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THE AMERICAS

Get Involved with Digital Equity Projects

Also: In depth examinations of funding for broadband, elections, energy programs, public safety, and education, a look at the grant landscape in Mexico, and more...

In This Issue

Letter From the Editor

You hold in your hands (or on your screen) another ambitious issue of *FUNDED The Americas*, and this edition promises to leave you with a better understanding of the grants landscape, along with tips for helping you take advantage of the opportunities that are out there.

Our cover article comes to us from Liz Shay, and although her day-to-day work has focused primarily on higher education, her article takes a step back to look at the nature and variety of digital equity funding across organizations and communities. On the topic of grants whose effects cut across communities, equitable and robust broadband access has the potential to function as a great leveler – across socio-economic as well as geographic divides. In his update this issue, Chris Barnes takes us through the newly released allocations from the long-awaited BEAD broadband program and how it can be applied to broadband initiatives across the US. And finally – and also of interest to everyone who applies for grants – Lynette Cale provides some tip for grantseekers everywhere on keeping stock information at the ready to streamline your proposal development efforts.

To keep you apprised of what's happening around the world of grants, we also have a number of deeper dives into programs with a more specific focus. Amanda Day provides an update on election funding, including an interesting development that broadens how Help America Vote Act funds can be used to address the threats to election security that have emerged in recent years. Joseph Phelan surveys three upcoming energy programs, including one specifically for rural areas and one for cybersecurity related to the energy sector. Shannon Day investigates the old faithful Justice Assistance Grant program, but this time looking at it through the lens of technology funding. And last but certainly not least, Patrick Riedy takes a look outside the Department of Education for opportunities in agencies ranging from the National Science Foundation to the Department of Commerce that can support educational institutions.

From her office in Mexico, Grants Office team member Irais Arenas provides some insight into how government contracts and grants (collectively described as "tenders") are managed there. She has written an additional article as well that probes the opportunities that are available in Mexico for research funding nationally.

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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in Grants Office

Get Involved with Digital Equity Projects

Dr. Liz Shay, Senior Grants Development Consultant

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law or BIL) has brought unprecedented funding to support broadband initiatives.

To go along with that funding, there are also huge investments being made in digital equity efforts. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is distributing this funding through two main programs: the State Digital Equity Grant Program and the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program. Both programs will support digital

equity projects that involve a wide range of organizations. With expected deadlines starting in the next several months and continuing over the next few years, now is an exciting time for your organization to participate in these efforts!

The goal of these digital equity programs is that all individuals in the United States have the information technology capacity needed to fully participate in the society and economy of the country. To reach this goal, it is important to consider digital literacy skills development (the ability to use technology to find, evaluate, organize, create, and communicate information) and digital inclusion. Key components of digital inclusion are affordability and availability of information and communication technologies. It is also important to create applications and online content designed to enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation, and collaboration, while also fostering digital literacy training, quality technical support, and basic awareness of measures to ensure online privacy and cybersecurity. Current and future digital equity grant programs are going to support projects that impact any or all of these important components of the overall initiative. Successful implementation of these projects will require organizations of all types to be involved in digital equity planning and implementation efforts.

The State Digital Equity Grant Program is a $1.5 billion effort through the NTIA over five years. States receive funding to promote the achievement of digital equity, support digital inclusion activities and build capacity for efforts by states relating to the adoption of broadband by residents of those states.

Timeline: States applied for planning funds in July 2022. They are finalizing those plans now. The capacity grant program for implementation is expected to be announced later in 2023. Once they receive funds, states will implement their digital equity plans, which may involve regranting some of their funds to other organizations to carry out some of the activities.

WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN DIGITAL EQUITY PROJECTS

Government agencies

States are currently working on their digital equity planning efforts for the State Digital Equity Grant Program, in collaboration with advisory committees and outreach. They will continue to be involved in these efforts throughout the life of this program. Local governments can be involved at the state level through participation in committees or implementation plans, but also think about what digital equity initiatives should be developed more locally and how you will be involved in that process.

Institutes of higher education

Institutions of higher education are often already involved in digital inclusion and digital literacy efforts for their faculty, staff, and students and may also be participating in state advisory committees. Expand those efforts to include the broader community around your campus to have a bigger impact.

K-12 schools

School districts and other K-12 entities are also already implementing digital equity projects for their students. Like with institutes of higher education, the IIJA funding can provide opportunities for you to expand your current programming to include your student's families and other members of the community.

Healthcare providers

A vital component of digital equity is access to telehealth services. Healthcare organizations can lead and participate in projects designed to increase access to these services for their patients.

Community organizations

Community organizations are uniquely positioned to collaborate with the communities that will be most impacted by digital equity efforts. Continue your outreach and advisory capacity for government agencies working on digital inclusion and digital literacy projects. Also, implement or expand your programs to increase access to technology and skills necessary for full participation in the digital world.

Due to the multifaceted nature of many of the projects that will be implemented in these digital equity grant programs, collaboration is going to be essential. States have already started some collaborations in their digital equity planning efforts, but many more will be needed to fully design and implement digital equity projects. Think about what pieces of these efforts your organization can lead and what areas you would need additional expertise. Reach out to organizations with complementary skills and knowledge to explore potential collaborative efforts.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED NOW

As previously mentioned, states are already working on digital equity planning efforts through the State Digital Equity Grant Program. They have committees with representatives of several types of organizations across their state to help with these efforts. Even if your organization is not currently involved, reaching out to this office can be a fantastic way to be a part of future planning and implementation efforts. You can find state-specific contact information at https://www.internetforall.gov/funding-recipients

The Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program is expected to open in later 2023. Now is the time to start planning projects for this program. Reach out to potential collaborators now and start regular informal brainstorming meetings. As you refine your ideas, start to plan out additional specifics so that you are ready to refine your ideas and apply when the program does open. Outside of the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program, these collaborations and brainstorming sessions can also open new opportunities for your organization. There may be efforts that one or more entities already have in place that can benefit from the increased involvement of other organizations. You may also discover that you are duplicating efforts between organizations and collaboration can allow you to have a larger impact for the same level of investment.

Whether you pursue digital equity grant funding or not, there is currently a huge focus on these kinds of efforts for the country. To achieve any level of digital equity, digital inclusion, and digital literacy projects will need to involve organizations from many different sectors working together. Now is a wonderful time for your organization to get started on or expand your digital equity programs and help reach this goal.

Program Snapshot

Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program

SUMMARY

The purpose of the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program is to award grants to support efforts to achieve digital equity, promote digital inclusion activities, and spur greater adoption of broadband among underserved populations. Eligible activities include:

- Developing and implementing digital inclusion activities that benefit covered populations.
- Facilitating the adoption of broadband by underserved populations to provide educational and employment opportunities to those populations.
- Implementing training programs for underserved populations that cover basic, advanced, and applied skills, or other workforce development programs.
- To make available equipment, instrumentation, networking capability, hardware, software, or digital network technology for broadband services to underserved populations at low or no cost.
- To construct, upgrade, expand, or operate new or existing public access computing centers for covered populations through community anchor institutions.

