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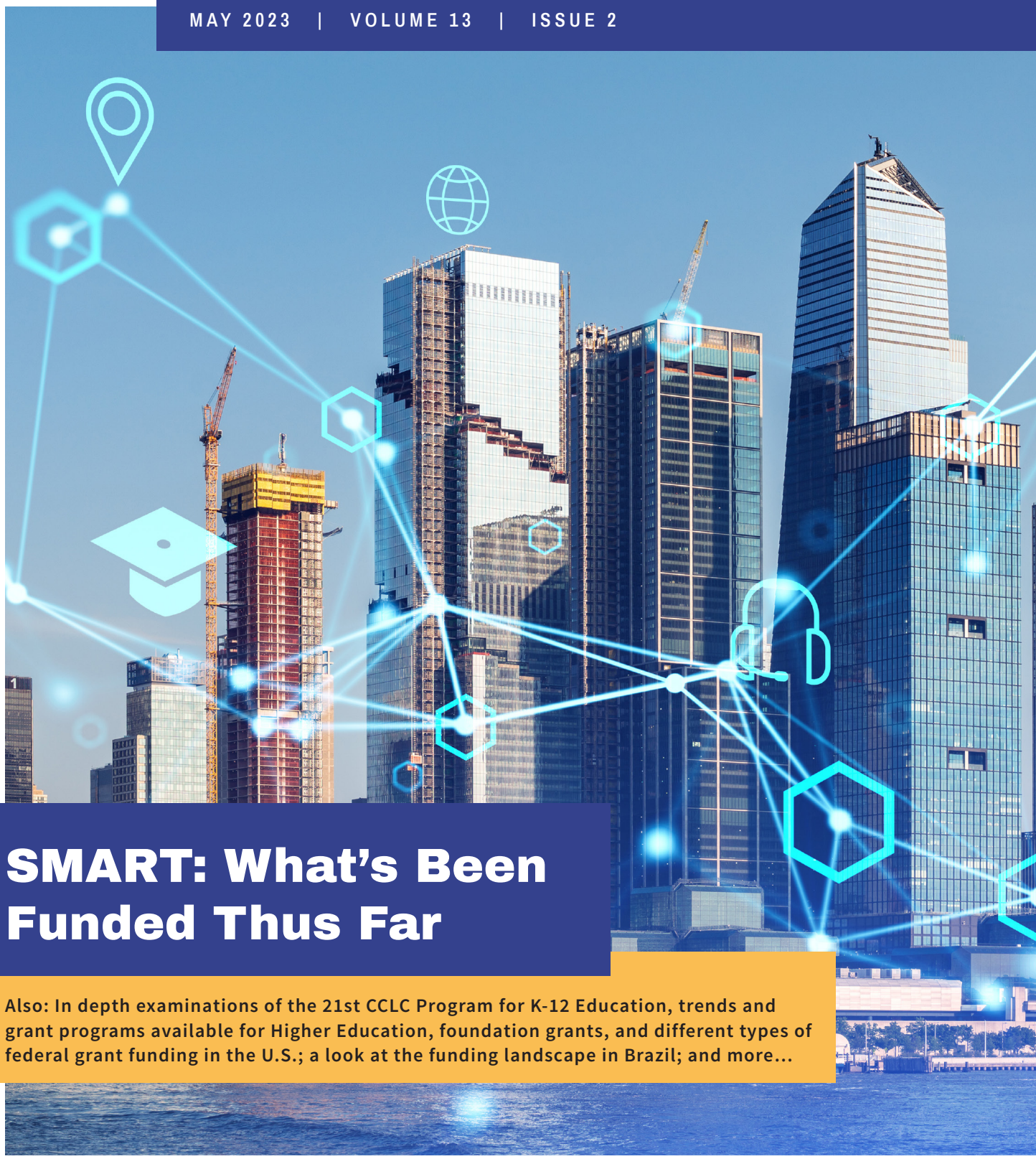

SMART: What's Been Funded Thus Far

Also: In depth examinations of the 21st CCLC Program for K-12 Education, trends and grant programs available for Higher Education, foundation grants, and different types of federal grant funding in the U.S.; a look at the funding landscape in Brazil; and more...

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Letter From the Editor

What does it mean to be SMART? There are SMART goals, SMART grants, and of course the traditional smart: intelligence. In this issue of FUNDED The Americas, we aim to help make you smarter with a range of insights and tips that we hope you will find actionable and useful in your own grantseeking journey.

We begin and end with the universal precursor of smartness, education. **Liz Shay** looks at some of the **higher education funding priorities** that will define most education grantmaking in the coming year. **Patrick Riedy** offers tips on leveraging the **21st Century Community Learning Centers** program to boost extended learning opportunities for elementary and secondary students. **Sydney Stapleton** offers **tips on leveraging grants** for higher education, and it is worth noting that many of these tips are transferrable to other domains of grantseeking as well.

Scoring his second cover article in a row, **Joseph Phelan** provides an overview of the numerous **smart cities' programs**, beginning with the eponymous (and of course acronymic) Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation program. Moreover, the funding landscape is awash in other grant opportunities that can make communities smarter, either in place of or as a complement to a SMART grant.

If you are looking to boost your base of grants development knowledge or just enjoy a good refresher, **Amanda Day** provides an overview of the **four types of grants** that are out there. And **Lynette Cale** shares some tips on **foundation grantseeking** that are essential for anyone looking to tap that $47 billion pool of funding.

Of course, you probably know that Grants Office provides local grants support in 12 countries. You may not know that one of them is Brazil. **Nátali Bahena Benck**, a Grants Development Consultant here at Grants Office who is based in Brazil and dedicated to working on **Brazilian projects**, provides us with highlights of some of the **top technology-friendly grant programs** there, as well as a discussion of how tax exemptions work to support science and technology projects in **Latina America's largest economy**.

Be sure to check out the other timely and informative ***Grantscasts*** our team will be presenting on or review the replays of past events on topics you find interesting. 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 have enjoyed bringing it to you!

