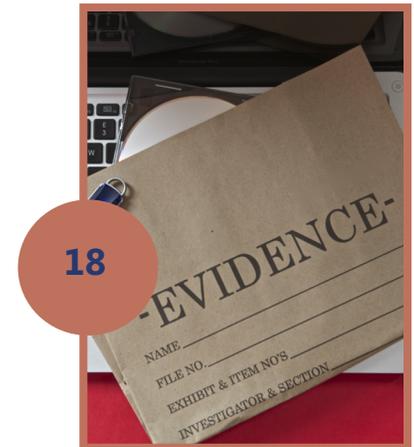
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ON THE COVER

In this issue we discuss the recent passing of the FY18 Federal budget and the impact this has on several programs. One of largest available funding buckets has been set aside to support grants related to opioid treatment.

Read more on page 13.

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Dear Readers,

This is the first issue of FUNDED since the 2018 federal budget was passed on March 23, when we were given a concrete look of what was happening with federal funding this year. And from within the pages of the Vehicle for Consolidated Appropriations Act 2018 (Public Law 115-141), we've found some great new opportunities to share with you! Be advised: a lot of these opportunities are open right now, with deadlines in late May or early June.

Elizabeth Evans kicks us off with a discussion of the new STEM funding available to schools this year. Opportunities abound for communities of all types to get in grants to prepare their students for these high-demand 21st Century careers, and the higher the need of the district, the more funding will be available.

Sticking with the topic of education, Ashley Schultz introduces the two yet-to-be-titled grant opportunities for collaborative projects between schools and law enforcement agencies that have been made possible by the STOP School Violence Act of 2018. It's been a while since we've seen broad-based federal school safety funding, and these new Department of Justice programs will be a welcome addition to the state and local grants that have been filling in in the meantime.

Chris LaPage takes us deep into the landscape of funding to address the opioid crisis. And it really is a landscape, with grant programs from across the Department of Health and Human Services for direct services, personnel training, and innovation at all levels of the healthcare ecosystem.

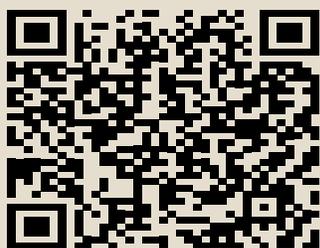
Lest we forget - We've included highlights of several grant programs and abstracts from past winners, and a reminder that the USDA's popular Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program is still open, with a June 4th deadline.

Be sure to check out our webcasts and come visit us at SAP Sapphire conference in the coming month. We'd love to meet you in person! As always, if you have comments, feedback, corrections, or topics for future issues, feel free to drop me a line at: mpaddock@grantsoffice.com.

I hope you enjoy this issue of FUNDED as much as we've enjoyed bringing it to you!

Sincerely,

Michael Paddock
Editor and Publisher,
FUNDED



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EDUCATION INNOVATION RESEARCH PROGRAM (EIR): EARLY-PHASE GRANTS

SUMMARY: The Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Program, established under section 4611 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), provides funding to create, develop, implement, replicate, or take to scale entrepreneurial, evidence-based, field-initiated innovations to improve student achievement and attainment for high-need students; and rigorously evaluate such innovations. The EIR program is designed to generate and validate solutions to persistent educational challenges and to support the expansion of effective solutions to serve substantially larger numbers of students.

All Early-phase applicants must address absolute priority 1. Applicants must also address one of the other two absolute priorities in addition to absolute priority 1. Applicants have the option of addressing one or more of the invitational priorities.

- [Absolute Priority 1](#) - Demonstrates a Rationale
- [Absolute Priority 2](#) - Field-Initiated Innovations (General)
- [Absolute Priority 3](#) - Field-Initiated Innovations (STEM with a particular focus on Computer Science)

- [Invitational Priority 1](#) - Personalized Learning
- [Invitational Priority 2](#) - Early Learning & Cognitive Development

DEADLINE: The deadline to notify the department of your intent to apply is May 9, 2018. Notice of intent to apply is optional, but encouraged. The deadline for submission of the full application to the FY18 competition is June 5, 2018. A similar deadline is anticipated annually.

ELIGIBILITY: Local education agencies (LEA); a State educational agency (SEA); the Bureau of Indian Education; a Consortium of SEAs or LEAs; A nonprofit organization; or one of the aforementioned entities in partnership with: a nonprofit organization, a business, an educational service agency, or an institution of higher education.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: https://innovation.ed.gov/files/2018/04/EIR-Application-Package_84.411C_EarlyPhase_2018_Final.pdf

THE STEM FUNDING IS HERE!

By Elizabeth Evans

In our November 2017 publication of FUNDED, we featured an article on President Trump's executive Memorandum to Education Secretary, Betsy DeVos, and what that could mean for the future of education grant funding. The memo directed the Department of Education to dedicate \$200 million per year of existing competitive grant funds to be used in support of high-quality classroom instruction projects in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and computer science fields. Further, these re-assigned grant funds were to also be awarded to projects that proposed intentional supports for engaging women and minority student populations.



To read "Grants Supporting STEM & Technology Education are on the Horizon", see FUNDED Volume 7, Issue 3, pages 9-10 at: <http://grantsoffice.com/Portals/0/funded/issues/FUNDEDNov2017.pdf>

While the memo did not dictate which of the existing Department of Education grant programs should be the vehicle for this directive, we at Grants Office predicted the existing grant programs likely to be leveraged would be the Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Grants Program at the K-12 level, and the Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program (MSEIP) at the higher ed level. With the fiscal year 18 budget recently approved, the Department of Education has released funding for a slew of highly-anticipated grant programs. Many of these newly-opened grant opportunities also happen to align with the current administration's push for more STEM education. So now that "grant season" is upon us, how did our predictions turn out? Read on to find out about programs open now!

Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED)

The SEED program supports higher education institutions and nonprofit organizations that provide professional enhancement activities to teachers and principals. Through increasing the number of highly-effective principals and teachers, the SEED program hopes to further student achievement and growth. In response to the September memo, the 2018 solicitation now features the following competitive priority: Promoting STEM Education, with a particular focus on Computer Science. Proposals could receive up to three additional points if they address this priority through, increasing the number of educators able to provide rigorous instruction within STEM fields, including Computer Science, via new teach recruitment, professional development for current STEM educators, or evidence-based retraining strategies for current educators seeking to transition from other subjects into STEM fields. Up to \$75,000,000 in funds were allocated for this program via the FY18 omnibus appropriations bill. Proposals are due May 17. See <https://>

innovation.ed.gov/what-we-do/teacher-quality/supporting-effective-educator-development-grant-program/ for more information.

Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL)

The IAL program funds high-need school districts, nonprofit organizations, and consortia thereof who design or develop high-quality plans to promote literacy for students (birth through grade 12). In the past, projects have involved enhancing school libraries programming, early literacy services, book distribution, professional development activities for literacy and other instructional staff, as well as providing specialized English-as-a-Second-Language supports. Similar to the SEED program, new to this year's competition is the competitive priority: Promoting STEM Education, with a particular focus on Computer Science. This new competitive priority was rather unexpected, as the IAL program has never emphasized cross-curricular activities to such a degree. That said, applicants who are able to adapt their proposal plan to meet this new STEM priority will receive an additional five points. A total of \$27,000,000 in funding is available to support IAL projects in FY18. This program occurs biennially, and proposals are due May 18. See <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovapproaches-literacy/index.html> for more information.

Education Innovation Research Grants (EIR)

The EIR program is the Department of Education's main conduit for field-testing evidence-based, innovative strategies to improve high-need student achievement. Each year, EIR publishes a list of priority areas based on current needs or identified trends. Finally, EIR is a multi-tiered grant program which links the amount of the award to the quality of evidence an applicant presents supporting the efficacy of their proposed project. Proposals can be for

early-phase, mid-phase, or expansion projects. In years past, each of these tiers has featured different funding priorities, with minimal overlap. This year, however, each tier contains identical priority areas (excluding those priorities which related to the quality of evidence required for application). Per our prediction and new to this year, among the identical priorities is: Field-Initiated Innovations - Promoting STEM Education, with a particular focus on Computer Science. Up to \$115,000,000 in funds were allocated for the entirety of this program via the FY18 omnibus appropriations bill. Proposals for any of the three project tiers are due June 5. See <https://innovation.ed.gov/what-we-do/innovation/education-innovation-and-research-eir/> for more information.

Based on this first batch of grant opportunities, it certainly seems like DeVos will have no trouble meeting Trump's expectation that \$200 Million in existing grant awards be dedicated towards STEM education projects. While we were correct in our assumption that EIR would be one of the grant programs targeted (given its flexibility for inclusion of diverse priority areas), the fact that both IAL and SEED also feature a STEM emphasis was rather unexpected. Changes like these are to be expected with any shift in administration though, thus emphasizing that adaptability is an essential trait for any organization interested in grantseeking. As more grant programs are expected to be released throughout the spring and summer months (including the Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program), only time will tell which of the other existing grant programs will be impacted by Trump's STEM memo. ■



To stay up to date on the latest Department of Education grants news, check out their forecast page. Updated several times throughout the year, you'll see a list of anticipated grant opportunities as well as funding amounts and expected number of awards! Visit <https://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edlite-forecast.html> to learn more.

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO LITERACY (IAL) GRANT PROGRAM

SUMMARY: The IAL program supports high-quality programs designed to develop and improve literacy skills for children and students from birth through 12th grade in high-need local educational agencies and schools. The U.S. Department of Education intends to support innovative programs that promote early literacy for young children, motivate older children to read, and increase student achievement by using school libraries as partners to improve literacy, distributing free books to children and their families, and offering high-quality literacy activities.

All IAL applicants must address the Absolute Priority. Applicants have the option of addressing one or more of the competitive preference priorities.

- Absolute Priority - High-Quality plans for Innovative Approaches to Literacy that include book distribution, childhood literacy activities, or both, and that, at a minimum, demonstrates rationale
- Competitive Priority 1 - Promoting STEM Education with a particular focus on Computer Science
- Competitive Priority 2 - Serving Rural Local Educational Agencies

DEADLINE: Applications are to be submitted by May 18, 2018. A similar deadline is anticipated biennially.

ELIGIBILITY:

- A High-need Local Education Agency (LEA);
- National not-for-profit (NNP) organization that serves children and students within the attendance boundaries of a high-need LEA;
- Consortium of one or more NNPs that serve children and students within the attendance boundaries of one or more high-need LEAs;
- A consortium of high-need LEAs; or
- A consortium of one or more high need LEAs and one or more NNPs that serves children and students within the attendance boundaries of one or more high-need LEAs

Note that “high-need” is defined as a district in which at least 20 percent of the students aged 5-17 in the school attendance area of the LEA are from families with incomes below the poverty line, based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) for school districts for the most recent income year. SAIPE data can be viewed at: <https://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovapproaches-literacy/2018-215g.pdf>

FIRST LOOK: The STOP School Violence Act of 2018

By Ashley Schultz

On the same week more than 200,000 students and teachers marched on Washington to protest gun violence in schools, Congress and President Trump signed into law the 2018 Omnibus Spending Bill. The bill - which funds all federal programs for the remainder of the fiscal year - includes key provisions for expanding K-12 school safety programs. Such support will be delivered in the form of grant funding to states and units of local government over the next 10 years. While most details of this funding are still in the works, here's a brief glance at what we currently know about the Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence Act of 2018 —

How much funding is available?