ELIGIBILITY

The following organizations are eligible to apply:

- A political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of a State, including an agency of a State that is responsible for administering or supervising adult education and literacy activities, or for providing public housing, in the State.
- An Indian Tribe, an Alaska Native entity, or a Native Hawaiian organization.
- A foundation, corporation, institution, or association that is—
  - a not-for-profit entity; and
  - not a school.
- A community anchor institution.
- A local educational agency.
- An entity that carries out a workforce development program
- A partnership between any of the entities above.

DEADLINE

Deadlines for this program have yet to be announced.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

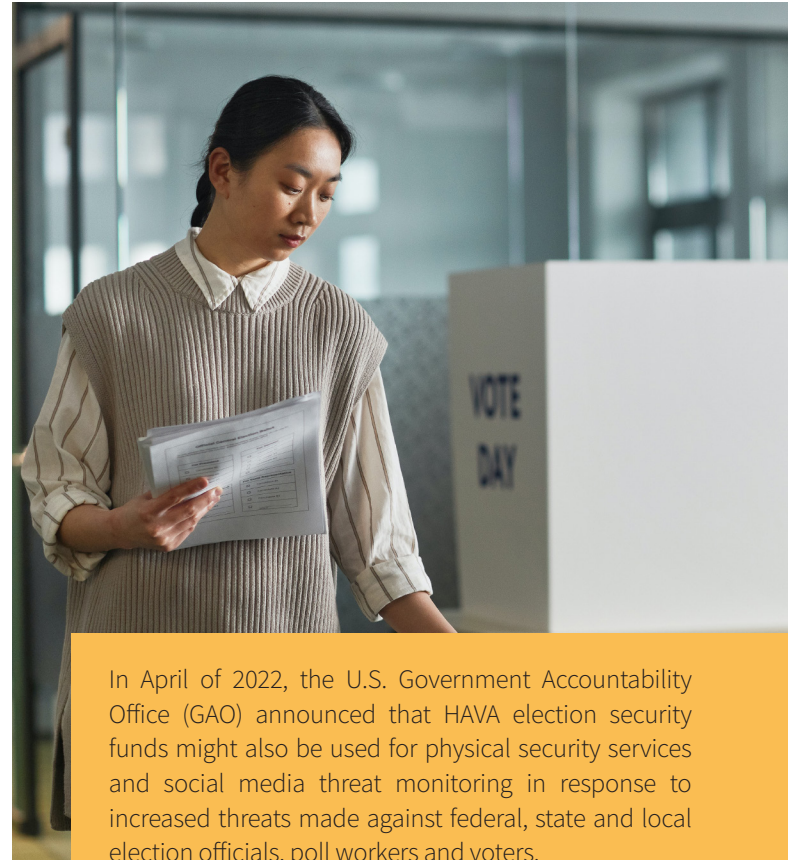https://www.internetforall.gov/program/digital-equity-act-programs

Grant Funding for Elections: How to Utilize State and Federal Funding to Improve Physical and Cybersecurity

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

Every year in the United States, citizens cast their ballots for the candidates of their choice in federal, state, and local elections. Voters rely on the security of election infrastructure to ensure that they can cast their votes safely and that all votes will be counted fairly. Unfortunately, physical threats against election workers have increased in the past several years, and more must be done to protect these individuals. Making voting facilities safe is important for workers and members of the public who visit to cast their ballots. In the past, states and local governments have implemented procedures and tools to keep the voting process safe and secure. In addition to physical safety measures like door locks, security cameras, and more, investments have also been made in election IT infrastructure to ensure that election information is safe from breaches and cyber threats. This includes investments in the modernization of voting equipment and election-related computer systems. To make further improvements in physical security and cybersecurity, state and local governments have the opportunity to apply for grant funding through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

HAVA ELECTION SECURITY GRANTS

The Help America Vote Act was created in 2002 and provides funds to U.S. states and territories. The HAVA law resulted in the creation of the Election Assistance Commission to oversee the grants. HAVA funds are formula grants that provide states with additional resources to improve the administration of elections, including enhancing technology and making certain election security improvements. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 has provided $75 million to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the

In April of 2022, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) announced that HAVA election security funds might also be used for physical security services and social media threat monitoring in response to increased threats made against federal, state and local election officials, poll workers and voters.

U.S. Virgin Islands. Funds are administered by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission and directly allocated to states. Further, states may choose to regrant funds to local governments at their discretion. It is also expected that HAVA funding will increase before the 2024 election cycle, allowing state and local governments to make further investments in election security.

Eligible use of these funds includes, but is not limited to:

- Voting Equipment
- Voting Processes
- Voting Registration Systems
- Election Auditing
- Cyber and Physical Security
- Voter Education
- Accessibility
- Cybersecurity Training for Election Officials
- Other Necessary investments

STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM (SHSP)

In addition to funds administered by the **U.S. Election Assistance Commission, the Department of Homeland Security** has officially designated that election infrastructure qualifies as critical infrastructure. In early 2023, DHS announced a change that could make a big difference for election offices around the U.S. Of the funds from the **State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP)**, three percent must be dedicated to election security, including physical security measures and cybersecurity. State and local election offices can use these funds to keep poll workers and voters safe by installing security cameras, door locks, and other physical security equipment. In addition, investments in cybersecurity will ensure fair and accurate election results.

LOOKING AHEAD

With the 2024 presidential election fast approaching, election security will be a major focus. Efforts by DHS, FEMA, and other organizations to secure more funding for election security is an important step in improving voting processes across the U.S. These investments are also a meaningful statement from the federal government that it understands threats of physical violence against voters and those who run our elections are on the rise and they are committed to creating safe environments.

Program Snapshot

2023 HAVA Election Security Funds

SUMMARY

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 provides payments to states for activities to improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including enhancing election technology and making election security improvements. Consistent with the requirements of HAVA, states may use this funding to

- Replace voting equipment that only records a voter's intent electronically with equipment that utilizes a voter-verified paper record.
- Implement a post-election audit system that provides a high level of confidence in the accuracy of the final vote tally.
- Upgrade election related computer systems to address cyber vulnerabilities identified through Department of Homeland Security, or similar scans or assessments of, existing election systems.
- Facilitate cybersecurity training for the state chief election official's office and local election officials.
- Implement established cybersecurity best practices for election systems; and
- Fund other activities that will improve the security of elections for the Federal office, including physical security services and social media threat monitoring.

ELIGIBILITY

Awards will be made to the entities eligible to receive federal assistance under Title I of HAVA, which includes the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. States may re-grant/distribute funds to local election districts/offices at their discretion.