Sincerely,

Michael Paddock
Editor and Publisher,
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Grants Office

SMART: What's Been Funded Thus Far

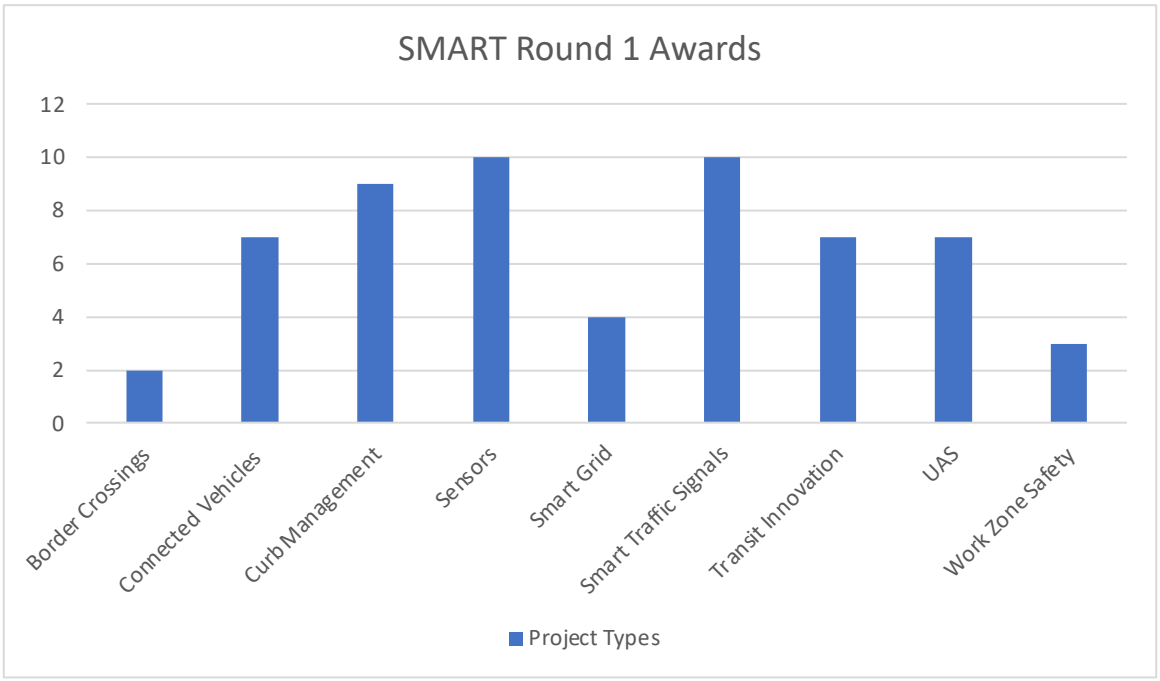
Joseph Phelan, Grants Development Consultant (State and Local Government)

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act introduced many new grant programs when passed in late 2021. These initiatives ranged from broadband and electric charging to major clean energy and water infrastructure. A handful of these funding projects are classified as smart city adjacent, but one specific program, Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation, or SMART, is the definition of a smart city grant.

The SMART grant is available to fund demonstration projects with the goal of advancing smart community technologies and systems for the sake of improving efficiency and safety for all kinds of transportation. The first round of funded organizations, announced in March, focused on Stage 1 prototype projects. The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) awarded 59 projects across 33 states, providing $94 million in grant funding in this initial round. USDOT received nearly 400 applications.

The most essential ingredient for a successful SMART application is the demonstration of at least one of the following: coordinated automation, connected vehicles, sensors, systems integration, delivery/logistics, innovative aviation, smart grid, and traffic signals.

In total, USDOT awarded 10 different project types through this first round. Below is a breakdown.



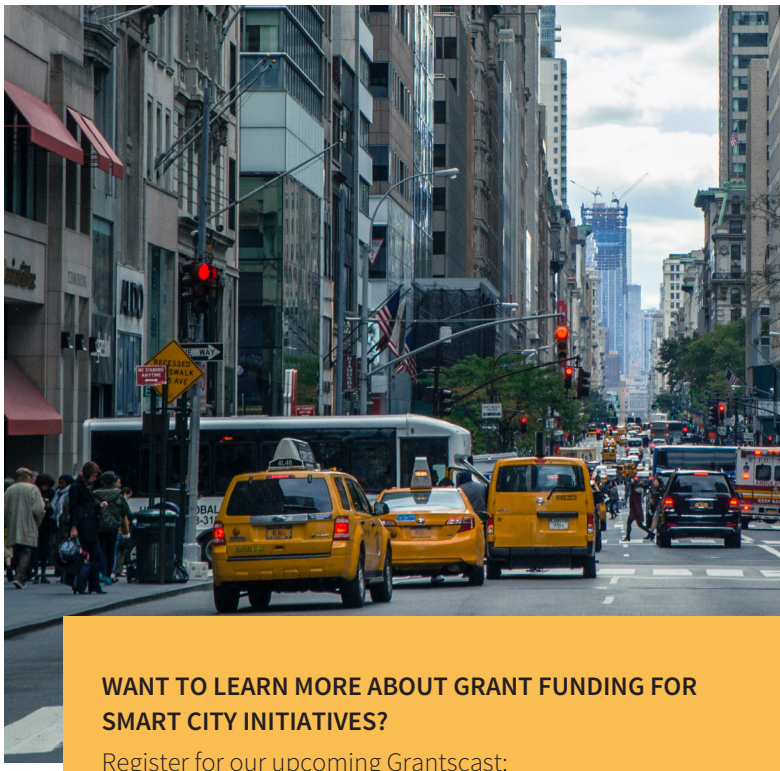
Example of projects include:

