

FUNDED

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Alternatives to Federal Funding: Foundation Grants and State Funding

Also: Post-Award Considerations, School Safety Grants, an Update to E-Rate, NIH Funding, Tribal Funding, and more...



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Letter From the Editor

It would be an understatement to say that there is a good deal of change afoot across the landscape of grant funding, particularly at the federal level. As institutional leaders across the country work to understand and respond to new and evolving priorities and rules, I want to assure you that the Grants Office team will be here at every step to help you navigate your grantseeking journey.

Grants Office is here to empower you. We have a range of paid grants support options that have enabled our clients to capture billions of dollars in funding over the years and are more relevant than ever in today's climate. We offer valuable information and timely updates on grant funding through our website, grantsoffice.com, through our publication FUNDED (which you're reading right now), and through our free, live Grantscasts.

In this issue of FUNDED, our team has outdone itself with updates on the latest in federal funding, as well as strategies for broadening your search to include state and foundation opportunities. No matter what type of organization you support – in government, education, or healthcare, in the US or Canada – you will find relevant and actionable insights in the pages that follow.

I mentioned in the February issue that we are developing a **new platform for grant research and proposal management**, including many features we think you'll find useful in building your organization's grants development capabilities. Much more will be coming out on that as we get closer to our launch in early June. It's going to be a game changer – built by grants people for grants people!

We continue to maintain a [dedicated web page on the latest developments in federal funding](#) rules and changes to the **grants.gov** publication procedures, the review and award process, and our expectations for how a proactive grants strategy can pay dividends now and into the future.

In the meantime, be sure to check out the other timely and informative **Grantscasts** our team will be presenting on, or view 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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Conducting a Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment for Perkins V

Christina Fernandez, Grants Development Consultant (Education)

The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) was signed into law on July 31, 2018, reauthorizing the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV). One of the most significant updates in its reauthorization was the introduction of the comprehensive local needs assessment (CLNA). The local needs assessment must be completed by each eligible recipient of federal Perkins funds, which includes individual school districts, school districts that are part of a consortium, and community colleges. This requirement was put in place to help institutions refine their Career and Technical Education (CTE) offerings and identify areas where targeted improvements can be made to better serve their students and align with local economic needs. The CLNA is the foundation of the local Perkins application for both secondary and post-secondary institutions.

The assessment must be completed or updated every two years and requires a great deal of planning and coordination. The process may seem overwhelming, but by breaking it down into manageable steps, institutions can make their assessment both meaningful and efficient. While CLNA processes differ by state, there are commonalities that are required at the federal level. This article will include tips on those common requirements, such as data collection, stakeholder consultation, and program alignment.

DATA COLLECTION AND EVALUATION

A strong Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) starts with comprehensive data collection. Institutions must analyze multiple data points, including student performance, CTE performance indicators, and labor market trends, to make informed decisions about program development and funding priorities. One way to evaluate student performance under Perkins V is by comparing CTE learners to non-CTE learners. When comparing these two student groups, LEAs will want to

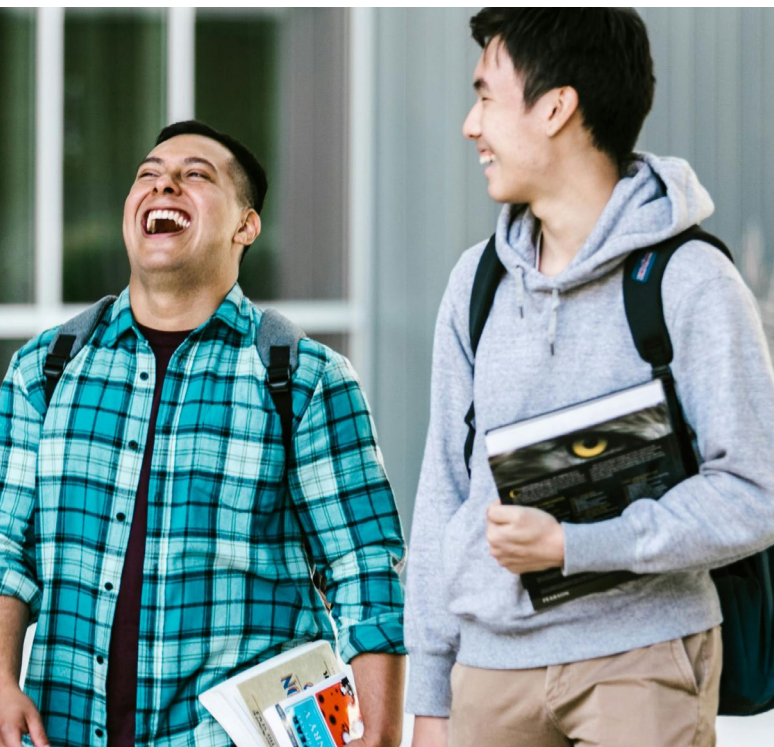


look at graduation rates, student academic performance, and post-secondary placement. Additionally, student data should be disaggregated by CTE program area and by subpopulations, including gender, low-income status, English learners, and migrant students. While State Education Agencies often provide much of this information, it is the responsibility of the institution to analyze and interpret the data to identify disparities, funding priorities, and areas for improvement.