DEADLINE

The deadline for states and territories to submit the narrative and budget was February 28, 2023. A similar deadline is anticipated, annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://www.eac.gov/payments-and-grants/election-security-funds
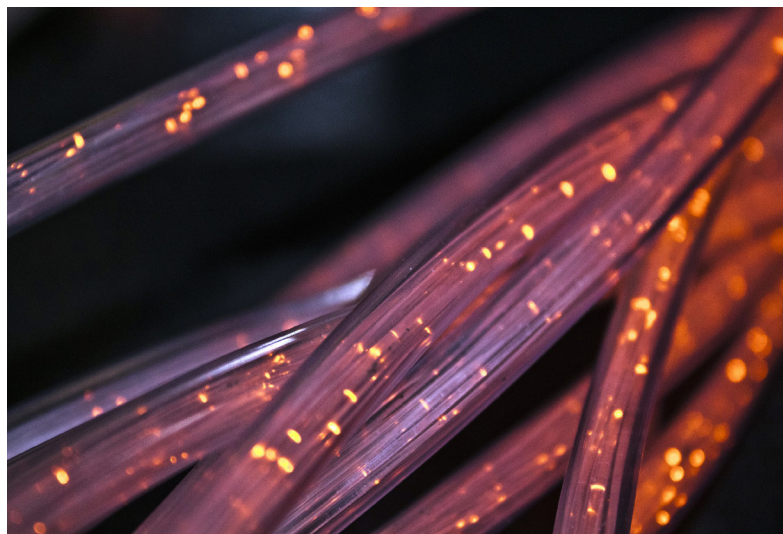
BEAD Allocations Are Here! Now What?

Dr. Chris Barnes, Senior Grants Development Consultant (State and Local Government)

On June 26, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced widely anticipated state allocations for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program. The BEAD program is the $42.45 billion broadband grant program created out of bipartisan infrastructure law that was signed into law by President Biden in November 2021.

BEAD is a unique broadband program. Unlike previous federal broadband programs, the NTIA will allocate funds to states who will then run their own competitive state-level BEAD programs. These state-level programs will provide awards to eligible municipal governments, service providers, non-profits, utility districts, and Tribal entities, with the ultimate purpose of funding projects that bring connectivity to:

- Unserved communities (80% of locations in the proposal area lack access to reliable 25Mbps/3Mbps)
- Underserved communities (80% of locations in the proposal area lack access to reliable 100Mbps/20Mbps service)
- Community anchor institutions ("CAIs"), such as schools, libraries, and hospitals, lacking access to 1Gbps service

While states have known that they would receive at least $100 million in funds to conduct their BEAD program, they did not know how much they would receive beyond that. This is because the allocations were in part based on the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) new broadband maps, designed to give a better picture of broadband availability across the country. After publishing a "pre-production" draft of the map in November 2022, the FCC published a revised map on May 30, 2023, which the NTIA then used as part of its calculations.

The allocation announcement marks an important milestone for the BEAD program, but it is just the beginning. States now have 180 days to prepare their Initial Proposal for submission to the NTIA (proposals will be due by December 27th). This proposal will, amongst other things, detail items such as:

- Long-term objectives for deploying broadband across the state
- The state's unserved and underserved locations as well as eligible CAIs
- The state's plan to competitively award subgrants
- Any other ongoing broadband deployment efforts within the state that are using federal and state funding

Once a state's Initial Proposal is approved by the NTIA, they will receive 20% of their allocation. Final Proposals will be due to the NTIA no later than a year after the approval of the Initial Proposal. After the Final Proposal has been approved, the remaining 80% of a state's funds will be released to its broadband office.

At this point, all states have received up to $5 million in BEAD planning funds, which they can use for a variety of activities, such as data collection, outreach to stakeholders across their state, employee training, and technical assistance.

WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW?

BEAD has very much been a "hurry up and wait" situation for those interested in pursuing these funds for broadband deployment projects in their communities. Unfortunately, that will still be the case in the coming months as state broadband offices continue to work on their required proposals and plans that then require approval from the NTIA.

In the meantime, there are things that potential subgrantees can do to prepare as their state broadband offices continue to navigate the BEAD process:

Engage your broadband office

States are required by the BEAD guidance to conduct outreach to local stakeholders as they develop and shape their competitive programs. Be on the lookout for listening sessions, local meetings, or other opportunities to connect with your state's broadband office. Moreover, watch your state's broadband office website closely, and sign up for its mailing list if possible so that you are looped into any new BEAD program developments.

Build local partnerships:

A fundable broadband project will need to demonstrate that there is buy-in at the local level. Whether you are a municipal government, service provider, or utility cooperative, it is important to reach out to potential partners and members of the local community who would be impacted by your project. That way, you can ensure that you can point to ample local support in your proposal.

Begin collecting data:

To demonstrate a need for your project, you will want to collect data to support it. That may mean reaching out to residents about connectivity challenges, surveying the community on connectivity speeds, and beginning to estimate how many possible subscribers your proposed broadband network would have or would reach.

This preparation will pay off when your state office finally opens its BEAD program and will ensure you will not be scrambling to collect information that you could have secured months prior, allowing for more time to think through the specifics of your project.

Unsure who to contact at your broadband office? The NTIA has contact information for each state's office available here: https://www.internetforall.gov/funding-recipients

Program Snapshot

Renew America's Schools Grant

SUMMARY

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law made a $500 million investment to improve Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Improvements at Public School Facilities. DOE aims to facilitate substantial additional investment, prioritize schools with high needs, minimize administrative burden, and build enduring capacity in local educational agencies (LEAs) and the states to maximize impact equitably and efficiently.

Through this Renew America's Schools Program, eligible entities are encouraged to consider projects that enable replicable and scalable impacts, create innovative, sustaining partnerships, leverage funding and economies of scale, target disadvantaged communities, improve student, teacher, and occupant health, enrich learning and growth, target schools that serve as community assets (e.g., neighborhood cooling centers or disaster recovery shelters), can be completed quickly, and are crafted thoughtfully within the context of public-school facilities (e.g., procurement restraints, construction windows, etc.).

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible entities are a consortium of—

- 1 local educational agency; and
- 1 or more—
  - schools.
  - nonprofit organizations that have the knowledge and capacity to partner and assist with energy improvements.
  - for-profit organizations that have the knowledge and capacity to partner and assist with energy improvements; or
  - community partners that have the knowledge and capacity to partner and assist with energy improvements.

DEADLINE

Concept papers were to be submitted by January 26, 2023. Full applications were to be submitted by April 21, 2023. A similar deadline is anticipated, annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/04/04/fact-sheet-the-biden-harris-action-plan-for-building-better-school-infrastructure/

Grants Office needs writers!