- **Border Crossing:** Michigan's Department of Transportation will implement a $1.8 million proof of concept of a smart corridor for truck borne goods movement across Port Huron's Blue Water Bridge at the U.S.- Canadian border.
- **Connected Vehicles:** Delaware's Department of Transportation will deploy a $1.9 million cloud-based vehicle to-everything technology (CbV2X) and optimized signal timing along statewide roadways.
- **Curb Management:** Los Angeles will create a digital inventory of physical curb lane assets to improve management of the curb lane in Downtown Los Angeles for $2 million.
- **Sensors:** Detroit will create smart intersections by leveraging existing traffic camera networks to deploy AI software solutions which can predict and prevent traffic accidents for $2 million.
- **Smart Grid:** In Colorado, Fort Collins will demonstrate a smart grid electric vehicle (EV) charge management solution for their EV fleet, through a managed charging software pilot, a municipal fleet electrification standards framework, and a study on value to city-owned utility ratepayers, for just over $1 million.
- **Smart Traffic Signals:** The Bannock Transportation Planning Organization received $1.3 million to Install smart, sensor-based traffic signals and monitoring across the Yellowstone Corridor in Idaho.
- **Transit Innovation:** The Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham received just under $1.5 million to convert existing public transportation systems in Central Alabama into an integrated mobility system leveraging cyberinfrastructure, route optimization and planning, service integration, trip dispatching, and more.
- **UAS:** Kansas will prototype a GIS-based platform that integrates local infrastructure assets to provide innovative data, monitor asset conditions, and inform technological solutions for $1 million.
- **Work Zone Safety:** For just under $1 million, the Illinois Department of Transportation will develop a framework for the advancement of Workzone Data Exchange-compliant systems.

As mentioned earlier, these awards under SMART are considered Stage 1 grants, which means there will be a Stage 2 opportunity opening in the near future. Stage 2 grants are considered Implementation Grants. The specifics around this opportunity have yet to be fully disclosed, but what we know about Stage 2 right now is:

- Stage 2 will scale out and institutionalize Stage 1 prototypes.
  - The eventual goal is to deploy solutions approved in communities across the country.
- Stage 2 grants are expected to build capacity within the community.
- Stage 2 grants will allow for more of an opportunity to play out.
- USDOT anticipates only recipients of Stage 1 grants will be eligible for Stage 2 grants.
- Up to $15 million for three years will be available.

It is expected that SMART will announce its new Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in early Fall with a November deadline. Stage 2 grants will not be the only eligible funding opportunities, however. USDOT expects to award additional Stage 1 grants, so definitely keep that in mind.

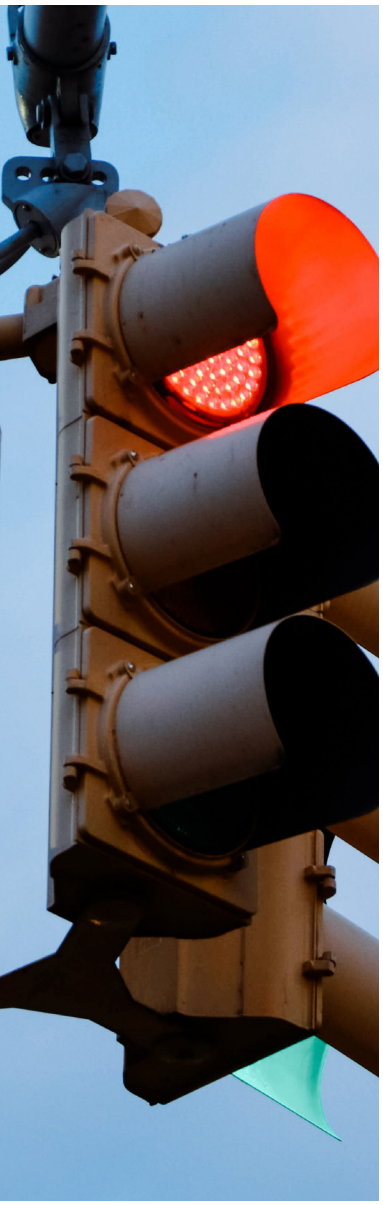


WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GRANT FUNDING FOR SMART CITY INITIATIVES?

Register for our upcoming Grantscast:
Grants for Modernizing IT for Cities and Local Governments: Smart, Secure, and Connected Cities

Program Snapshot

Strengthening Mobility And Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grant



SUMMARY

Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) provides supplemental funding grants to rural, midsized, and large communities to conduct demonstration projects focused on advanced smart city or community technologies and systems in a variety of communities to improve transportation efficiency and safety. A SMART grant may be used to conduct a project that demonstrates at least 1 of the following:

- Coordinated Automation
- Connected Vehicles
- Intelligent, Sensor-Based Infrastructure
- Systems Integration
- Commerce Delivery and Logistics
- Leveraging Use of Innovative Aviation Technology
- Smart Grid
- Smart Technology Traffic Signals

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants are: (A) A State; (B) a political subdivision of a State; (C) a Tribal government; (D) a public transit agency or authority; (E) a public toll authority; (F) a metropolitan planning organization; and (G) a group of 2 or more eligible entities described.

DEADLINE

Applications were to be submitted by November 18, 2022. A similar deadline is anticipated, annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SMART

Funded Project Highlight

Strengthening Mobility And Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grant

FUNDED ORGANIZATION

Orange County Transportation Authority

PROJECT TITLE

Pilot Innovative Cloud-Based Transit Signal Priority

AMOUNT FUNDED

$1,600,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Deploy a cloud-based Transit Signal Priority (TSP) system by integrating existing signal systems, new multimodal ITS devices, and proactive signal operations to improve on-time arrivals of OCTA's Harbor Boulevard Bravo! Rapid Bus Route.

FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION

https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2023-03/FY22%20SMART%20Project%20List.pdf

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE

https://www.octa.net/

Foundation Grants: An Overlooked Opportunity

Lynnette Cale, Grants Development Consultant (Healthcare)

Have you been searching high and low for funding for your latest program or project? What about looking into foundation grants! With over 76,000 foundations in the United States and an estimated $47 billion given away each year, the money you need may be right under your nose.

Utilizing funding from a foundation offers many benefits. To find the best fit for your program or project, start by looking in your own back yard. Local foundations are great options because they are familiar with your community, are looking to fund local programs and projects, you may already know someone on their board, and you are only competing with other local applicants, not a nationwide pool. Other foundation opportunities include regional, state, national, and mission-focused foundations.

Foundation grants are particularly beneficial if you are new to grant writing or short on time and staff to write a grant. Foundations tend to have simpler application processes than federal or state grants and are mission-driven rather than project or program driven, like federal or state grants. While federal and state grants dictate the project or program to be completed for funding, along with start dates, deadlines, reporting requirements, funding amounts, and a variety of other mandates, foundations tend to offer more flexibility.