Beyond student performance, institutions must also evaluate the size, scope, and quality of their CTE programs to ensure they meet local and regional workforce needs. When conducting this evaluation, institutions should consider the following:

- **Size:** Review enrollment data to determine which programs attract students and identify any barriers preventing students from enrolling or completing their programs.
- **Scope:** Ensure programs integrate academic, technical, and employability skills to provide a well-rounded education aligned with industry requirements.
- **Quality:** Compare program offerings to determine whether some provide stronger skill development opportunities than others.

Taking a structured, data-driven approach to program evaluation will help institutions maintain high-quality, relevant CTE programs that support student success and align with workforce demands.



STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Stakeholder involvement is required and crucial. Meaningful engagement ensures that programs are aligned with workforce needs and community priorities. Institutions must consult a broad and diverse group of stakeholders throughout the entire process—from the initial needs assessment to application development and ongoing implementation. To identify relevant stakeholders, start with those already connected to your programs, such as members of industry advisory boards, sector partnerships, community organizations, and parent-teacher associations. These existing relationships provide a strong foundation for engagement. After identifying those already engaged in your programs, applicants must also involve the following key stakeholders:

- Representatives of secondary and postsecondary CTE programs, including:
 - Teachers, instructors, and faculty
 - Career guidance and advisory professionals
 - Administrators, principals
 - Specialized instructional support personnel and paraprofessionals
- Representatives from workforce development councils
- Regional economic development organizations and local business leaders

- Parents and students
- Representatives of special populations
- Representatives from organizations serving out-of-school youth, homeless children and youth, and at-risk youth
- Representatives of Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations, where applicable

Expanding your network can help bring in diverse perspectives and ensure that all groups affected by CTE programs have a voice in shaping their development and implementation.

ANALYSIS AND ALIGNMENT

To ensure students are prepared for high-demand careers, CTE programs must align with both current and future labor market needs. Since the CLNA serves as the foundation for planning activities in the local application, institutions should take a forward-thinking approach. This involves analyzing state and regional labor boards to identify in-demand industries, collaborating with local businesses to understand workforce skill gaps, and incorporating those skills into CTE programs. Applicants will also want to monitor emerging industry trends to keep programs relevant and ensure their student enrollments are expected to match the projected number of job openings.

Once these industries have been identified, the next step will be to determine which should be prioritized. The six required uses of Perkins V funds should be integrated into this prioritization process to maximize the impact of federal funding. For CTE programs that are no longer aligned to state or regional labor markets, applicants will want to determine if they will discontinue or locally fund the program. A proper justification must be given for phasing out any program.

CONCLUSION

Completing the CLNA requires a strategic approach that incorporates data collection, stakeholder engagement, program evaluation, and alignment with industry needs. By focusing on these key areas, institutions can ensure their CTE programs remain relevant, high-quality, and responsive to both student and workforce demands. For institutions without an established data collection or evaluation process, now is the time to start! You can begin by setting clear goals and developing a system for tracking student outcomes, employer needs, and program effectiveness. You can also begin by inviting stakeholders to join your CTE program conversations and collaborate with other education agencies to access relevant data and insights. Through these efforts, institutions can maximize their Perkins V funding to expand student opportunities and strengthen their local workforce.

Program Snapshot

Strengthening CTE for the 21st Century (Carl D. Perkins V) Formula Grants

SUMMARY

The purpose of Perkins V is to develop more fully the academic knowledge and technical and employability skills of secondary and postsecondary education students who elect to enroll in career and technical education programs and programs of study.

ELIGIBILITY

State Education Agencies (SEAs) are eligible to apply for these funds. It is expected by the Department of Education that states will regrant awarded monies to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and Post-secondary institutions with CTE programs.

DEADLINE

States are to submit applicable items to the [Perkins State Plan Portal](#) no later than May 9, 2025. NOTE: If your State includes Perkins as part of its Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) combined State plan, it is instead required to submit any narrative revisions as part of their WIOA State plan submissions to the WIOA State Plan Portal. For more information about deadlines for Perkins funding to LEAs or Post-secondary institutions, please see your SEA website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more information about submitting Perkins V state Plans, visit <https://cte.ed.gov/grants/state-formula-grants/state-plan>



Tribal Funding Series Part 2: The Importance of Public Safety Grants for Tribes

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



Tribal Crime Statistics

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) Data:

- 29% of American Indian/Alaska Native adults had been victims of violent crime, much higher than the national average of about 15% for all adults.
- Indigenous women are more likely to experience violent victimization than other racial or ethnic groups. For instance, Indian women face a violent crime rate 2.5 times higher than the national average for all women.
- Native women are disproportionately affected by sexual violence. Studies suggest that nearly 1 in 3 Native American women will experience some form of sexual assault in their lifetime, and the rates are even higher in some regions.