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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

Looking Beyond the US Department of Education: Top Federal Grants for K-12 Schools

Patrick Riedy, Grants Development Consultant (K-12 Education)

Grant-seeking can be an extremely competitive process for K-12 schools, especially if they limit themselves to grants available from their State's Department of Education or the U.S. Department of Education. To increase the possibilities of success, now is the perfect time to explore various federal grant opportunities outside the Department of Education that could supplement their funding. In this article, I will highlight some federal agencies and grant programs schools can take advantage of from other departments and agencies according to the type of project schools are hoping to fund.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) PROJECTS

The National Science Foundation (NSF) provides grants to support research and innovation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. Partnering with research institutions and institutes of higher education can be a fruitful strategy for K-12 schools seeking National Science Foundation (NSF) grants. By collaborating with these organizations on grants such as **Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST)**, schools can tap into their expertise, resources, and research capabilities to enhance their STEM education programs. Partnerships can involve joint curriculum development, teacher professional development, student mentoring, and access to cutting-edge facilities and technologies. Such collaborations not only strengthen grant proposals but also promote knowledge sharing, innovation, and a seamless educational pathway from K-12 to higher education. Through these partnerships, schools

can leverage the strengths of research institutions to create transformative learning experiences for students and advance STEM education.

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers grants that support initiatives related to school meals, nutrition education, and farm-to-school programs. K-12 schools can apply for funding to improve their meal programs, provide nutrition education to students and families, or establish partnerships with local farmers. In addition to these opportunities, USDA's Rural Development Office manages the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) program, which offers K-12 schools in rural areas an opportunity to leverage technology for educational and healthcare purposes. Through DLT grants, schools can access funding to implement real-time distance learning programs, expand virtual classrooms, and provide students with access to a broader range of educational opportunities, such as advanced STEM courses. Additionally, the program supports telemedicine initiatives, enabling schools to connect with healthcare professionals remotely and expand access to quality healthcare services for students and their families. By participating in the DLT program, K-12 schools can bridge the geographical divide, enhance educational outcomes, and improve healthcare access in rural communities.

Interested in learning more and preparing for DLT? Check out "Beat the Rush" by Lynnette Cale found on page 22!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS

The Department of Energy (DOE) provides an opportunity such as Renew America's School Program to support energy efficiency, renewable energy technology adoption, and improve public health. K-12 schools can apply for funding to implement energy-saving measures, such as repairs, renovations, or installations, conduct energy audits, or develop innovative partnerships focused on energy conservation and sustainable practices.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers grants to support environmental education and sustainability initiatives. In addition to grants that support educational and sustainability programming, K-12 schools can apply for grants such as the **Clean School Bus Program**, which aims to reduce children's exposure to harmful emissions and improve air quality by supporting projects that upgrade and replace older, more polluting school buses. Through this program, schools can receive grants to replace 15 to 50 diesel-fueled buses with low and zero-emission alternatives. By participating in the Clean School Bus Program, K-12 schools can contribute to a healthier and safer environment for students, drivers, and communities while promoting sustainable transportation practices.

SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY PROJECTS

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) offers grants that support programs related to health, wellness, nutrition, and mental health. K-12 schools can seek funding for initiatives such as school-based health clinics, nutrition education, substance abuse prevention, and mental health services. For example, the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) manages a grant program titled **Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education)**. Project AWARE is a grant program that supports K-12 schools implement comprehensive, evidence-based strategies to promote mental health awareness and well-being among students. This program provides funding to schools to develop and expand initiatives focused on mental health training, awareness campaigns, early intervention, and supportive services. By applying for Project AWARE grants, K-12 schools can enhance their capacity to address the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of students, creating a positive and inclusive learning environment. Through this program, schools can contribute to the overall well-being and success of their students, fostering resilience and promoting mental health for all.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) provides grants that focus on youth crime prevention, juvenile justice, and community safety. K-12 schools can seek funding for programs that promote school safety, prevent bullying and violence, or support restorative justice practices. An extremely popular program administered by the DOJ originates from their Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office, titled School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP). COPS SVPP provides grants to K-12 schools to create target-hardened buildings and prevent violence in educational settings. Through this program, schools can access funding to purchase and install technology upgrades that will improve school security and ensure the coordination of emergency management efforts between the school and local law enforcement agencies.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) State and Local Cybersecurity Program provides a valuable opportunity for K-12 schools to enhance their cybersecurity defenses and protect sensitive data. Through this program, States and territories were provided the opportunity to receive funds that they would pass along to eligible local government agencies, including schools, to access in the form of technical assistance, equipment, and training to strengthen their cybersecurity infrastructure, develop incident response plans, and educate staff and students about safe online practices. By participating in the NTIA State and Local Cybersecurity Program, schools can safeguard their digital environments, mitigate cyber threats, and ensure the privacy and security of student information. Seeing as this grant is a pass-through grant from NTIA to states, be sure to check on specific timelines and dates with your corresponding state agency.

NEXT STEPS

In anticipation of applying for federal grants, K-12 schools can take several proactive steps. Schools must take time and identify their specific needs and determine how grant funding can address those needs. It's also crucial to research available grants from different federal agencies to find the ones that align with the school's goals and priorities. To explore federal grant opportunities, visit grants.gov, the central repository for federal grants. Schools should also gather relevant data and evidence to support their grant proposals, such as student performance data, needs assessments, and program evaluation results. And, perhaps most importantly, schools should establish strong partnerships with community organizations, businesses, institutes of higher education, and other stakeholders to strengthen their applications and demonstrate collaborative efforts to achieve project goals.

Program Snapshot

Distance Learning And Telemedicine Program (DLT)

SUMMARY

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program is designed to provide access to education, training, and healthcare resources for rural Americans. The DLT program provides financial assistance to encourage and improve telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas using telecommunications, computer networks, and related advanced technologies that students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents can use. Grants may fund telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies that extend educational and medical applications into rural areas. Grants are intended to benefit end users in rural areas, who are often not in the same location as the educational or health care service source.

The DLT Grant Program is primarily focused on providing equipment that operates via telecommunications to rural end-users of telemedicine and distance learning. It is useful to keep in mind that while the equipment is eligible, it does not fund the telecommunications that connects that equipment. DLT does not fund communications links between sites (wireless or wireline), and it does not fund telecommunications or Internet connections. Grants (and eligible matching funds) can be expended only for the costs associated with the initial capital assets associated with the project.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants must be a legally incorporated organization, Indian tribe, or state or local unit of government. Applicants must also either operate a rural community facility or deliver distance learning or telemedicine services to entities that operate a rural community facility or to residents of rural areas. Additional Eligibility Criteria: Minimum Rurality Score - To be eligible to receive a grant, an application must receive a minimum of 20 points as an average score for all end-user sites included in the project.