If you have a new and exciting project idea that does not seem to fit into a federal or state grant, foundation grants offer the opportunity to get innovative to create and build your own program or project to best serve your population within the foundation's mission and demographics they are dedicated to helping.

Foundation grants also tend to have a shorter application timeline, enabling usage for projects that fulfill a more urgent need. While some foundations only award funds once a year, many foundations have multiple application periods throughout the year or an open, rolling application deadline.

As is the case with all great things, there are some downsides to foundation grants. The level of funding or grant amount is typically smaller than you find from federal or state grants, making it necessary to apply for multiple grants to fund a project or program. Funding is also often limited to one-time requests. Finally, some foundations do not have websites, making them more difficult to find and apply to.

With those challenges in mind, I am sure you are asking, how do I find a foundation that is right for my project? Start by looking local. Keep an eye out for press releases in newspapers and social media about foundation donations in your area. Ask members of your organization's board who may be involved in other philanthropic work or serve on other boards. Look for professional organizations that support your work, demographics served, or profession. And finally, use internet searches and social media.

Once you have found the perfect foundation grant opportunity, explain how your project or program, organization, and mission fit their mission and goals as well. Detail how your proposed project or program benefits those you both strive to help. Read and follow all instructions and requirements listed on their website and application. If they do not have an online presence? No problem. Take the opportunity to call or email the foundation prior to applying. This allows you to establish a relationship with potential decision makers prior to applying and to learn if your project or program is a good fit for their funds. Because of this early communication, the foundation will likely be looking forward to receiving your application.

If foundations sound like they may be a good fit for you and your next program or project, now is the time to act.

Understanding the Four Types of Federal Grant Funding

Amanda Day, Grants Development Consultant (State & Local Government)

Investments in federal grants have increased considerably over the past several years, particularly with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Knowing how to navigate the current grant funding landscape can be a challenge, and understanding how grant funds are awarded can help organizations when they decide to apply for grant funding. There are four main types of grant funding at the federal level: **competitive grants, pass-through grants, formula grants, and continuation grants.**

COMPETITIVE GRANTS

Competitive grants are a type of grant funding that is awarded through a competitive application process. When grantseekers start the process of looking for grants, they are typically researching competitive grants, as they are the most common type of grant utilized by nonprofits, individuals, and state agencies. A competitive grant is a grant where the funder asks for a Request for Proposal (RFP). The proposals typically provide information about the applicant's organization and project, including the problem they will use the grant funds to solve, how they will solve the problem, a detailed budget, and a description of the expected outcomes. The Competitive grant process allows funding agencies to quickly select RFP's that align with their priorities, goals, and funding availability. The selection process is based on criteria such as the quality of the proposal, the qualifications of the applicant, and what impact the project, or projects, will have. This ensures that grant funding goes to the most deserving organizations and supports the most impactful projects. After the applications have been submitted, a committee reviews the applications for eligibility and ensures that the application has been filled out accurately, selections are made, and funds are awarded to the winning candidates.

FORMULA GRANTS

Formula grants award funds based on a predetermined formula and are not competitive programs. Formula amounts are determined by several different criteria, including population statistics, poverty levels, violent crime reports, and unemployment information. Federal regulations set the formulas for this type of grant, so the funders must adhere to that formula when determining which applicants will receive awards. Every program is different but typically, the funds from formula grants are divided among State agencies, then States choose which projects to support at the local level. All eligible applicants who meet the application requirements are entitled to receive this type of funding.

PASS-THROUGH GRANTS

The next type of funding is called a pass-through grant. These grants are issued by a federal agency to a state agency, then sub awarded to other state agencies, local governments, or other eligible groups. This can be done through an application process or by direct allocation to eligible entities. This type of funding gives state governments more control over the use of federal grant funds and the ability to choose which projects will support the state's goals and objectives. Applications for pass-through funds are usually shorter and less complicated than Federal grant applications. Prospective applicants can search and apply for these funds through individual state agencies such as Homeland Security, Department of Education, and Department of Transportation.

CONTINUATION GRANTS

Last is the continuation grant. This award is an extension or renewal of an existing program that has been funded. Therefore, this type of grant benefits recipients that were awarded funds for multi-year projects but need additional funds to either finish or continue a program. Continuation grants are usually non-competitive, but applicants may have to compete against new grantseekers for available funding. This kind of grant tends to be awarded to programs that benefit society rather than construction or infrastructure. Types of programs include drug treatment programs, health and human services programs, and agricultural projects. Successful applicants need to prove they have been successful during the initial grant period, they complied with all reporting requirements, and that the program is meeting its goals and objectives.

Having a solid understanding of the current grant funding landscape is important when organizations are in the initial stages of exploring financial assistance options for upcoming projects. By knowing what types of grants are typically available, it is easier to determine where to commit your team's time and energy. There may be more than one type of grant that would be beneficial to your organization and/or project, so educating yourself is a crucial first step.

Program Snapshot

Building Pathways To Infrastructure Jobs Program

SUMMARY

The purpose of the DOL Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program is to fund public-private partnerships to develop, strengthen, and scale promising and evidence-based training models in H-1B industries and occupations. In order to meet the goals of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), this program aims to train job seekers in advanced manufacturing; information technology; and professional, scientific, and technical services occupations that support renewable energy, transportation, and broadband infrastructure sectors. These include occupations in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors; broadband expansion and smart city grids; and electrical, industrial, and civil engineers and technicians who facilitate the design, construction, modernization, and maintenance of the nation's infrastructure.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible lead applicants are Nonprofit Organizations, Labor Unions, Labor-Management Organizations, and Worker Organizations, Education/Training Provider(s), Workforce Development Entities, Economic Development Agencies, and Native American Tribal Governments.

DEADLINE

This program will have two rounds of funding. Round 1 applications are to be submitted by July 7, 2023. Round 2 applications are expected to reopen on March 15, 2024, and are to be submitted by June 14. 2024. Similar programs are anticipated in future years.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=343871

Grants Office needs writers!

Do you have experience grantwriting for education institutions, state and local government municipalities, healthcare providers, or non-profit organizations?

Grants Office is a full-service provider of strategic grants development services. Our approach is based on collaboration and open communication among team members. Our grant writers work directly with clients to help develop all elements of their project, and coordinate submission of a high-quality, competitive, technology-friendly proposal.