The Omnibus Spending Bill designates \$75 million for 2018 school safety projects. This funding will be split between two yet-to-be-titled grant programs -

- Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Grant - \$50 million
- Office of Community Oriented Policing (COPS) Grant - \$25 million

Moving forward, an additional \$100 million will be available for these programs each year through 2028. Funding will be divided in similar proportions - with \$67 million dedicated to BJA and \$33 million to COPS Office programs annually. Cost sharing/matching components of both grants is anticipated to be 50% - or dollar-for-dollar. This means the US will see a total investment of nearly \$2 billion in school safety over the next ten years.



The STOP School Violence Act of 2018 is anticipated to spur a total investment of \$2 billion in school safety projects through 2028.

What activities will be eligible for grant funding?

The bill outlines key purpose areas for funding in the BJA and COPS Office programs. While these general concepts will be fleshed out in the coming months, full text of the existing measures is quoted below –

The BJA is authorized to make grants for the following purposes:

- Training school personnel and students to prevent student violence against others and self.
- The development and operation of anonymous reporting systems for threats of school violence, including mobile telephone applications, hotlines, and Internet websites.
- The development and operation of—
 - School threat assessment and intervention teams that may include coordination with law enforcement agencies and school personnel; and
 - specialized training for school officials in responding to mental health crises.
- Any other measure that, in the determination of the BJA Director, may provide a significant improvement in training, threat assessments and reporting, and violence prevention.

The COPS Office is authorized to make grants for the following purposes:

- Coordination with local law enforcement.
- Training for local law enforcement officers to prevent student violence against others and self.

- Placement and use of metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other deterrent measures.
- Acquisition and installation of technology for expedited notification of local law enforcement during an emergency.
- Any other measure that, in the determination of the COPS Director, may provide a significant improvement in security.



For more information, check out page 1971 of the Omnibus Spending Bill at: <http://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20180319/BILLS-115SAHR1625-RCP115-66.pdf>

What activities does this leave out?

The bill expressly prohibits grant funding be dedicated to firearms or firearm training to recipients – including training for police officers, school resource officers, teachers, or school staff members. Further, it bans any of its provisions from being “construed to preclude or contradict” laws for firearms. Given the vitriol surrounding the nationwide debate for gun control, these provisions allowed the bill to pass both the House and Senate with overwhelming margins. Any future lawmaking for or against this matter will be decided in a different piece of legislation.

Who does the STOP School Violence Act benefit?

Officially, these new programs are attached to the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968. This Act was the first to allow federal agencies to grant funding for law enforcement purposes. As such, we're unlikely to see funding directly available to K-12 schools themselves. Instead, states, local governments, and tribal organizations will apply for funding as prime recipients of any school safety projects. The 2018 Bill identifies eligible sub-recipients as local education agencies and non-profit organizations (excluding schools). Moving forward, this means any grant-funded prevention activity will require partnership between law enforcement and education agencies. It's good practice for such agencies to get the conversation started and formalize relationships while we wait for more grant details. For more information on this topic, check out a recent FUNDED article from the grants team on partnerships at: <http://grantsoffice.com/Portals/0/funded/issues/FUNDEDNov2017.pdf>

Who does this leave out?

Limiting sub-recipients to local education agencies (LEAs) and non-profit organizations (excluding schools) leaves out key players in the campus safety landscape. First and foremost, it appears higher education institutions will not be eligible for any funding in the STOP School Violence Act. Further, private schools, parochial schools, and exploratory charter schools without official LEA status will also be excluded from grant-funded projects. These agencies will continue to rely on alternative sources of funding, including state funds and area foundations.

What more is to come?

Over the next few weeks, we'll hear more updates on new BJA and COPS Office programming. This will include detailed information on award sizes, project expectations, and concrete deadlines. We'll also be watching for clarification on priority projects. The Omnibus Spending Bill mentions priority consideration for applicants that (1) Demonstrate high need for improved security; and (2) Demonstrate high need for financial assistance. It will be up to the BJA and COPS Office Directors to outline exactly how that line is drawn for future applicants. ■



More details on new grant funding are anticipated in Spring 2018. For now, keep watch at each agency's webpages for more information - COPS Office Grants Webpage: <https://cops.usdoj.gov/grants> and BJA Grants Webpage: <https://www.bja.gov/funding.aspx>.

DISTANCE LEARNING & TELEMEDICINE (DLT) GRANT PROGRAM

SUMMARY: The Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program is designed to provide access to education, training, and health care resources for rural Americans. The DLT program provides financial assistance to encourage and improve telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas through the use of telecommunications, computer networks, and related advanced technologies that students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents can use.

Grants may be used to fund telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies which extend educational and medical applications into rural areas. Eligible equipment includes:

- Computer hardware and software
- Site licenses and maintenance contracts
- Extended warranties (up to 3 years)
- Audio and video equipment (including interactive audio/video equipment)
- Computer network components
- Telecommunications terminal equipment
- Data terminal equipment
- Inside wiring
- Broadband facilities

Grants are intended to benefit end users in rural areas, who are often not in the same location as the source of the educational or health care service. This year, applicants that propose to support STEM education via distance learning or opioid treatment via telemedicine will receive special consideration.

DEADLINE: Applications are to be submitted by June 4, 2018. A similar deadline is anticipated annually.

ELIGIBILITY: Eligible applicants include most entities that provide education or health care through telecommunications, including: Most State and local governmental entities, Federally-recognized Tribes, Non-profits, For-profit businesses, and Consortia of eligible entities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/2018-DLT_App-Guide_final.pdf

2018 FEDERAL BUDGET DEEP DIVE:

How Opioid Funding is Fueling Major Spending Increases in the HHS Budget & Shaping Grant Programming

By Christopher LaPage

It turns out that concerns over major spending cuts proposed by the Trump Administration were overblown. The anticipated demise of many popular grant programs did not come to pass. In fact, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 includes modest to significant increases across the board, increasing defense allocations by \$26 billion and non-defense domestic appropriations by \$33 billion. In total, Congress passed a budget that essentially rolls back the draconian cuts that were instituted in 2013 - known as sequestration - surpassing the administration's request by \$143 billion.