Tribal communities across the United States face unique challenges related to public safety and law enforcement. These challenges stem from a combination of geographical isolation, underfunded services, and complex jurisdictional issues that often leave Native American communities vulnerable.

- Native American tribes are often located in rural or remote areas, making access to law enforcement resources more difficult.
- Tribal police forces, in many cases, are understaffed and underfunded. This can lead to slower response times in emergencies, higher crime rates, and insufficient support for victims of crime.
- Jurisdiction issues can further complicate matters. Tribal law enforcement agencies often struggle with overlapping federal, state, and tribal laws, creating confusion about which agency has the authority to respond to specific incidents. This lack of clarity can delay investigations and hinder the effective enforcement of laws.

One critical solution to these problems is increased public safety grant funding for tribes. Grants can provide tribes with the resources necessary to build or strengthen their public

safety infrastructure. Whether it is funding for law enforcement agencies, emergency services, or crime prevention programs, grants can allow tribes to strengthen their capacity to protect their communities.

Public safety grants can support the hiring and training of law enforcement officers within tribal police departments. These funds can also be used to purchase critical equipment, such as vehicles, body cameras, firearms, and communication systems, all of which are necessary for effective policing. When tribes have access to these resources, they can build more responsive and professional law enforcement agencies that better serve the needs of their communities.

Grant funding can also be allocated to crime prevention and intervention programs that are culturally relevant and tailored to the specific needs of the tribal community. For example, funding can be used to develop outreach programs for at-risk youth, mental health and substance abuse services, and programs aimed at preventing domestic violence and sexual assault. By utilizing grant funds to invest in prevention and early intervention, tribes can address the root causes of crime, reducing the overall burden on law enforcement and the justice system.



One important source of funding is the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which provides grants specifically aimed at enhancing public safety in Native American communities. These grants have been instrumental in funding tribal police departments, court systems, and victim assistance programs. For example, the [Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation \(CTAS\)](#) program provides federally recognized Tribes and Tribal consortia an opportunity to develop a comprehensive and coordinated approach to public safety and victimization issues. Tribes are using these funds to enhance law enforcement, combat domestic violence, stalking, and sex trafficking, bolster justice systems, prevent and control juvenile delinquency, strengthen the juvenile justice system, and to serve assault and elder abuse victims.

Additionally, the [Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program](#) provides funds for tribal governments to respond to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and stalking in their communities. The [Indian Highway Safety Law Enforcement Grants](#) fund programs intended to reduce injuries and death attributed to impaired driving on Tribal lands. To address mental health issues, the [Tribal Behavioral Health Grant Program](#) aims to prevent and reduce suicidal behavior and substance use, reduce the impact of trauma, and promote mental health among American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth.

In addition to tribal-specific grants, tribes are eligible to apply for other public safety grants from agencies such as the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), among others.

States have also begun to realize the importance of grant funding for tribes. California has created a program to assist in the effort to reduce crimes against Native residents called

the [Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Grant Program](#). This grant provides funding to tribes in California to support efforts to identify, collect data, publicize, investigate, and solve cases involving missing and murdered Indigenous people. In Wisconsin, the [Tribal Law Enforcement Assistance Grant](#) was created to fund tribal law enforcement operations. Funds may be used for processes such as providing forensic analysis of evidence in criminal cases, offering technical assistance and training to law enforcement officers and prosecutors, and promoting safe school environments.

When tribes receive adequate public safety funding, the impact can be transformative. Improved public safety not only benefits individuals but also strengthens entire communities. Effective law enforcement and emergency services contribute to lower crime rates, increased community trust, and a heightened sense of security. Additionally, grant-funded programs aimed at mental health, substance abuse, and family violence can have long-lasting positive effects on the overall well-being of tribal members.

In conclusion, the need for public safety grant funding for tribes is not just a matter of financial support but a matter of justice and equality. Tribal communities deserve the same level of protection and services as any other community in the United States. Increased and sustained investment in tribal public safety infrastructure will contribute to safer and more resilient communities. By addressing the unique challenges faced by Native American tribes, state and federal governments can ensure these communities are equipped to protect and serve their citizens effectively. Strengthened public safety systems will empower tribal communities to thrive in an environment that fosters justice, security, and well-being.