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- Your CV
- A listing of the agencies for which you have submitted grants
- A listing of the grant programs for which you have been a proposal reviewer, if any
- 2 writing samples (preferably narratives from successfully funded projects

Trends in Higher Education Funding

Liz Shay, Senior Grants Development Consultant (Higher Education)

Institutes of higher education have a wide variety of grant programs available to support efforts on campus. Many different federal, state, and foundation funding sources focus either specifically on higher education or fund higher education projects as part of their larger grant funding priorities. Broadly speaking, this funding for higher education predominantly falls within three categories: **student learning outcomes, workforce development, and faculty research.** These major types of funding programs have remained relatively consistent over the last few decades. However, within these categories, specific funding priorities tend to shift due to political and cultural priorities. Read on for a deep dive into five of the current major funding trends in higher education.

PRIORITY 1: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS (STEM)

STEM education has been a consistent area of focus for grant making for several years already and continues to be a major area of interest to this day. Most funders interested in STEM focus across all fields. There are some funders, as well as specific programs within some more broadly focused funders, however, who are interested only in particular areas within the STEM landscape. These more specific programs typically fund projects within areas of high job growth, such as computer science or advanced technologies. Funders are interested in helping students get the education required to enter in-demand STEM fields. Often aligned with this priority is a focus on fields where the United States would like to be more globally competitive. This can be in areas where US students' test scores are lower than those of students in other countries or in areas where the US currently issues a large number of H-1B visas for non-US-citizens to work within the US.

Institutes of higher education always have a wide variety of grant opportunities to facilitate their innovative projects to support students and faculty. Although the broad types of fundable projects do not change much from year to year, the specific focus areas and trends are impacted by current events and societal impacts.

PRIORITY 2: INFRASTRUCTURE JOB TRAINING

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, brought huge funding amounts to many different areas of US infrastructure. A sizable percentage of these monies will be used to implement infrastructure improvements across the country in areas such as broadband, green energy, and advanced transportation. Funding is dedicated within this bill for workforce development and training initiatives in these same fields. There will be a demand for skilled installers and maintenance technicians for many types of infrastructure, leading to a need to train people to fulfill these jobs. Even outside of funding directly from the IIJA bill, funders are also aligning their own workforce development initiatives to match these infrastructure-related needs. Many state and foundation funders are designing grant programs that will support infrastructure training initiatives that directly align with their own state planning efforts related to infrastructure implementation so that they can hire local labor to complete their projects.

PRIORITY 3: UPSKILLING AND RESKILLING

As is probably clear by now, there is a lot of interest from grant funders to meet current and future labor demands through education and training programs. Although many of these programs have previously focused on students already enrolled in two- or four-year institutes of higher education, we are seeing an increase in funding for upskilling and reskilling efforts. In these cases, higher education schools (predominantly community and technical colleges in this case) actively recruit non-traditional students who have already entered the workforce and are now looking for a chance to develop additional skills to move into middle- and high-wage jobs. Many grant makers are also interested in supporting efforts to get students to reenter higher education if they left without completing a program as well as recruiting veterans into these training programs. Many of the upskilling and reskilling grants are particularly interested in projects that will provide short-term credentialing opportunities where students can either complete their education while also working or can be trained up quickly to be able to reenter the workforce.

PRIORITY 4: DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated and highlighted the challenges certain students, particularly those from traditionally underrepresented groups in higher education, face when trying to enter and complete their degree programs. Grant makers are increasing the attention they are placing on diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts across many or all of their grant programs. They are also increasing their support for programs specifically designed to increase participation in and persistence with higher education programs for students from particular groups. In some instances, these programs are specifically dedicated to funding projects at minority-serving institutions. In other cases, programs are open to all institutes of higher education so that they can support students from traditionally underrepresented groups, particularly for in-demand fields. Grant makers also want to increase the variety of institutes of higher education they are funding across all of their programs. This is especially true for faculty research grants where there are targeted efforts to fund research projects and capacity-building efforts at institutions who have had little past research funding.

PRIORITY 5: PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

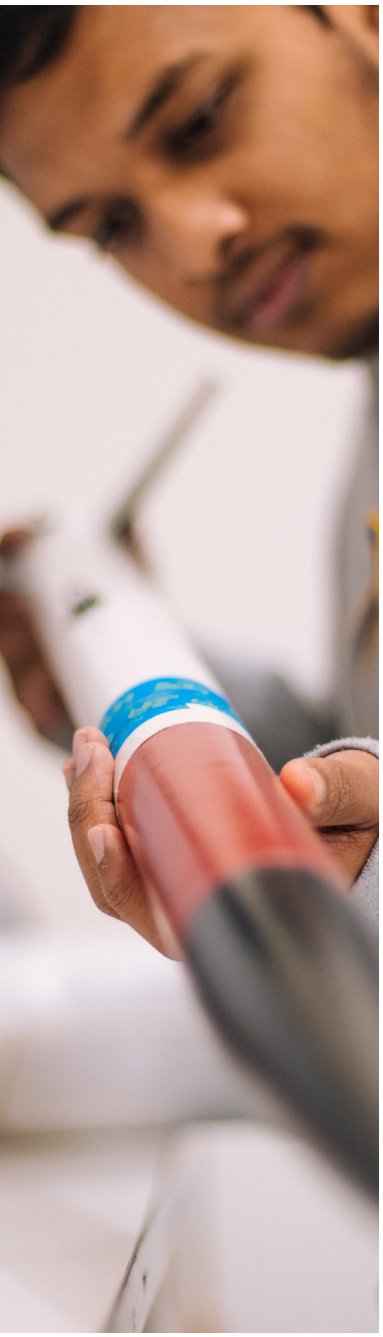
Grant makers understand the importance of public-private partnerships to maximize the expertise that can contribute to particular projects, as well as the impact of grant dollars on outcomes of interest. Over the last few years, we have seen an increase in the number of programs that require public-private partnerships to be eligible to apply. In some cases, this collaboration is focused on employers sharing information about their labor needs and providing advice and feedback on curriculum design to ensure that programs align with those employment demands. Other collaborations are more focused on the research side of higher education efforts. Grant makers are interested in projects that help translate academic research findings into products and services in the commercial market. They also are interested in projects that help governments meet the needs of their residents through innovative solutions designed and studied by academic researchers. Regardless of the type of partnership for a particular grant, funders want to see diverse expertise brought together to create comprehensive projects that fulfill areas of interest.