HHS Budget

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), the largest federal grantmaker, realized a \$10 billion increase in funding over 2017 levels. A closer analysis indicates the surge in funding is being fueled by investments in tackling the opioid epidemic that is ravaging the country. This trend becomes crystal clear when you examine the individual budgets of agencies underneath the HHS umbrella.

Health Resources & Services Administration's (HRSA) Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW)

HRSA's BHW was allocated just over \$1 billion in the 2018 budget, which represents

an increase of 26% over 2017 funding levels. BHW's initiatives and grant programs promote the education, recruitment and retention of health care providers in rural and underserved areas across the United States. Almost two-thirds of the new funding can be attributed to initiatives that target the opioid epidemic, either directly or indirectly. More than \$115 million of the \$222 million increase in BHW's budget will fund education and training programs for mental and behavioral health professionals and paraprofessionals, such as social workers and substance abuse counselors. An additional \$30 million of the BHW budget is designated for potential loan repayments for behavioral health professionals under the National Health Service Corps through the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program.

HRSA's Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP)

If you are looking for evidence that investments related to the opioid epidemic are driving budgetary increases across HHS, look no further than HRSA's ORHP. ORHP realized an 86% rise in funding compared to last year, which amounts to an increase of approximately \$134 million. Three-fourths of the funding increase for ORHP is being driven by a \$100 million investment in the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP). This is in addition to the aforementioned \$30 million allocated to

BHW for health professional training activities under the program. RCORP funding will likely be distributed via grants to rural health providers over the next five years as funding is authorized through 2022. The goals of the grant program will be to improve access to and recruitment of new substance use disorder providers, build sustainable treatment resources, increase use of telehealth, establish cross-sector community partnerships, and implement new models of care, including integrated behavioral health. A 2018 solicitation is imminent, and it is anticipated that ORHP will offer one-year planning grants up to \$200,000 and make up to 75 awards. Future solicitations will offer more money and focus on implementation activities. ORHP Funding will be targeted at 220 rural counties that have been determined to be at risk by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A list of the at risk designated counties can be found at <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/about/news/cdc-at-risk-communities.pdf>.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has declared opioid abuse a national health emergency. 40% of all opioid overdose deaths involve a prescription medication.

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)

The CDC received one of the largest programmatic increases in the HHS budget as funding for the Evidence Based Opioid Drug Overdose Prevention Program (EBODOP) increased by 325%, making more than \$475 million available through September 30, 2019. Most of this funding will be distributed to states in the form of grants and cooperative agreements to improve the capture and availability of surveillance data, advance interventions that monitor prescribing and dispensing practices, and promote better timeliness and quality of morbidity and mortality data around opioid use. The funding is expected to expand the use of prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) as the CDC strives to improve public health surveillance and clinical decision making in the field through a web of interconnected PDMPs. As such, EBODOP is likely to include investments to integrate data from PDMPs with electronic health records. For those in states and communities struggling with the opioid epidemic, the following are specific examples of funding programs that may be funded with the EBODOP allocation:

- Prevention for States: <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/states/state-prevention.html>
- Enhanced State Opioid Overdose Surveillance: <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/foa/state-opioid-mm.html>
- Data Driven Prevention Initiative: <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/foa/ddpi.html>

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

The NIH realized an overall budgetary increase of \$3 billion, which represents a 9% rise

over their 2017 funding levels. About 17% of the funding increase is dedicated to support opioids research, primarily through clinical trials for new medications and other treatment interventions. The \$500 million in funding is evenly split between the National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Stroke and the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Funding must be distributed by the end of federal fiscal year 2019. NIH grant funding that specifically targets opioid research can be found at <https://www.drugabuse.gov/funding-app/rfa?search=opioids&r=1>.

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

The most dramatic impact of prioritizing opioids in the federal budget can be seen in the \$3.2 billion allocation to SAMHSA specifically for substance abuse treatment services. While these dollars will be used to treat a variety of substance abuse issues, the entirety of the agency's 49% increase in funding will be dedicated to opioid abuse through a \$1 billion allocation to the State Opioid Response Grants Program (SORGP). The SORGP was first funded in late 2016 through the 21st Century Cures Act, providing \$1 billion over two years to the states to improve prescription drug monitoring programs, make treatment programs more accessible, train healthcare professionals in best practices of addiction treatment and research the most effective approaches to prevent dependency. This influx of funding for the program will make its way to each single state agency for substance abuse (SSA), the same entity that manages the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention Block Grants in each state. These funds will likely result in pass-through grants and other funding for local governmental agencies and non-profit providers. The timing is not clear on these new funds. Each state received their FY2018 share of the \$500 million that was allocated through the CURES Act just earlier this year. SAMHSA must submit a plan to Congress on how they

intend to distribute the funds and the formula that they will use to determine state allocations. In order to provide continuity in funding levels, SAMHSA may recommend utilizing the funds to provide \$500 million in 2019 and the rest in 2020, but that decision is not final. Local and private-sector agencies that serve opioid patients should maintain contact with their respective SSA to ensure they are part of any planning efforts around the funds. An updated list of SSA contacts is available at: https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/ssa_directory_4-9-2018.pdf.

SAMHSA also experienced modest to significant increases in funding for substance abuse prevention efforts and mental health services, respectively. SAMHSA's budget for substance abuse prevention rose 11% over 2017 levels, primarily driven by \$36 million being made available to fund opioids training to first responders, including paramedics and law enforcement personnel. The agency's budget for mental health services also rose by more than \$300 million, representing an increase of 27% compared to 2017 funding levels. While these services are not specific to opioids, substance abuse disorders typically co-occur with serious mental illness or other mental health issues. Often times correcting opioid abuse and other behavioral health issues requires complimentary and comprehensive mental health counseling and treatment.