Program Snapshot

Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program

SUMMARY

This program provides funds to tribal governments to respond to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and stalking in their communities. Funds under this program must be used for one or more of the following purposes:

- Develop and enhance effective governmental strategies to curtail violent crimes against women and increase the safety of Indian women consistent with tribal law and custom.
- Increase tribal capacity to respond to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and stalking crimes against Indian women.
- Strengthen tribal justice interventions, including tribal law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, and correctional facilities.
- Enhance services to Indian women victimized by domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and stalking.
- Work in cooperation with the community to develop education and prevention strategies directed toward issues of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and stalking.
- Provide programs for supervised visitation and safe visitation exchange of children in situations involving domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking committed by one parent against the other with appropriate security measures, policies, and procedures to protect the safety of victims and their children.
- Provide services to address the needs of youth (ages 11 – 24 years old) who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, or stalking and the needs of youth and children exposed to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including support for the non-abusing parent or caretaker of the youth or child.
- Provide transitional housing for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, or stalking, including rental or utilities payment assistance and assistance with related expenses such as security deposits and other costs incidental to relocation to transitional housing, and support services to enable a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, or stalking to locate and secure permanent housing and integrate into a community.

ELIGIBILITY

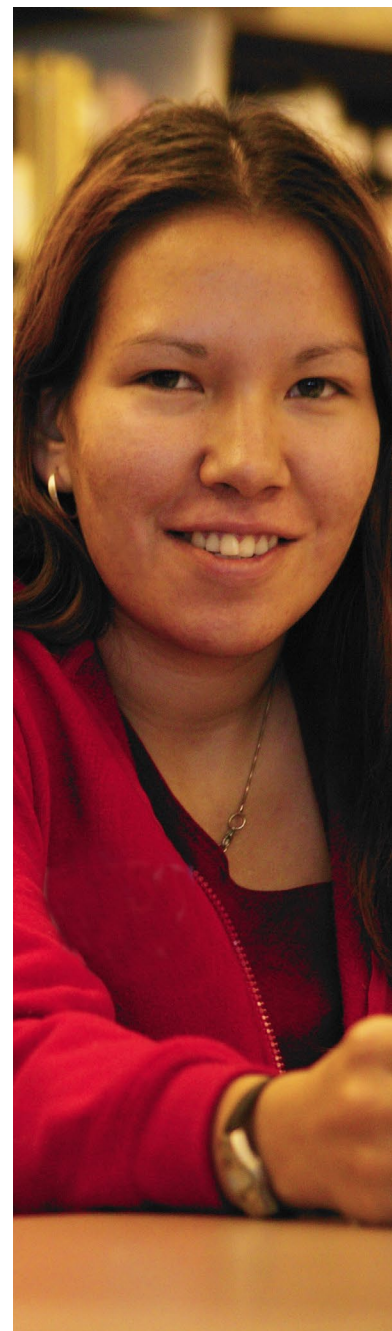
Eligible applicants include an Indian tribal government, any tribe, band, pueblo, nation, a tribal designee, tribal consortium, or other organized group or community.

DEADLINE

Applications are to be submitted to grants.gov by April 8, 2025. Full applications are to be submitted to JustGrants by April 10, 2025. A similar deadline is anticipated annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/358070>



COVER STORY

Foundation Funding for Public Safety Agencies

Meghan Jacobsen, Grants Development Associate



Public safety agencies such as law enforcement, fire departments, and emergency medical services are essential to any community. However, these agencies often face budget shortfalls that limit their ability to invest in new technologies, training, and other important initiatives. Many of these agencies also lack the workforce to dedicate time to applying to federal grants or to meet the post-award requirements. Others may lack grant experience and feel overwhelmed by the process of applying for federal funds. Both of these are great to dip your toes into grants through foundations. However, even for departments with seasoned grants experience, foundations are an excellent option to fund various needs and projects.

WHAT ARE FOUNDATIONS? AND WHAT DO THEY FUND?

Foundations are non-governmental grant-making organizations. There are corporate foundations, community foundations, and family foundations. Foundations tend to focus on specific areas of interest, and there are many foundations out there that focus specifically on funding public safety initiatives. Particular areas they will fund include:

1. **Technology and Equipment Upgrades** – Foundations help agencies purchase cutting-edge technology such as MDTs, body-worn cameras, drones, and modern communication systems that improve operational efficiency and transparency.
2. **Training and Professional Development** – Continuous education and specialized training programs for first responders ensure they stay updated on the latest safety protocols, de-escalation techniques, and crisis management strategies.
3. **Community Outreach and Engagement** – Many foundations prioritize programs that foster trust between public safety agencies and the communities they serve, such as youth mentorship initiatives, neighborhood policing efforts, and public safety workshops.
4. **Mental Health and Wellness Support** – First responders face high-stress situations daily. Foundation grants often fund mental health programs, peer support networks, and wellness resources to support the well-being of public safety personnel.