DEADLINE

Applications were to be submitted by January 30, 2023. A similar deadline is anticipated, annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-programs/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants

Distance Learning And Telemedicine Program (DLT)

FUNDED ORGANIZATION
South Carolina Department of Corrections

PROJECT TITLE
Rural Development

AMOUNT FUNDED
$723,276

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
This Rural Development investment will be used to support Reducing Recidivism through distance learning, an initiative that uses distance learning to address criminogenic risk factors for offenders in 14 rural correctional institutions. Distance learning technology will be placed in the space dedicated to Programs, Reentry, and Educational Services. These criminogenic programs include educational programs, vocational programs, post-secondary enrollment, employability programs (and interviews), cognitive-based programs that target antisocial thinking and behaviors, life skills programs, and reentry services. The ultimate outcomes are reduced recidivism and reduced cost of incarceration for taxpayers. Each year, more than 11,000 offenders will have increased access to rehabilitative and educational services as a result of the project.

FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION
https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/usdard_dltchart10_22_2021.pdf

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE
https://www.doc.sc.gov/about_scdc/about.html

Knowing the innovation sector in Mexico, the new CONAHCYT

Irais Arenas, Grants Development Consultant (Mexico)

In Mexico, innovation, science, and technology are managed and directed by an entity that we know today as the National Council of Humanities, Science, and Technologies (CONAHCYT). Its mission is to promote and strengthen Mexico's scientific development and technological modernization through training high-level human resources, promoting and supporting specific research projects, and disseminating scientific and technical information for which it manages this year, a budget of MXN$ 35,637,178,522.

However, this entity is new to the country. It was not until April of this year that the Chamber of Deputies approved to eliminate of the National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT) and transformed it into the National Council of Humanities, Sciences, and Technologies (CONAHCYT), also included within its Board of Government to the Chancellery and the armed forces. Along with this change, the new General Law on Humanities, Sciences, Technologies, and Innovation was promulgated and approved during great controversy. The main discussions are three:

SCIENCE FOR WHOM.

According to the approved law, every Mexican has the right to "enjoy the benefits of scientific development." Under this principle, the State must promote the dissemination and investigation of scientific knowledge whose ultimate goals include social good. The 26 CONAHCYT public centers with the budgetary authority to choose their research projects lost it with the new law. Instead, a council of State Secretariats and state governments decides what research would be done in the country.

THE MILITARY AND THE MARINES ARE IN THE COUNCIL.

The board that defines the destinations of the science budgets no longer includes the 26 CONACYT public centers but a panel that consists of the State Secretariats and even the National Army.

CONACYT, REPLACED.

On its website with explanations about the law, CONAHCYT ensures that the council remains. It is replaced by another name, the National Council of Humanities, Sciences, Technologies, and Innovation. The changes seem aesthetic, but they are not. In reality, they refer to the "humanist" approach that the new council will have when deciding what type of scientific research should be done in Mexico.

In general, the new CONAHCYT proposes:

- The elimination of all subsidies within the CONAHCYT
- The scholarships will prioritize researchers from public universities
- Incorporation of the humanities into the guiding principles to "vindicate the humanistic nature of the country's scientific and technological policy, as well as the human right to science"
- It will have a Governing Board made up of the Military, the Navy, the Secretariats of Agriculture and Rural Development, Welfare, Infrastructure, Communications and Transportation, Culture, Economy, Public Education, Energy, Finance and Public Credit, Environment and Natural Resources, Foreign Relations, and Health, which will interfere in the budget and issues on the development of science and technology in the country
- Academics and scientists will not have a vote in CONAHCYT's decisions
- Implementation of National Strategic Programs (PRONACES), in which care, prevention, and diagnosis of specific national problems will be sought, which require urgent solutions, and in which the knowledge generated from the research can be applied
- It will continue to be a decentralized body, not sectorized, with legal personality, assets, and autonomy
- Only these federal government representatives will have a voice and vote. In contrast, the voices of scientific researchers and academics may only be heard if the Governing Board requests it

Despite these controversies, the law also presents us with an encouraging panorama by pointing out that the federation, states, and municipalities, through the affiliated institutions, must apply public policies aimed at carrying out, promoting, and supporting training, research, dissemination, and development of projects in the humanities, sciences, technologies, and innovation.

If the new law is the way to help the country to improve its innovation and technology, it cannot be said. Mexico performed best in the Global Innovation Index of the World Intellectual Property Organization in 2020 and 2021, reaching position 55; in 2022, it was moved to position 58. In addition, UNESCO recommends that each country allocate at least 1% of its gross domestic product to research and development; in Mexico, the budget allocated to science and technology is around .6%. The new law and council have a long way to go and a lot to prove.

How does the tender system work in Mexico?

Irais Arenas, Grants Development Consultant (Mexico)

Tenders in Mexico are processes that allow the State to cover its operational needs and comply with the transparency standards requested by the international community. Government acquisitions, leases, services, and public works are carried out through a process in which government agencies hire suppliers to meet the goals and objectives of the budgetary programs.

A contracting procedure involves identifying how a government agency will carry out an acquisition, lease, or service of a certain product offered by an external provider. This procedure can be of three types:

- **Public bidding:** open invitation through the announcement of a call to all those interested in registering as participants to be suppliers of the Federal Government
- **Invitation to at least three people:** type of procedure that, through a tender, restricts the number of participants to three people
- **Direct award:** consists of assigning a contract, without public bidding, to a supplier

In this sense, according to Article 26 of the Law on Public Sector Acquisitions, Leases, and Services, "acquisitions, leases, and services will be awarded, as a general rule, through public bidding, by public call." Also, Article 41 of the same law establishes the exceptions to which agencies and entities may contract without being subject to public tender and through invitation or direct award, for example, when the participant has the ownership or the exclusive licensing of patents and copyrights. The tender system in Mexico is operated by an electronic platform known as COMPRANET, in which people, companies of all sizes, and foreign companies can register.

In general, tenders have five stages:

- **Announcement.** The moment in which the public notice is made about the intention of the government agency to acquire a good or service, the wording of the specific content of all the characteristics and requirements that must be covered. The call must also include the bases or requirements for companies to participate and the corresponding annexes
- **Clarification meeting.** This second stage of the tender seeks that the companies clear up all their doubts, clarify

any situation that is not correctly detailed, and allows the calling entities to correct any error that may have occurred or any erroneous information that may have been given during the tender announcement

- **Integration of proposals.** The companies must compile all the documents requested in the call to present them promptly. The proposals must be integrated or constituted strictly following the requirements of the call without omitting or adding any element
- **Presentation of proposals.** The proposals must be delivered within the period stipulated for it. Submitting proposals can be done in three ways:
  - *Physical.* The proposals are delivered in a sealed envelope that guarantees their inviolability until their public opening, which is carried out to corroborate the documents that are delivered, and that pass to the second stage
  - *Electronically.* This type of presentation must be made using electronic means accepted by the convening agency and qualified as safe and reliable for both parties
  - *Mixed.* Sometimes, the convening agencies request that the proposal be submitted electronically and physically. The physical proposal will be taken as real if differences are found between the two
- **Evaluation and final decision.** When all the proposals are in place, the corresponding jury proceeds to evaluate them to determine which of them meets the needs of the convening agency. During this process, companies can only wait until the moment of final decision

Tenders play a crucial role in the distribution of financial resources in Mexico. Article 134 of the Mexican constitution provides for a general policy guideline for public procurement that is mandatory for the entire Federal Public Administration when determining the acquisitions, leases, and disposals of all types of goods, provision of services of any nature, and the contracting of work that they carry out, be awarded or carried out through public tenders using a public call so that proposals are freely submitted to ensure the State the best available conditions in terms of price, quality, financing, opportunity, and other pertinent circumstances.