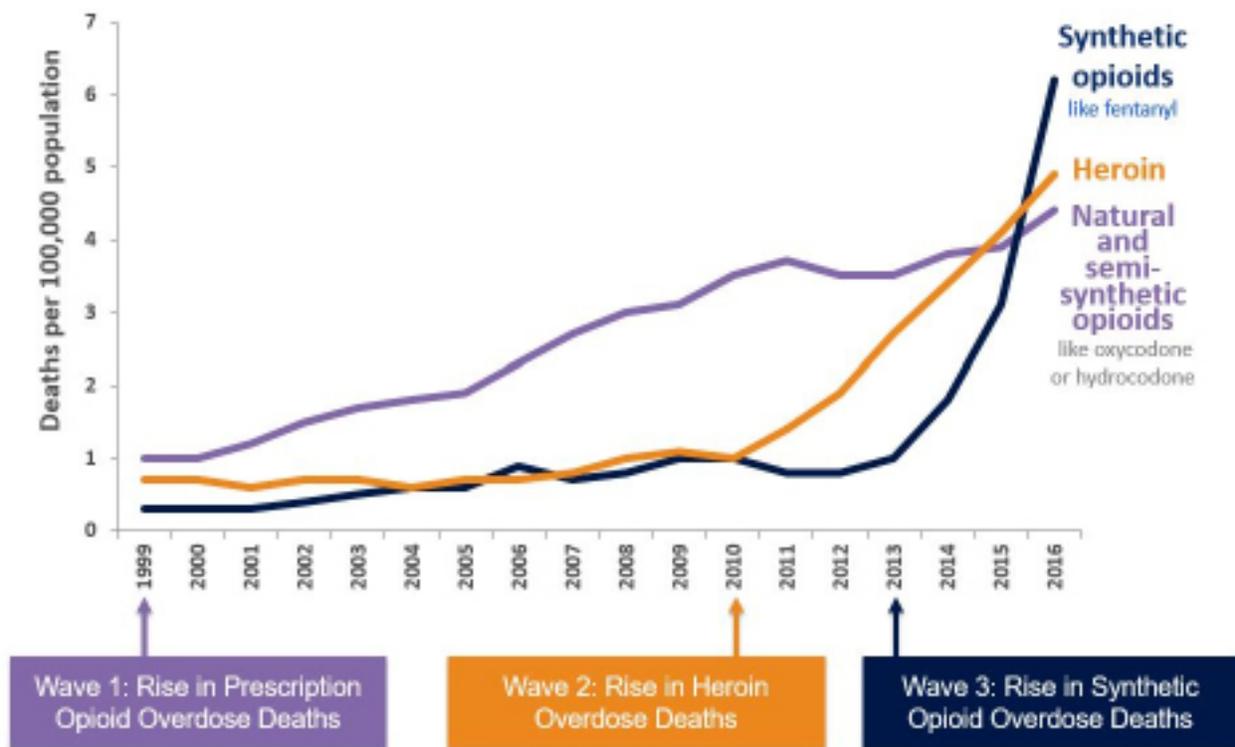
In Conclusion

All too often, federal funding is slow to react to public health crises – Lagging far behind the hardships experienced on the ground floor of communities across the country. One such example of this can be seen in preventative care. The federal government is fond of sending a message that every dollar spent on health prevention generates savings by avoiding costly treatments down the road. Yet, year after year,

health prevention funding never seems to make the high priority list when it comes down to the federal budget process.

In the case of opioids, federal agencies and politicians alike have been pounding the drum on opioids for several years. Outside of the CURES Act of 2016, however, there was very little to show in terms of federal funding. That has all changed with the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018, which shows a clear and concerted effort to tackle the opioid epidemic. In fact, the commitment to deal with opioids is the driving force behind major increases in funding for HHS. This emphasis on opioids is not just realized only through the new money discussed here, but also within existing grant programming that has been around for decades. For example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Distance Learning & Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program was released this year and for the first time in its history has a preference built in for telemedicine projects that target opioid treatment (for a summary of DLT, see our Grant Snapshot on page 12!). It’s expected that additional Federal grantmaking agencies will continue to reformulate existing programs to prioritize opioids-related projects. The good news is that all signs point to the fact that 2018 will not be an anomaly. The prioritization of opioids is likely to continue as it has broad support across both Democrat and Republican politicians. ■

3 Waves of the Rise in Opioid Overdose Deaths



SOURCE: National Vital Statistics System Mortality File.

350,000 people died between 1999 and 2016 from opioid overdoses. The epidemic can be tracked through three primary waves: Prescription Opioids, Heroin and Synthetic Opioids. Major increases in the budget for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services are being driven by investments in opioid prevention, treatment and research.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS TRAINING (MHAT) GRANT PROGRAM

SUMMARY: The purpose of this program is to:

- Train individuals (e.g., school personnel, emergency first responders, law enforcement, veterans, armed services members and their families) to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental disorders, particularly serious mental illness (SMI) and/or serious emotional disturbance (SED);
- Establish linkages with school- and/or community-based mental health agencies to refer individuals with the signs or symptoms of mental illness to appropriate services;
- Train emergency services personnel, veterans, law enforcement, fire department personnel, and others to identify persons with a mental disorder and employ crisis de-escalation techniques; and
- Educate individuals about resources that are available in the community for individuals with a mental disorder.

DEADLINE: Applications are to be submitted by June 8, 2018. A similar deadline is anticipated annually.