NOTABLE PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATIONS:

- **The Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation (Fire, EMS)**
 - Provides equipment grants for first responders across the United States.
- **The Leary Firefighters Foundation (Fire)** – Supports fire departments by funding training programs and state-of-the-art firefighting equipment.
- **The Gary Sinise Foundation (Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS)** – Funds training and equipment needs for public safety agencies.
- **Local Railroad and Gas Company Foundations (Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS)** – Additionally, railroads and gas companies that operate in local areas are strong potential sources for foundation funding. These corporations often prioritize public safety initiatives, making them valuable partners for grants and sponsorships.

GETTING STARTED

While foundation funding applications are generally less complex than federal grant applications, preparation is still essential. Once an appropriate foundation is identified, thorough research is necessary to understand their programs, eligibility requirements, restrictions, deadlines, and proposal guidelines. Some foundations may require an initial letter of inquiry, while others might request a complete proposal from the outset. Carefully reviewing and following their instructions will increase the likelihood of success.

Foundation funding is an invaluable resource that helps public safety agencies bridge budgetary gaps, implement innovative programs, and strengthen community relationships. By leveraging these funds, public safety organizations can improve their capabilities and ensure the safety and well-being of the communities they serve.

New to grants and looking for more guidance? Please visit our [online resource library](#) for more information on everything grants-related. From getting grant ready to creating grant-ready projects to developing competitive proposals, our collection of informative videos will help get you started!



Program Snapshot

Gary Sinise Foundation First Responder Grant



SUMMARY

The objective of the Gary Sinise Foundation First Responder Outreach Grant is to support First Responder Departments by providing funding for essential equipment and training. It aims to enhance the capabilities of law enforcement, firefighting, emergency medical services (EMS), and search and rescue (SAR) organizations, ensuring they have the necessary tools and training to respond effectively to emergencies and protect communities.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include:

- Law enforcement agencies
- Fire Departments
- EMS organizations
- SAR organizations

DEADLINE

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis and can be submitted at any time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the Gary Sinise Foundation website at <https://www.garysinisefoundation.org/first-responders-outreach>

Breaking Down Canada's Major Transfers: How Federal Funding Shapes the Nation

Siddhi Aubeeluck, Grants Development Associate (Canada)



INTRODUCTION

Public funding is a fundamental pillar of Canada's governance, ensuring all provinces and territories receive the necessary resources to maintain essential services across the nation. A significant portion of public funding is channeled through federal transfers, which are essential for maintaining fiscal capacity across the nation and providing critical support for healthcare, social programs, and regional development. These transfers reflect the federal government's commitment to maintaining equitable public services across all jurisdictions despite varying provincial and territorial economic capacities.

Within Canada, there are four major federal transfer programs: Equalization, Territorial Formula Financing (TFF), the Canada Health Transfer (CHT) and the Canada Social Transfer (CST). This article provides an overview of each transfer program, exploring their purpose, evolution, and key trends. As these transfers significantly shape Canada's fiscal landscape amid an uncertain economic and political environment, their impact is especially relevant today, making it essential for all Canadians to understand their role.

HISTORY OF MAJOR TRANSFERS FROM 1957 TO PRESENT DAY

As Canada has evolved and adapted in response to various economic conditions, social movements, and political priorities, its major federal transfers have undergone significant transformations. Over the decades, these transfers have shifted in structure and purpose, reflecting changing fiscal pressures and policy goals.

Key periods of evolution include:

1957-1976: The Introduction of Federal Transfers and Equalization

This period marked the establishment of major federal transfers, including early cost-sharing programs for health and social services. In 1957, Canada introduced the Equalization program, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at addressing regional disparities by ensuring that all provinces could provide comparable levels of public services, regardless of their revenue-generating capacity. This signified a turning point in the federal-provincial fiscal relationship.

1977-1995: The Shift to Block Funding

In 1977, the federal government replaced shared-cost funding with block transfers, granting provinces greater flexibility in how they allocated federal funds. The Established Programs Financing (EPF) Act introduced block funding for healthcare and post-secondary education, moving away from rigid cost-sharing arrangements. This period reinforced provincial autonomy in managing social programs while reducing direct federal involvement.

1996-2003: Federal Deficit Reduction and Transfer Consolidation

Facing significant fiscal challenges, the federal government implemented deep spending cuts and restructured its transfer system. In 1996, the Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST) was created by merging health and social funding, reducing the overall federal contribution and shifting greater responsibility to provinces. This change reflected broader efforts to reduce the federal deficit while maintaining core national programs.

2004-Present: Transparency, Increased Commitments, and Ongoing Debates

To improve transparency and better address healthcare funding, the CHST was split into two distinct transfers in 2004: the Canada Health Transfer (CHT) and the Canada Social Transfer (CST). Subsequent health accords (2004-2017) reinforced federal commitments to increasing transfer payments, yet ongoing debates persist regarding the adequacy and equitable distribution of these funds.