CONCLUSION

Higher education holds a prominent place in the grant funding landscape and there are many opportunities to help institutions implement innovative approaches to support their students and research faculty. Although there are grants to support a wide variety of different potential project types for institutions, current trends show a few areas where there is considerable focus by grant makers. Consider your school's strategic planning efforts and where there may be alignment with current grant funding trends to focus programmatic design and grant pursuits.

Program Snapshot

Improving Undergraduate Stem Education (IUSE): Directorate For STEM Education



SUMMARY

The National Science Foundation (NSF) plays a leadership role in developing and implementing efforts to enhance and improve STEM education in the United States. Through the NSF Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE) initiative, the agency continues to make a substantial commitment to the highest caliber undergraduate STEM education through a Foundation-wide framework of investments. The IUSE: EDU is a core NSF STEM education program that seeks to promote novel, creative, and transformative approaches to generating and using new knowledge about STEM teaching and learning to improve STEM education for undergraduate students.

NSF places high value on educating students to be leaders and innovators in emerging and rapidly changing STEM fields as well as educating a scientifically literate public. In pursuit of this goal, IUSE: EDU supports projects that seek to bring recent advances in STEM knowledge into undergraduate education, that adapt, improve, and incorporate evidence-based practices into STEM teaching and learning, and that lay the groundwork for institutional improvement in STEM education. In addition to innovative work at the frontier of STEM education, this program also encourages replication of research studies at different types of institutions and with different student bodies to produce deeper knowledge about the effectiveness and transferability of findings.

The IUSE: EDU program promotes (1) Engaged Student Learning: the development, testing, and use of teaching practices and curricular innovations that will engage students and improve learning, persistence, and retention in STEM, and (2) Institutional and Community Transformation: the transformation of colleges and universities to implement and sustain highly effective STEM teaching and learning.

ELIGIBILITY

The program is open to application from all institutions of higher education and associated organizations.

DEADLINE

Institutional and Community Transformation (Capacity-Building and Level 1) proposals and Engaged Student Learning (Level 1) proposals are due on January 17, 2024. Institutional and Community Transformation (Level 2) proposals and Engaged Student Learning (Level 2 and Level 3) proposals are to be submitted by July 19, 2023. Similar deadlines are anticipated, annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/improving-undergraduate-stem-education-directorate

Funded Project Highlight

Improving Undergraduate Stem Education (IUSE): Directorate For STEM Education

FUNDED ORGANIZATION

Seattle University

PROJECT TITLE

"IUSE/PFE:RED: Revolutionizing Engineering Education through Industry Immersion and a Focus on Identity"

AMOUNT FUNDED

$1,861,527

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The culture of a program or department plays a significant role in effective, inclusive, and innovative STEM education. Despite immense efforts to diversify the student body in engineering programs, research suggests that department culture continues to challenge engineering education and the educators who are preparing the next generation of engineers. This project implements a unique educational experience where students and faculty are immersed in a culture of doing engineering with industry engineers that in turn fosters an identity of being an engineer. This new culture will be created through a shared department vision and a deep immersion in industry and engineering practice. Some of the changes include faculty participation in industry make-a-thons that connect industry professionals with students, and changes in how the department prioritizes teaching, student research, industry connections, and faculty mentoring. Along with these activities, this project serves to investigate the effects of this new culture on the identity of students and faculty, and how these identity changes affect students' engagement, performance, and commitment to engineering. Understanding how identities affect students, particularly females, could transform how we teach STEM K-16. Such knowledge will allow educators to target activities that produce the strongest effect on identity and be mindful of those that negatively impact identity. The result is better retention for a more diverse student body.

FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION

https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1730354&HistoricalAwards=false

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE

https://www.seattleu.edu/

A Snapshot of Parliamentary Amendments in Brazil

Nátali Bahena Benck, Grants Development Consultant (Brazil)

Parliamentary amendments are an important part of the legislative process in Brazil, as they allow individual legislators to influence the content of bills and budgetary laws. They can be used to add, delete, or modify provisions in legislation, or to allocate funds for specific projects or programs.

The 2023 Budget includes BRL 36.5 billion for all types of Brazilian parliamentary amendments. Last year, congress increased the value of the individual amendments — which are nominated by each of the deputies and senators — to 2% of the government's current net revenue. Previously, the percentage was 1.2%.

Over the past ten years, the value of annual amendments increased from BRL 8.7 billion to BRL 36.5 billion, increasing the participation of congress's control of the budget, preventing the growth of other expenses, and restricting the Executive's spending flexibility.

Parliamentary amendments are an important funding instrument for the public sector. Some examples of parliamentary amendments identified in 2023:

- **Program (2205)** - Connect Brazil: Supports information and communication technology projects, including the implementation of public spaces for digital inclusion, the development of digital content and apps adapted to the local reality, and the implementation of broadband infrastructure for digital and smart cities, enabling internet access via fiber optics or an integrated hybrid network (BRL 155,220,223.00).
- **Program (2208)** - Supports projects, programs, and technological extension activities, including technologies applied to health, such as telemedicine and management systems for health spaces, as well as hospital equipment/products, and technologies applied to education, such as management technologies, robotics, and maker spaces, innovative teaching methodologies, and educational technologies that promote accessibility in all modalities (BRL 68,585,320.00).
- **Program (2217)** - Regional, Territorial, and Urban Development. The program Action 00SY aims to support the implementation of the Strengthening of Subnational Governmental Capacities, focusing on technological modernization for urban planning. This means that the program will provide resources and technical assistance to help subnational authorities use advanced technologies to better plan and manage urban areas (BRL 1,140,446.00).

Parliamentary amendments play a crucial role in the distribution of financial resources in Brazil. They enable individual legislators to influence the content of bills and budgetary laws, and allocate funds for specific projects or programs. As seen in the 2023 Budget, the volume of amendments has increased steadily over the years, indicating congress' growing participation in and control of the budget, while preventing the growth of other expenses. The examples of parliamentary amendments identified in the 2023 Budget illustrate the diversity of areas that can benefit from these funds, from information and communication technology projects to regional and urban development initiatives. Overall, parliamentary amendments provide a valuable instrument for the public sector to address the country's most pressing needs and promote economic and social development.