ELIGIBILITY: Eligible applicants are domestic public and private not-for-profit entities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/pdf/sm18009-mhat-final-4.9.18_0.pdf

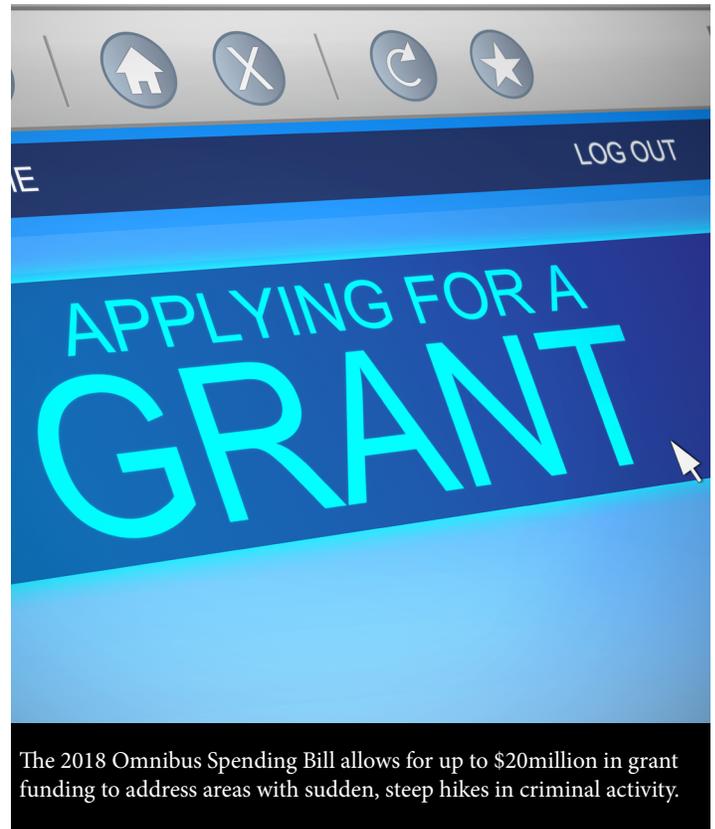
DEFINING A PRECIPITOUS INCREASE IN CRIME

By Ashley Schultz

The current grants landscape features several law enforcement programs with language prioritizing projects that respond to a “precipitous increase in crime.” This word choice – alluding to a sudden, and steep hike in a certain criminal activity – is pulled directly from annual budget authorizations for the Department of Justice. And while this may not be a new focus area in grantmaking for the Department, it’s worth taking a moment to outline exactly what that definition means, and how it may impact your agency when seeking consideration under these conditions in a future application.

The specific text for this mandate is listed under the budget allocation for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program. It states (rather briefly) that the Attorney General is allowed to reserve up to 5% of JAG funding to “to combat, address, or otherwise respond to precipitous or extraordinary increases in crime” each year. In 2018, that 5% set aside amounts to a total of \$20 million.

The Department satisfies this directive through a combination of grant initiatives. Some programs dedicate 100% of funding to addressing precipitous increase in crime. In 2018, this is exemplified best by the Technology Innovation for Public Safety (TIPS) program, with \$3,500,000 set aside for seven awards. Other solicitations – such as the Strategies for Policing Innovation (SPI) program – devote only a small focus area or singular program category to such activities as part of the larger effort.