State And Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)

SUMMARY

Funding from the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) helps eligible entities address cybersecurity risks and threats to information systems owned or operated by—or on behalf of—state, local, and territorial (SLLT) governments. The Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requires grant recipients to develop a Cybersecurity Plan, establish a Cybersecurity Planning Committee to support development of the Plan, and identify projects to implement utilizing SLCGP funding. To support these efforts, recipients are highly encouraged to prioritize the following activities, all of which are statutorily required as a condition of receiving a grant:

- Developing the Cybersecurity Plan.
- Implementing or revising the Cybersecurity Plan.
- Paying expenses directly relating to the administration of the grant, which cannot exceed 5% of the amount of the grant award.
- Assisting with allowed activities that address imminent cybersecurity threats confirmed by DHS; and
- Other appropriate activities as noted in the funding notice.

ELIGIBILITY

All 56 states and territories, including any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, are eligible to apply for SLCGP funds. States are required to pass down 80% of total funding to local and tribal governments which will then apply directly to their State Administrative Agency for funding.

DEADLINE

State/territory applications and plans were to be submitted by November 15, 2022, by 5:00 p.m., EST. States will apply for FY23 funding in late summer of 2023. Local deadlines vary by state.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://www.cisa.gov/state-and-local-cybersecurity-grant-program

https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/state-local-cybersecurity-grant-program

To learn more about grant funding for cybersecurity, register for our upcoming Grantscast, "Cyber Attacks are on the Rise, Stand above the Crowd and Strike them down with Fundable Cybersecurity Solutions."

Beat the Rush-Planning for grants and the benefits of having "canned" projects

**Lynnette Cale,
Grants Development Consultant**

You're rushing against the clock to finish and submit a grant before the deadline. You hope that your internet or computer doesn't crash and that no mistakes or missing information prevents your application from being accepted. What makes it even worse, this isn't the first time you have found yourself racing the clock to get a grant submitted. The good news is it could be your last time. A few simple changes along with an understanding of how grant timelines and cycles work can help ensure a smoother, less stressful process.

Many grants- federal, state, and foundation, operate on cycles. Federal and state grants may be one-time, annual, or multi-year grants. Foundations may have one or more application periods per year. Grants may open for short periods or during busy times, leaving applicants with little time to plan, prepare, write, and review the proposal. Learning the funding cycle and application periods for grants of interest is necessary to enable you to apply promptly and budget the time needed to plan and apply when the grant is open.

Knowing the grant cycles along with proactive planning and preparation allows grant applicants to apply on time with less stress and more well-thought-out, accurate, competitive grants, increasing your chances of having an award-winning proposal.

Start by keeping important documents and accounts up to date and in one centralized location. Most grants, especially government grants, ask for the same basic information. Having this information updated and easily accessible will save time and energy at the beginning of the application process. Information such as your SAM.gov account, tax-exempt number and most recent certificate, organizational chart, last annual report and budget, organization mission and vision statements, and FEIN number are important to have accessible and updated. Out-of-date or expired registrations and information can delay the application process and take weeks to update. Planning can prevent delays and denials.

Keeping important documents up to date leads to the next point, keep track of important dates. Make note of renewal/expiration dates for important documents such as your SAM.gov account, tax exemption certificate, etc. Also, make note of estimated posting dates for grants and grant deadlines. Many grants open and close in cycles. Becoming aware of these estimated time frames and making note of them will help you anticipate and look for them each year. You can also subscribe to lists and email notifications for grant postings and forecasts. Grant websites such as Grants.gov, agency-specific websites (such as SAMSHA. gov), and foundation websites post their current, upcoming, and past grants for the year. Making note of these deadlines and grants of interest will also help plan and manage the application timeline. Once a grant is posted, there is a limited time to apply. Long-standing grants, such as the USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine grant, often require similar information and documents from year to year. Knowing the estimated timeframe for the grant application period and gathering information based on what has been historically requested for the grant in advance of the application opening can help ease the stress of the application process and deadlines, especially during busy periods or short application windows.

Additional planning and preparation options, as opportunities and time allow, include having a team assembled for the grant program in advance of approval, having quotes for services, equipment, hiring, and seeking additional or supplemental funding opportunities as needed for the project.

Know what kinds of grants, funders, and projects you are interested in. Cast a smaller, more focused net when searching for grants. This will help you use your limited time to search and apply for grants that specifically meet your needs. Have "canned," ready-to-go project ideas waiting and fleshed out. These projects should be well thought out and address a specific, unmet need for your area, organization, and demographic. Having a prepared problem statement, place of action, general timeline, budget, staffing plan, and sustainability plan drafted will allow you to focus your search on relevant funders and grant opportunities and start with the framework already in progress allowing you to focus on adding specific information, modifying your information to fit the application, gathering additional documents and information, and reviewing and proofreading the application for completeness, competitiveness, and comprehension. If you have applied for the grant in the past but were not funded, some grantors will allow you to request feedback on your application. This allows you to make any corrections and improvements to re-apply in the future or to use when seeking funds elsewhere.

Grant cycles vary by funders and projects; however, spring and late fall are busier for grants. Using the slower periods throughout the year to prepare, update information, make note of upcoming important dates, and plan will help reduce stress, focus attention on areas of greatest need and timelines, and improve your ability to apply and produce competitive, well-planned grant applications. Taking simple, proactive steps and planning can help reduce stress and increase your chances for successful grant applications.

Program Snapshot

Cops School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP)

SUMMARY

The Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence Act of 2018 (STOP School Violence Act of 2018) gave the COPS Office authority to provide awards to improve security at schools and on school grounds in the jurisdiction of the grantee through evidence-based school safety programs.

Anticipated outcomes of SVPP awards include improved information sharing with local law enforcement; increased interaction and improved communications between law enforcement and school officials; reduced notification times to law enforcement; improved response time to threats and events; accurate identification of danger and follow-up; increased knowledge of and use of community policing principles; and increased school safety and sustainability planning efforts. In FY2023, funding will be available for the following school safety measures:

- Acquisition and installation of technology for expedited notification to law enforcement during an emergency.
- Coordination with local law enforcement.
- Placement and use of metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other deterrent measures.
- Training for local law enforcement officers to prevent school violence.
- Any other measure that the COPS Office Director determines may provide a significant security improvement.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants are states, units of local government, Indian tribes, and public agencies (e.g., School districts, including public charter schools and school districts with a single school; School boards; and Law enforcement agencies.).