Tax Exemptions for Imported Goods Used in Scientific Research in Brazil: Eligible Entities and Required Procedures

Nátali Bahena Benck, Grants Development Consultant (Brazil)

In Brazil, there are many ways of acquiring financial resources to develop projects and implement public policy initiatives. These may include non-repayable financing, grants, agreements, transfer contracts, fostering agreements, donations, public-private partnerships, parliamentary amendments, tax incentives, direct and voluntary transfers.

Tax incentives are an essential legal instrument to make projects financially feasible by reducing costs due to high taxation in the country. Different laws provide tax incentives for social development, cultural preservation, environmental conservation, and scientific research. This article focuses on the tax exemptions provided by Law 8010/90 for imported goods used in scientific and technological research.

LAW 8010/90

In 1990, Brazil passed Law 8010 with the aim of fostering scientific research in the country. This legislation provides tax exemptions on imported goods intended for scientific and technological research, incentivizing institutions and researchers to import equipment and supplies necessary for their work. Additionally, the law offers other benefits such as exemption from similarity examination, exemption from bidding, and preference in the import channel, which streamlines the process and expedites the acquisition of materials required for research. Overall, Law 8010 serves as a valuable tool to support the advancement of scientific research in Brazil.

The Brazilian government releases an annual decree indicating the amount of taxes waived for imports related to scientific and technological research. For 2023, this figure is set at US$400 million. This tax exemption has created a vast market for scientific research imports, with over 4,000 eligible institutions in Brazil. According to a recent survey, in the previous year there were a total of 212 imports, which generated a value of R$1.011 billion. These numbers reveal the substantial demand for research equipment and supplies in the country, as well as the significant economic impact of this tax exemption on the scientific research market.

BENEFITS OFFERED BY THE LAW

The law includes exemptions for the following taxes:

- Import tax: A federal tax is levied on foreign goods whose entry into the national territory is its triggering event
- Taxes on industrialized products: A federal tax is levied on industrialized products, whether national or imported, regardless of their origin
- Additional freight for merchant marine renewal rate: A tax levied on the amount of international freight generated at the effective start of the vessel's unloading operation in a Brazilian port

ELIGIBILITY

The entities that can receive benefits from the law are universities, research institutes, and science and technology institutes (public or non-profit private), scientists, and researchers. However, to make imports through the benefits of Law 8010, a specific procedure must be followed, and the product, equipment, or machinery must be intended for scientific research.

PROCEDURES REQUIRED

To access these benefits, the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) must accredit eligible institutions. The accreditation process requires a certification request, followed by an estimated processing time of up to 90 days for the CNPq analysis. If the request is approved, the CNPq will issue an accreditation certificate valid for 5 years, and an announcement will be published in the Official Gazette of the Union. After this, entities can import with the benefits from the law.

CONCLUSION

Tax incentives, including tax exemptions, are vital for promoting scientific research in Brazil. Law 8010/90 provides tax exemptions for imported goods used in scientific and technological research, and eligible entities must follow a specific procedure to access these benefits. By combining tax incentives with other forms of financial resources such as grants, research projects can become financially feasible, ensuring lower costs and financial capital. Eligible entities should consider the benefits provided by Law 8010/90 when importing goods for scientific and technological research.

Program Snapshot

21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)

SUMMARY

This program supports the creation of community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. The program helps students meet state and local student standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math; offers students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs; and offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children.

Each eligible entity that receives an award from the state may use the funds to conduct a broad array of before- and after-school activities (including those held during summer recess periods) to advance student achievement. These activities include:

- Remedial education activities and academic enrichment learning programs
- Mathematics and science education activities
- Arts and music education activities
- Entrepreneurial education programs
- Programs that provide after-school activities for limited English proficient (LEP) students and that emphasize language skills and academic achievement
- Recreational activities
- Telecommunications and technology education programs

ELIGIBILITY

Awards are made to State Education Agencies (SEAs). Local education agencies (LEAs) and nonprofit organizations may apply to states for subgrants.

DEADLINE

Application deadlines vary by state.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://www2.ed.gov/programs/21stcclc/index.html

Make the Case for Extended Learning Time: 21st CCLC Preparation

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The past few years have presented several challenges for K-12 school districts across the country. Many districts reported lower test scores, mental health challenges, attendance issues, and technological shortcomings because of the disruption to learning caused by COVID-19. These challenges present complex issues that demand careful attention, but many teachers appropriately feel the school day is just too short, and school leaders find it difficult to parse out one issue from another and address them accordingly.

One option that could assist school officials in all facets of their reparative journey is a grant program that has been around for decades, the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center Program, more commonly referred to as 21st CCLC. The 21st CCLC program is a federally funded grant program that is passed through states to support the creation or expansion of community learning centers for high-need schools that provide academic and cultural enrichment opportunities for students and their families outside of the traditional school day. This can include activities such as homework help, tutoring, STEM education, arts and music programs, and other enrichment activities.

The 21st CCLC program is administered in each state by your state department of education (SEA) and provides funding to eligible organizations, such as local education agencies (LEAs), nonprofit organizations, and other public or private organizations. Funding varies depending on the state's allocation, but minimum awards are typically in the tens of thousands. The actual grant amount awarded to a school or organization depends on numerous factors, including the size of the program, the number of students served, and the specific activities included in the program. Deadlines vary by state, so it is best to check your SEA website for when the next opportunity for new sites will open.