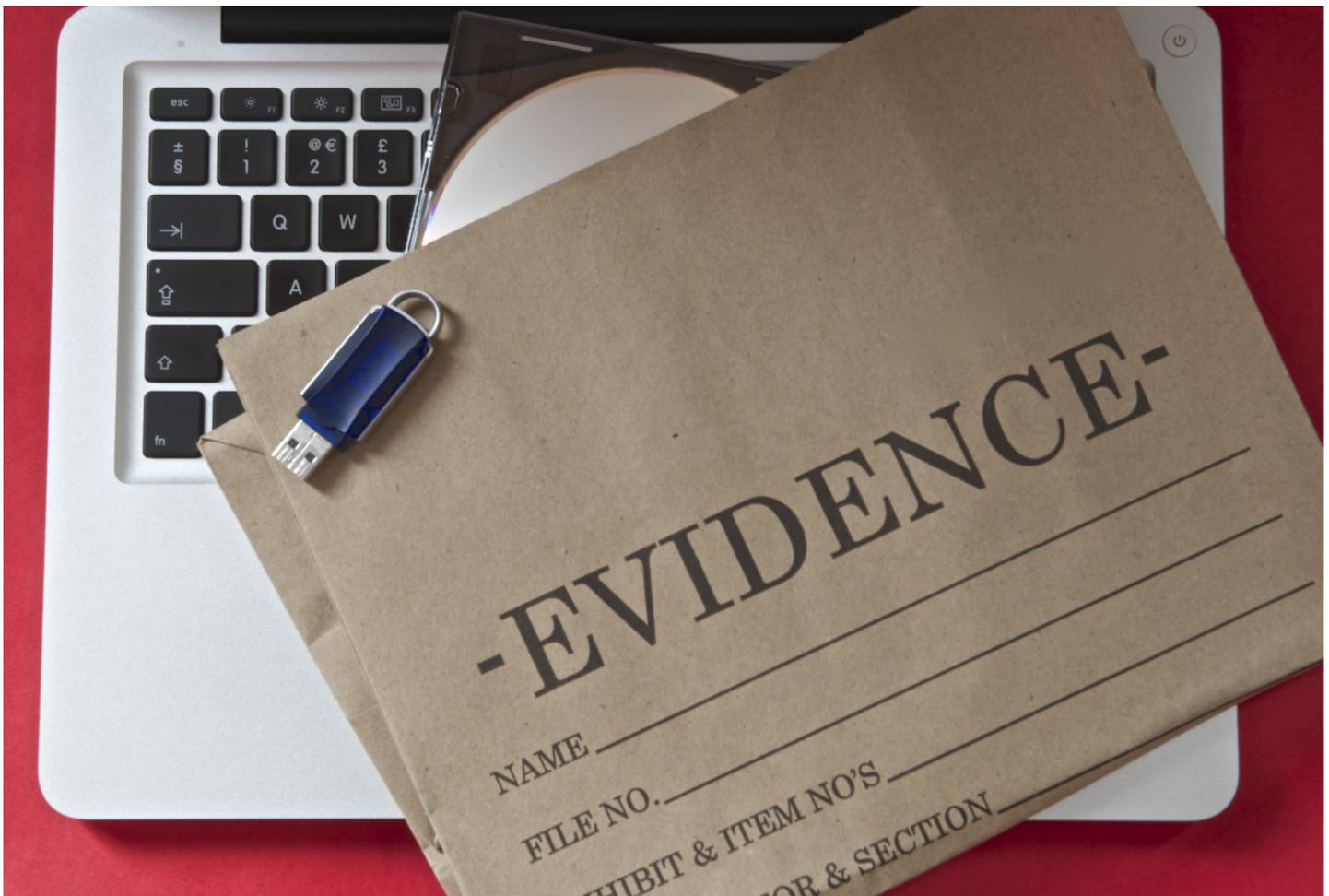


So, what does this all mean for the bottom line on grant proposals? In those programs that ONLY fund activities to address extraordinary hikes in crime, applicants will be limited in the type and scale of their solution. Proposed TIPS projects, for example, must be used to specifically address the singular crime identified in the proposal. Further, projects must be deployed in jurisdictions proven to experience this crime most severely. The Department has stated it will review all data presented – corroborated with other available crime statistics – to verify each applicant meets the threshold of a “precipitous increase in crime” prior to award consideration.

In your next application...

If your agency is looking to highlight a hike in crime in a future application, spend some time analyzing local statistics. Select a crime problem that is severely impacting one or more localized areas. Examples may include gun crime, burglary, illegal substance abuse, or intimate partner violence. The more specific, the better here - Avoid making broad, sweeping claims or generalizing problems to an entire City or County. This attention to detail, along with strong assertions based on area data, will resonate with grant reviewers looking to prioritize evidence-based projects.

In order to show a swift increase in the identified crime, select two years of data for comparison. See an example provided by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) below. Year 1 serves as a baseline, while Year 2 illustrates the year that experienced the precipitous crime increase. For easy comparison, the Department recommends you illustrate change over time in the form of a ratio - expressed per a standardized population of 100,000. In the chart below, for example, Jonestown experienced 50 aggravated assaults per 10,527 residents. If that same rate was experienced in a population of 100,000 residents, it is assumed there would be 475 aggravated assaults in the target area.



For more information on how to use crime statistics for decision-making, check out the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Data Tool at: <https://www.ucrdatatool.gov/data/crimestatisticsforddecisionmaking.doc>.

Crime Problem	Target Area	Population of Target Area	Year 1 Total Offenses	Year 1 Rate	Year 2 Total Offenses	Year 2 Rate	Percent Change
Aggravated Assault	Jonestown	10,527	50	475	88	836	76%
Homicide	Jonestown	10,527	10	95	20	190	100%

Source: Technology Innovation for Public Safety (TIPS) Addressing Precipitous Increases in Crime FY 2018 Competitive Grant Announcement (<https://www.bja.gov/funding/TIPS18.pdf>).

All of this work leads to the percent change - or difference between Year 1 and Year 2. This value is that “precipitous increase in crime” grant funders are most interested in for programs such as TIPS and SPI. Interestingly enough, there currently is no set target value that qualifies an increase as precipitous. If you’re concerned the percent change is too low for consideration, contemplate expanding the geographic target area to include additional streets or neighborhood districts. You may also re-calculate the formula with different years for comparison. Otherwise, look to garner additional points in your narrative portion, highlighting the adverse impacts of this spike and identifying exactly how your project intends to address the issue.

For more information on the SPI program, check out our summary on page 21. Even if your agency is not interested in applying for grant opportunities this year, the sentiment conveyed in these solicitations can be used in other proposals down the road. Exemplifying a strong grasp of your local statistics will improve any grant application. The ability to illustrate that data in a specific geographic area over a defined time period will provide even further evidence for the overall need - or importance - of your proposed project. Regardless of solicitation, use these tools to give grant reviewers better insight (and extra points) to your next proposal. ■



It’s good practice to utilize statistics to illustrate themes or identify underserved areas in your community. Incorporate these concepts throughout your need statement, justification and project objectives.

STRATEGIES FOR POLICING INNOVATION (SPI) GRANT PROGRAM

SUMMARY: This grant supports police agencies seeking to identify and address their most pressing crime problems. Funding from the SPI Program is used to test innovative ideas, such as predictive analytic technologies, new investigate practices, and data-driven responses in crime prevention. This year, the Department is particularly interested in funding projects related to violent crime, human trafficking, criminal gang activity, and the opioid crisis.

Applicants must propose to:

- Test, establish, and/or expand innovative ideas and evidence-based programming in police agencies to increase their ability to effectively prevent and respond to crime; especially violent crime; illegal opioid distribution and abuse; criminal gang activity; human trafficking; and domestic terrorism.
- Establish sustainable innovative police practices that are integrated into the strategic and tactical operations of police agencies.
- Foster effective and consistent collaborations within police agencies, with external agencies, and with the communities in which they serve to increase public safety.
- Use technology, intelligence, and data in innovative ways that enable police agencies to focus resources on the people and places associated with high concentrations of criminal behavior and crime

DEADLINE: Applications are to be submitted by May 21, 2018. A similar deadline is anticipated annually.

ELIGIBILITY: Eligible applicants are state governments, local governments, and federally recognized Indian tribal governments. NOTE: Proposals must be deployed in areas that are currently experiencing precipitous or extraordinary increases in crime.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.bja.gov/funding/SPI18.pdf>

SPI is part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) suite of programs, which is focused on reducing violent crime. For more information on SPI and the Innovative Solutions Suite, go to <https://www.bja.gov/programs/crppe/index.html>.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP GRANTS (NLG) FOR LIBRARIES PROGRAM

SUMMARY: National Leadership Grants for Libraries (NLG) support 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.