These historical shifts highlight the evolving balance between provincial autonomy and federal leadership in Canada's intergovernmental fiscal framework. As the country faces rising healthcare costs, regional disparities, and demographic pressures, federal transfers continue to play a vital role in supporting essential public services. Ultimately, the adaptability of these transfers will be key to ensuring they continue to meet the diverse and growing needs of Canadians across all regions.

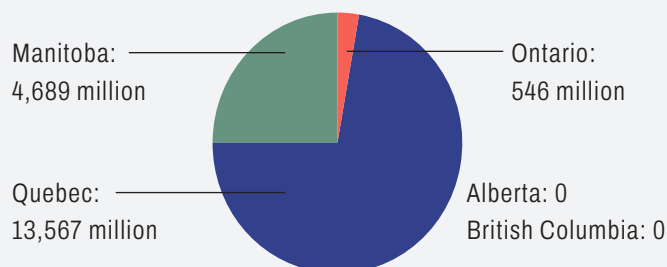
EQUALIZATION

The Equalization Program in Canada is a critical component of the country's fiscal framework, designed to ensure that all provinces, regardless of their economic prosperity, can offer comparable public services to their citizens. It works by redistributing wealth from higher-revenue provinces to lower-revenue provinces, addressing fiscal disparities that may arise due to regional economic differences. This program is vital for fostering national unity and economic balance, as it prevents provinces with weaker economies from being unable to provide essential services such as healthcare and education, which could widen the socio-economic divide across the country.

Equalization is a key component of Canada's broader system of federal transfers, which also includes the Canada Health Transfer (CHT) and the Canada Social Transfer (CST). While Equalization is not a separate transfer in itself, it plays a critical role in redistributing funds between provinces to ensure fiscal equity across the country. The amount of Equalization each province receives is determined through a formula that assesses the fiscal capacity of each province. Wealthier provinces, like Alberta and Ontario, contribute to the program, while less prosperous regions, such as Quebec, Manitoba, and the Atlantic provinces, receive funds to supplement their ability to provide essential public services. In this way, Equalization operates alongside and supports the CHT and CST, helping to maintain fairness and balance across Canada's provinces and territories.

In the 2025/26 period, Quebec is expected to continue being the largest recipient of Equalization payments, followed by the Atlantic provinces and Manitoba. Alberta, a province rich in natural resources, faces concerns about the fairness of the system. While Alberta contributes significantly to Equalization due to its wealth from the oil industry, there is an ongoing debate about whether it is fair for resource-dependent provinces to subsidize those with less stable, diversified economies. Additionally, fluctuations in oil prices can create volatility, exacerbating Alberta's contribution during times of economic downturn. This has led to calls for reform, including suggestions to cap Equalization payments or adjust them for cost-of-living differences, aiming to make the system more equitable and reflective of current economic realities.

Equalization Recipients Per Major Province

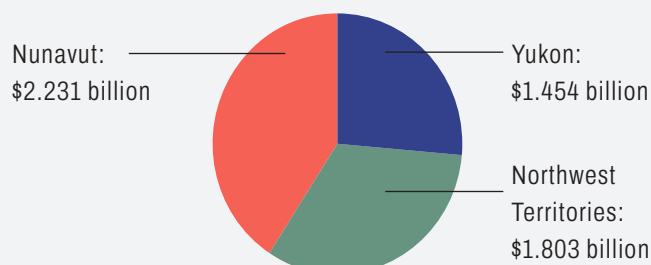


While all provinces contribute to federal revenues through taxes, some, such as Alberta, Ontario, and British Columbia, are considered net contributors because they contribute more in federal taxes than they receive back through federal transfers. Notably, Alberta has not received an equalization payment since 1964, largely due to its strong fiscal capacity driven by oil and natural resource revenues.

TERRITORIAL FORMULA FINANCING (TFF)

Territorial Formula Financing (TFF) is a major federal transfer program that provides financial support to Yukon, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. Unlike Equalization, which addresses fiscal disparities among provinces, TFF is specifically designed to help territories deliver public services comparable to those in the provinces, despite their higher costs and limited ability to raise revenue. The territories face unique challenges such as vast geographic distances, small and dispersed populations, and extreme climate conditions, all of which significantly increase the cost of service delivery. TFF funding is determined through a formula that accounts for each territory's expenditure needs and revenue-raising capacity.

2025–26 Territorial Formula Financing Allocations



These figures represent increases of 7.7% for Yukon, 5.8% for the Northwest Territories, and 5.8% for Nunavut over the previous year, exceeding typical inflation rates and reflecting growing pressures in the North.