To begin planning for your application, consider the following steps:

1. **Understand the 21st CCLC Program:** Familiarize yourself with the goals, requirements, and priorities of the 21st CCLC program. Review the program's guidance and regulations provided by the U.S. Department of Education and SEA. Your SEA may also be able to provide technical assistance, including guidance on program design, budget development, and performance measurement.
2. **Identify School and Community Needs:** Identify the needs of the students and families in your community, as well as any challenges or barriers to learning. This can be done through school walkthroughs to see where facilities need additional resources, repair, or replacement, as well as community resource mapping to identify gaps in services. This will help you to develop a program that addresses these needs and priorities.
3. **Develop a Comprehensive Plan:** Develop a comprehensive plan for your 21st CCLC program that aligns with the program's goals and priorities. This plan should include the activities and services you will provide, the intended outcomes, the target population, and how you will measure progress and success.
4. **Gather and Use Data:** Collect data to support your grant application, such as the percentage of students from lower-income households, academic performance data, attendance rates, and behavioral data. You may also gather feedback from students, families, and community partners by employing a needs assessment survey and/or the creation of a focus group that includes students, teachers, and parents.
5. **Create a Detailed Budget:** Reach out to vendors and develop a detailed budget for your program, including costs for staffing, materials, equipment, and transportation. Make sure your budget aligns with your program plan and goals.
6. **Consider Partnering with Community Organizations:** Consider partnering with community organizations to provide additional resources and support for your program. These partnerships can also help to demonstrate community support for your program.
7. **Review and Submit:** Review deadlines for your state. Once you write your application, leave time to review it thoroughly and make sure it meets all the requirements and priorities of the 21st CCLC program. Submit your application before the deadline.

At a time when schools are increasingly asked to do more for students and their families, the 21st CCLC presents a unique opportunity. The breadth of this grant provides the flexibility needed for local education agencies to tailor programming to meet the specific needs of their community. A thoughtful, well-planned project that addresses these needs and aligns with the goals and priorities of the program could be the jumpstart your district needs to improve the school climate, re-ignite the excitement to learn, and ensure students have a safe, secure place to engage outside of traditional classroom time.

Exploring State Grant Programs for Higher Education: Funding Opportunities and Application Procedures

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State grants for higher education are an important source of funding for colleges and universities to provide financial assistance to students pursuing post-secondary education. In addition to grants for students, state grant programs may also provide institutions with funding to support programs, initiatives, and research. In this article, we will explore the state grants available for higher education institutions to apply for.

STATE GRANT PROGRAMS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

State grant programs for higher education institutions vary widely from state to state. Some states offer grants to institutions for specific purposes, such as funding for research initiatives or to support workforce development programs, while other states offer grants to institutions for more general purposes, such as improving facilities or expanding student services.

Examples of state grant programs available for higher education institutions:

Capital Improvement Grants

Many states offer capital improvement grants to support the construction or renovation of facilities at colleges and universities. These grants may be awarded based on the institution's need, the proposed project's scope, and the impact it will have on the institution and its students. One example of this type of grant is the New Jersey Higher Education Capital Improvement Fund (CIF) that funds the cost of the construction, reconstruction, development, extension, and improvement of instructional, laboratory, communication, and research facilities.

Workforce Development Grants

Workforce development grants may be available to higher education institutions that offer vocational or technical training programs. These grants support the development of new programs, expand existing programs, or provide equipment or resources to support training initiatives. An example of a workforce development grant is the Jobs & Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program in Texas. The program defrays start-up costs associated with the development of career and technical education programs to public community and technical colleges.

Research Grants

Some states may offer research grants to higher education institutions to support research initiatives in areas such as science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). These grants may be awarded based on the institution's research capabilities and the potential impact of the research. One example of a research grant is from Massachusetts, the Research Infrastructure Program, providing grants for capital projects that support the life sciences ecosystem in Massachusetts by enabling and supporting life sciences research and development.

Campus Safety Grants

Some states provide campus safety grants to support the safety and security of colleges and universities. These grants are designed to address various safety and security concerns, such as emergency preparedness, crime prevention, and physical security improvements. One example out of Ohio is the Campus Safety Grant Program for public institutions of higher education.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The application procedures for state grant programs for higher education institutions vary widely depending on the grant program and the state. There are, however, some general steps that institutions can follow when applying for state grant funding:

Research Available Grants

Institutions should research the state grant programs available to determine which programs they are eligible for, and which programs align with their needs and goals.

Review Eligibility Requirements

Institutions should carefully review the eligibility requirements for each grant program to determine if they are eligible to apply.

Develop a Proposal

Institutions should develop a proposal that clearly outlines the project or initiative they are seeking funding for and the expected outcomes or impact.

Submit the Application

Institutions should carefully follow the application procedures for each grant program they are applying to and submit all required documentation by the application deadline.

State grant programs are an important source of funding for higher education institutions, providing funding to support programs, initiatives, and research. By understanding the state grant programs available, and following the application procedures carefully, institutions can increase their chances of securing funding to support their goals and improve the educational experience for their students. Institutions should consult their state's higher education agency website for more information about state grant programs available in their state.

Along with federal funding, state grants are a fantastic way for Institutions of Higher Education to increase their budget.

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How to Fund Cybersecurity Solutions with Grant Funding

A Grants Office Production, sponsored by Check Point

Date: May 23 at 2pm ET

About: The global annual cost of cyber-crime is predicted to top $8 trillion in 2023. As our reliance on technology continues to increase, so does the risk of cyber-attack. Join us to learn how to use grant funding to secure your network, protect the cloud, and guard your workforce, devices, and access.

Register HERE

Grants for Modernizing IT for Cities & Local Governments: Smart, Secure, & Connected Cities: Grants for Cloud Solutions and More

A Grants Office Production, sponsored by Ingram Micro Cloud

Date: May 24 at 2pm ET

About: As cities and counties across the country look to become more efficient, sustainable, and livable, many are turning to innovative technology solutions. For help in your grantseeking efforts, join us as we explore the grant funding landscape for smart and secure community projects.

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A Grants Office Production

Date: May 31 at 1pm ET

About: With the recent publication of Budget 2023, it's time to dive into the details of new and returning funding programs from the federal government. We'll discuss broad priorities for spending in the next 12-months, including ways Canada will commit to building a stronger, more sustainable, and more secure economy for everyone.

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Investing in the Internet of Things: Leveraging Grants to Facilitate Smart Projects in the Public Sector

A Grants Office Production, sponsored by Samsara

Date: June 15 at 2pm ET

About: In a world characterized by the explosion of the Internet of Things (IOT), public sector agencies are being asked to make investments in technology that can increase efficiency, streamline processes, and improve services for their target customers. Join us to learn about the grant funding landscape for IOT-enabled projects.

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