DEADLINE

Applications were to be submitted by May 17, 2023. A similar deadline is anticipated, annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://cops.usdoj.gov/svpp

Funded Project Highlight

Cops School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP)

FUNDED ORGANIZATION
Charleston County

PROJECT TITLE
Bolstering School Security

AMOUNT FUNDED
$435,013

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Charleston County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) and Charleston County School District (CCSD) announce the United States Department of Justice awarded the county a School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) grant worth $435,013. The funding is intended to improve school security by helping students and teachers reduce exposure to risks, prevent acts of violence, and quickly recognize and respond to violent attacks. The SVPP grant will be used in Charleston County for the following equipment and technology upgrades in schools throughout the district from now until September 30, 2020:

- Electronic front door locks & intercoms;
- Keypad door-release devices for first responders; and
- Integration of CCSD data into Charleston County's Alastar situational awareness tool (to learn about Alastar, visit the company's website www.alastar.com).

FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION
https://www.ccsdschools.com/cms/lib/SC50000504/Centricity/domain/119/strategy_communications/press%20releases/201819releases/CCSO%20CCSD%20SVPP%20Grant%20PR%20111418.pdf
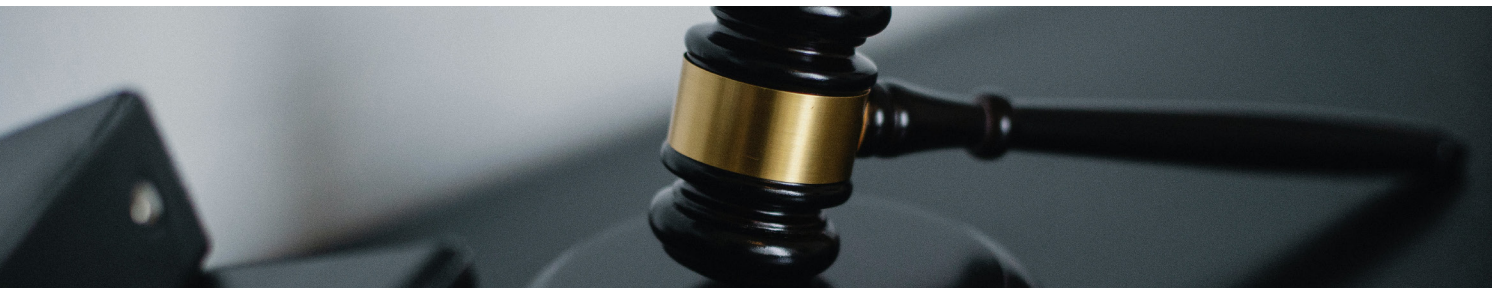
ORGANIZATION WEBSITE
https://charlestoncounty.org/

Funding Technology in the Criminal Justice System

Shannon M. Day, Senior Grants Development Consultant (Public Safety)

Technology is used across the criminal justice spectrum to streamline processes, ensure compliance, and protect people and their data. Gone are the days of hand-written police reports faxed to the District Attorney's office.

We all know how important technology is, but equipment ages, technology advances, and sometimes we don't know how to fund it. Federal and state grantmakers provide funding to help those working within the criminal justice system keep ahead of the curve or at least keep abreast with it.

One of these grant programs is the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. Each year, the Department of Justice offers formula and discretionary funding. This article will focus on the former, also called Jag Local[1]. To determine allocation eligibility and funding amounts, the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics utilizes three-year crime averages[2]. You can check if your city or county is on the list here. Don't fret if you're not on the list; this means you apply through your state administering agency for discretionary JAG funding.

Each year, the Department of Justice determines priority areas JAG recipients should focus on to support, enhance, or improve operations in law enforcement, prosecution and courts, prevention and education, corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, crime victim and witness programs, mental health, behavioral health, and crisis intervention, and planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs. In 2023, these priority areas are:

- Advancing Justice System Reform Efforts
- Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities
- Preventing and Combating Hate Crimes
- Crime and Violence Reduction Strategies
- Community-Based Violence Intervention (CVI) Approaches

While it's recommended that grant proposals address these areas, JAG funding is quite flexible, may be used for a wide range of initiatives[3], and can be very tech friendly. Just a few examples include:

- Community safety - purchasing gunfire detection technology.
- Training and professional development - supporting virtual reality de-escalation training.
- Drug response and enforcement - purchasing fentanyl and methamphetamine detection equipment, including handheld instruments.
- Information sharing - developing programs to improve criminal justice information systems (including automated fingerprint identification systems) to assist law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and corrections organizations.
- Corrections - purchasing of managed access systems and other mitigation technologies to prevent, detect, seize, or stop the presence and use of contraband cellphones within correctional facilities.

When developing your proposal, the important thing to remember is how the technology your agency needs will help you meet your goals and better serve your community.

1. Allocations. Bureau of Justice Assistance. (n.d.). https://bja.ojp.gov/program/jag/fy-2023-allocations
2. Justice assistance grant (JAG) program, 2021 - Bureau of Justice Statistics. (n.d.). https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/jagp21.pdf
3. Purposes for which funds awarded under the Edward Byrne Memorial ... (n.d.-b). https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/jag-use-of-funds.pdf

Grants Office launches the first edition of "The Global Grant Funding Landscape, 2023-2025", written by our global team of grants intelligence experts.

This analysis aims to provide business, government, and institutional leaders with a broader recognition and appreciation for the global outlook of grant funding in the years ahead.

INSIGHTS TO BE GAINED:

- How much grant funding is available around the world?
- What countries have the most money available?
- What organizations are receiving and spending these grant dollars?
- What is the source of these grant dollars in each country?
- How much funding is available through short-term stimulus packages and how much will continue beyond 2025?

Full analysis and additional resources available HERE.

Program Snapshot

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Local Program

SUMMARY

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. The JAG Program provides states and units of local governments with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution and court programs, prevention and education programs, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, crime victim and witness initiatives, and planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs. JAG funds may be used for state and local initiatives, technical assistance, strategic planning, research and evaluation (including forensics), data collection, training, personnel, equipment, forensic laboratories, supplies, contractual support, and criminal justice information systems that will improve or enhance areas such as: law enforcement programs, prosecution and court programs, prevention and education programs, and crime victim and witness programs.

In FY 2023, BJA will be focusing nationally on the following priority areas:

- Advancing Justice System Reform Efforts
- Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities
- Preventing and Combating Hate Crimes
- Crime and Violence Reduction Strategies
- Community Based Violence Intervention (CVI) Approaches

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants are limited to those units of local government appearing on the FY 2023 Allocation list: https://bja.ojp.gov/program/jag/fy-2023-allocations. Additional law enforcement agencies, public entities, and non-profit organizations may apply to these applicants for sub-grants.