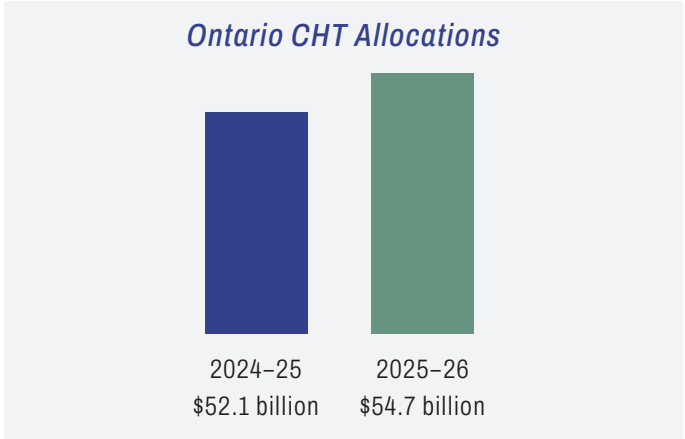
CANADA HEALTH TRANSFER (CHT)

The Canada Health Transfer (CHT) is the largest federal transfer to provinces and territories, playing a foundational role in supporting Canada’s public healthcare system. It provides direct funding to help provinces deliver healthcare services that meet the standards set out in the Canada Health Act, which emphasizes key principles such as universality, accessibility, comprehensiveness, portability, and public administration.

With rising healthcare costs driven by inflation the CHT has become even more critical. Canada’s demographic shift, marked by a growing number of seniors places increasing pressure on provincial healthcare systems, especially in areas like long-term care, chronic disease management, and mental health services. As such, the federal government uses the CHT to help provinces manage these escalating demands and maintain a sustainable, high-quality system.

CHT funding is currently allocated on a per capita basis, meaning each province receives funds proportional to its population. This formula is intended to be straightforward and equitable, though it has drawn criticism for not accounting for differing healthcare needs or regional cost variations. In response to crises or emerging priorities, the federal government has occasionally introduced targeted top-ups. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, special allocations were provided to address immediate healthcare pressures.

In 2023, the federal government committed to an additional \$46.2 billion over 10 years in healthcare funding, part of which included new bilateral agreements with provinces. For 2025/26, CHT allocations are projected to increase by approximately 5%, aligning with inflation in healthcare spending.

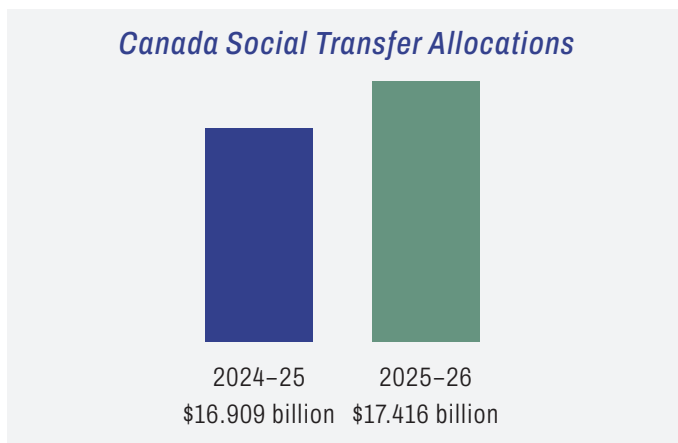


However, debates persist. Provinces continue to call for a larger federal share of healthcare funding, arguing that the current levels are insufficient to meet growing demands. There are also ongoing discussions about accountability, how to ensure the funds are used effectively and transparently. Some stakeholders are advocating for reforms to the funding model, such as shifting from per capita allocations to need-based funding, which would better reflect demographic and health disparities across provinces.

CANADA SOCIAL TRANSFER (CST)

The Canada Social Transfer (CST) is a federal funding program that supports provinces and territories in delivering essential social services. By providing financial resources for these foundational services, the CST contributes to economic stability and promotes equal opportunities across the country.

In the 2025–26 fiscal year, the CST allocation is set at approximately \$17.4 billion, reflecting a modest increase from the previous year. However, this growth has not kept pace with inflation, which poses challenges for provinces and territories striving to meet the rising demands on their social services.



The CST funds are distributed on an equal per capita basis, allowing provinces and territories the flexibility to allocate resources according to their unique priorities. While this approach enables tailored solutions to local needs, it also raises concerns about potential disparities in service delivery across different regions.

Overall, the Canada Social Transfer (CST) plays a crucial role in enabling provinces and territories to fund key programs that support the well-being of Canadians nationwide. While provinces have discretion over how CST funds are allocated, the program primarily supports three core areas:

- Post-secondary education – including tuition subsidies, student financial aid, and support for institutions.
- Social assistance and social services – such as income support, disability programs, and housing initiatives.

- Early childhood development and childcare – including child benefit top-ups, subsidies for low-income families, and investments in early learning initiatives.