Successful applicants will propose projects that possess the following characteristics:

- National Impact
- Cultural Significance
- Strategic Collaboration
- Demonstrated Expertise

DEADLINE: Preliminary proposals were to be submitted by February 1, 2018. Full proposals are to be submitted by June 8, 2018. A similar deadline is anticipated annually.

ELIGIBILITY: An eligible applicant is a library or a parent organization, a private library or other special library, an academic or administrative unit, a digital library, a library agency that is an official agency of a State or other unit of government, a library consortium, or a library association that exists on a permanent basis.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.ims.gov/sites/default/files/fy2018-nlgl-2-nofo.pdf>

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP GRANTS (NLG) FOR LIBRARIES PROGRAM

FUNDED ORGANIZATION: Free Library of Philadelphia (Free Library Foundation)

AMOUNT FUNDED: \$543,618 from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Free Library of Philadelphia, in partnership with nine community agencies, developed a model for how public libraries can fully integrate their work with the broader systems of workforce development and adult education. The project utilized a collective impact approach, emphasizing mutually reinforcing activities, shared measurement systems, and continuous communication, to drive social change.

The work of the partners centered in the Paschalville neighborhood in Southwest Philadelphia, which is characterized by extreme poverty, high unemployment, and low levels of educational attainment. The project has a special focus on serving the needs of residents from immigrant/refugee communities or who have a history of incarceration. Building on a prior planning grant, the Free Library and its partners intend to share the model nationally with the library profession and social service sector.

FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION: <https://www.ims.gov/grants/awarded/lg-80-16-0061-16>

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE: <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/support/foundation/>

ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION & CONGESTION MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYMENT (ATCMTD) GRANT PROGRAM

SUMMARY: This program supports large-scale installation and operation of transportation technologies to improve safety and efficiency on our nation's busiest highways. The USDOT intends for deployment sites to demonstrate how emerging transportation technologies, data, and their applications can be effectively installed and integrated with existing systems to provide access to essential services and other destinations.

Applicants may use funding to deploy advanced transportation technologies, such as:

- Advanced traveler information systems;
- Infrastructure maintenance, monitoring, and condition assessment;
- Advanced public transportation systems;
- Technologies associated with autonomous vehicles, and other collision avoidance technologies;
- Electronic pricing and payment systems; or
- Advanced mobility and access technologies, such as dynamic ridesharing and information systems to support human services for elderly and disabled individuals.

DEADLINE: Applications are to be submitted by June 18, 2018. A similar deadline is anticipated in 2019 and 2020.

ELIGIBILITY: Eligible applicants are states, local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, and multijurisdictional groups of research or academic institutions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/advtranscongmgmtfs.cfm>

This program funds technology systems that:

- Increase driver, passenger & pedestrian safety;
- Alleviate congestion & streamline traffic flow;
- Measure & improve the operational performance of transportation networks; and
- Reduce costs & improve return on investments.

ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION & CONGESTION MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYMENT (ATCMTD) GRANT PROGRAM

FUNDED ORGANIZATION: Los Angeles Department of Transportation (California)

AMOUNT FUNDED: \$5,999,862 from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This project focused on large scale technology deployment to benefit the City's transit vehicles. This includes installing a connected signal system to improve flow of traffic and adding real-time transit information sharing for in several low-income neighborhoods. The use of this advanced technology will improve access to jobs, community services, and education for residents in an existing Promise Zone area - encompassing culturally diverse neighborhoods west of downtown Los Angeles: Hollywood, East Hollywood, Koreatown, Westlake, and Pico Town. Technology deployment focused on two areas: Mobility Enhancement and Traffic Safety.

Mobility enhancements included:

- Green light assistance
- Real time bus arrival signs
- Bluetooth low energy beacons
- Interactive digital kiosks

Traffic safety deployments included:

- Transit signal priority
- Wireless pedestrian signal activation
- Red light delay/crash avoidance
- Advanced bus driver assistance

FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/pressroom/fhwa1717.cfm>

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE: <http://ladot.lacity.org/>

HEALTH CAREERS OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (HCOP) GRANTS

SUMMARY: The Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) supports national efforts to diversify the health care workforce by funding projects to expand and support opportunities for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. The program works by strengthening the academic and social preparation of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to ensure their preparation for success in college and careers in health care.

HCOP focuses on three key milestones of education: High school completion; Acceptance, retention and graduation from college; and Acceptance, retention and completion of a health professions degree program.

DEADLINE: Applications are to be submitted by May 29, 2018. A similar deadline is anticipated annually.

ELIGIBILITY: Eligible applicants are accredited schools of medicine, public and nonprofit private schools, physician assistant training programs, and other public or private nonprofit health or educational entities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://grants.hrsa.gov/2010/Web2External/Interface/FundingCycle/ExternalView.aspx?fCycleID=7ac73271-d9de-49f3-b196-be1444208c90>

Types of Grants

Grant funds can be disbursed from the grantor to a grantee using different methods:

- **Formula** – Funding allocations are based on a grant-specific formula – such as student poverty (Department of Education Title Funding), risk assessments (State Homeland Security Grants) or number of acute care hospital beds (Hospital Emergency Preparedness Grants). As long as an eligible applicant completes an application within the timeline and format required by the funder, they are virtually assured of being awarded the money the formula has determined they're eligible to receive.
- **Competitive** – Applications are competitively scored based on a set of objective and/or subjective criteria, and the score the proposal receives factors into the award allocation; or
- **Earmark** – Grant awards are decided at the legislative level during the budgeting process. Organizations must apply their local Congressman or State Representative to obtain these funds.

Each of these distinctions has implications to the value of the program to your agency and the potential for raising new funding for the project. In the instance of a Federal pass-through grant, for example, once states have received the money from the grant they may pass it through via formula, competition, or a combination thereof. The method states use to distribute their funding has significant implications for how organizations can maximize local funding opportunities.



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