DEADLINE

In FY 2023, applications will be submitted to DOJ in a two-step process. Step 1: Applicants will submit an SF-424 and an SF-LLL in Grants.gov by August 24, 2023, 8:59 PM ET. Step 2: Applicants will submit the full application, including attachments, in JustGrants by August 31, 2023, 8:59 PM ET. A similar deadline is anticipated annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2023-171790

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) State Program

FUNDED ORGANIZATION
Broward County

PROJECT TITLE
2020 Broward County's Edward Byrne JAG Project

AMOUNT FUNDED
Between $500,000 and $999,999.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
This JAG award will be used to support criminal justice initiatives that fall under one or more of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) allowable program areas. Funded programs or initiatives may include multijurisdictional drug and gang task forces, crime prevention and domestic violence programs, courts, corrections, treatment, justice information sharing initiatives, or other programs aimed at reducing crime and/or enhancing public/officer safety.

FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION
https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/awards/15pbja-21-gg-01376-jagx

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE
https://www.broward.org/Pages/Welcome.aspx

Upcoming Energy Programs

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

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act include many opportunities for energy-related grant initiatives. In fact, it is overwhelming to consider the sheer volume of programs made available over the past couple of years and will continue to be created as more information is known. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is the federal grantmaker tasked with administering a number of these research and development, demonstration, and deployment programs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is another popular grantmaker for energy-specific programs. These funds are available to nonprofits, all forms of government agencies, private businesses, and even individuals.

As for the near future, there are three specific programs worth diving a little deeper into, as they either have firm deadlines or are expected to open in the coming weeks. The first comes from the Inflation Reduction Act and more specifically through the USDA.

The Empowering Rural America (New ERA) program is intended to help rural electric cooperatives transition to clean, affordable, and reliable energy. Rural, as defined by USDA, means a service territory where at least 50 percent of its consumers are

rural. As far as eligible purchases are concerned, this program will fund generation and transmission systems improvements, any renewable energy, zero-emission, and carbon capture storage systems. The USDA has emphasized that New ERA is designed to be flexible, by providing an example that cooperatives can seek funding for renewable and zero-emission systems that eliminate aging, obsolete, or expensive infrastructure, or they can change their purchased-power mixes to support cleaner portfolios, manage stranded assets, and transfer to clean energy.

The USDA requires a letter of interest by August 31, 2023, before sending applications to the highest-ranking rural electric cooperatives.

The New ERA program will have three categories to make sure cooperatives only compete against similar-sized cooperatives.

- Category 1: Total utility plant value equal to or more than $500 million
- Category 2: Total utility plant value of more than $200 million and less than $500 million
- Category 3: Total utility plant value equal to or less than $200 million

There will be two funding streams. Loans will be set either at the U.S. Treasury rate or a fixed rate as low as two percent, while grants will cover 25 percent of the total project costs. There is also an opportunity for a cooperative to take advantage of a combination of the two. In that scenario, applicants can propose to refinance debt related to a stranded asset if the applicant utilizes the refinancing savings to fund an eligible project.

To learn more about grant funding for energy efficiency solutions, register for our upcoming Grantscast, "Funding Your Safety, Sustainability, and Emergency Preparedness Window Film Projects with Grants."

The Rural and Municipal Utility Advances Cybersecurity Grant and Technical Assistance Program from the DOE is expected to open this summer. This program will provide grants and technical assistance to rural electric cooperatives, municipally owned electric utilities, small investor-owned utilities, and state-owned utilities to protect against, detect, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity threats. At the end of last year, the DOE released a request for information posting, allowing interested parties to provide detailed information as to what a notice of funding opportunity will look like. This program is still in wait-and-see mode, but it certainly will draw plenty of enthusiasm when it officially opens.

The final program is called the **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program**, which required a pre-award information sheet to be submitted by July 31, 2023. This program will essentially provide direct funding to states, units of local governments, and tribes to implement strategies to reduce fossil fuel emissions, reduce the total energy use of the eligible entity, improve overall energy efficiency in the transportation and building sectors, and build a clean energy economy with a heightened focus on disadvantaged communities by promoting equity and inclusion in workforce opportunities. Local and tribal governments will have until January 31, 2024, to take advantage of these funds, while states were required to submit their paperwork by July 31. To learn more about this program, including specific allocations to states, cities, counties, towns, and tribes, visit here: https://www.energy.gov/scep/eecbg-program-formula-grant-application-hub

These three funding options are just a sample of the opportunities out there for all kinds of potential applicants. The list continues to grow as more knowledge about deadlines and specific application instructions are announced on grants.gov or DOE and USDA websites, so be sure to monitor both on a regular basis.

Upcoming Grantscasts

New events are added weekly. Visit grantsoffice.info/webcasts for the most updated information.

Funding Your Safety, Sustainability, and Emergency Preparedness Window Film Projects with Grants

A Grants Office Production, sponsored by NGS Films and Graphics

Date: August 8, 2023, at 2pm ET

About: If you are looking to improve safety, sustainability, and emergency preparedness in your school, non-profit, or government buildings, join us to learn how window films can help you achieve these goals, as well as how to secure grant funding to make it happen.

Register HERE

Cyber Attacks are on the Rise, Stand above the Crowd and Strike them down with Fundable Cybersecurity Solutions

A Grants Office Production, sponsored by CrowdStrike

Date: August 24, 2023, at 2pm ET

About: Malicious actors are eager to get a hold of data and state and local agencies, k-12 schools, institutes of higher education, and healthcare facilities are all scrambling to protect against the next assault. Join us to learn about cybersecurity solutions, funding opportunities to purchase those solutions, and how you can best position yourself to receive those monies.

Register HERE

Recent Grantscasts

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

A Grants Office Production, sponsored by Samsara

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 OOT-enabled projects.

Access HERE

The State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

A Grants Office Production, sponsored by Carahsoft and Okta

About: The SLCGP is a historic $1 billion investment in improving the nation's cybersecurity posture by empowering state, local, and territorial governments to address cybersecurity risks and threats to the information systems they own and operate. Join us to learn about the SLCGP and how you can best position your organization to receive those funds.

Access HERE

View our entire library of FREE upcoming and recent Grantscasts online in our Grantscast Library.

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Our team of grants experts in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Australia, are ready to support your global grant needs.

Nonmarket

Market

02 Strategy
Expert support for firm mobilization to capitalize on forthcoming funding

01 Intelligence
Actionable information on the technology-friendly funding landscape

03 Timing
Actual and projected time frames for administration and disbursement of funds

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MARKET AND NONMARKET

BENEFITS OF GRANTS SUPPORT

04 Penetration
Customer-facing events and campaigns to generate new and expanded contacts

05 Targeting
Enhanced discovery of grant-ready customer business objectives

06 Sales
Market capture driven by new/increased customer budget for target solutions