While provinces and territories appreciate the flexibility of the Canada Social Transfer (CST), there is a growing call for more targeted funding to address specific social challenges. Experts and stakeholders advocate for dedicated investments in areas such as affordable housing, mental health services, and post-secondary education affordability. For instance, Budget 2024 proposes significant funding to enhance affordable housing and mental health services, including a \$976 million allocation over five years for deeply affordable housing and a \$500 million initiative for mental health services, particularly benefiting young Canadians.

In the realm of post-secondary education, there is a push for more structured funding mechanisms. The Alternative Federal Budget (AFB) 2024 suggests the establishment of a National Post-Secondary Education Transfer, separate from the CST, to provide transparent and adequate federal funding with agreed-upon conditions. This approach aims to lower tuition costs, invest in workforce renewal, and improve access to underserved communities.

Additionally, some jurisdictions are exploring performance-based funding (PBF) models to ensure measurable outcomes in post-secondary education. For example, Ontario has implemented PBF, tying a portion of funding to specific performance metrics. However, this approach has faced criticism for potentially disadvantaging under-resourced institutions and programs not directly linked to immediate job markets.

As discussions around the CST's future continue, balancing the need for flexibility with targeted investments and accountability measures remains a central focus. Future reforms may consider integrating performance-based elements to ensure that funding effectively addresses the evolving social needs of Canadians.



LOOKING AHEAD: THE FUTURE OF FEDERAL TRANSFERS

Federal transfers are the backbone of Canada's social and economic infrastructure. As the country faces demographic shifts, rising service demands, and global economic uncertainty, the future of these transfers will play a decisive role in shaping national cohesion and prosperity. Ongoing fiscal pressures, particularly in healthcare and social services, may prompt calls for increased federal support, raising concerns about long-term sustainability and debt levels. At the same time, political changes could shift funding priorities, with debates around provincial autonomy and federal oversight becoming more pronounced.

Economic instability, such as global downturns or trade disruptions, may threaten the stability of federal funding, particularly for regions that rely heavily on transfers like Equalization and Territorial Formula Financing. Meanwhile, discussions around reform—whether adjusting formulas, introducing cost-of-living considerations, or tying funding to need—highlight a growing demand for fairness and flexibility in the system.

Ultimately, the future of federal transfers will hinge on cooperation between federal and provincial governments, a shared commitment to equity, and a willingness to adapt. Striking a careful balance between fairness, efficiency, and sustainability will be essential to ensuring that all Canadians—regardless of region—continue to benefit from strong, accessible public services.

Navigating the AI and Cybersecurity Funding Landscape in Canada

Ashley Schultz, Manager of Research and Consultation

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robust cybersecurity measures is becoming increasingly vital for both public and private entities across Canada. Companies of all sizes are committing significant funds to innovate, develop, and market novel AI and cyber technologies. Academic and research institutions are bolstering their research capabilities in these domains, often acquiring specialized computing resources or establishing dedicated facilities. Furthermore, numerous organizations are adopting readily available AI and cyber solutions to enhance their operational efficiency.

However, these technological advancements demand substantial financial outlays. Organizations must contend with large upfront costs for hardware, data storage, and infrastructure development. They are also tasked with training personnel to utilize these new tools and ensure IT teams are equipped to manage the evolving systems. Moreover, continuous subscription fees necessitate the creation of new budget allocations to maintain access throughout the product lifecycle.

For more information on ongoing costs, check out our previous article on how to cover subscription costs and similar fees with grant funding.

Fortunately, the Canadian government has allocated substantial financial resources to support organizations pursuing AI and cybersecurity initiatives. Federal strategies such as the Pan-Canadian Artificial Intelligence Strategy (2017) and the National Cyber Security Strategy (2025) offer clear insights into

governmental priorities and project objectives. Major funding initiatives, such as Securing Canada's AI Advantage (2024), provide a wide array of grants and funding opportunities.

This article explores how federal strategies are translating into real-world funding and how your organization can capitalize on these investments.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE | TRENDS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Canada has been a global frontrunner in AI for nearly a decade. [The Pan-Canadian Artificial Intelligence Strategy](#), launched in 2017, outlined the key strategies for the nation's actions in the responsible development and deployment of AI technologies –

- **Commercialization** - Enable Canadian businesses to translate AI research into new AI products.
- **Standards** - Understand how AI can best improve service delivery and productivity in the public & private sectors.
- **Talent and Research** - Attract, retain, and develop research talent while providing dedicated computing capacity for AI research in higher education and business settings.

These early efforts have paid off. Canada now ranks fifth globally in AI startups and third among G7 nations in funding raised for generative AI companies. Moreover, the nation boasts a robust AI talent pool, ranking third in the world for AI researchers and second in the world for the number of AI research papers published per capita.

The federal government's commitment to AI has not wavered. Last year, the [Securing Canada's AI Advantage](#) initiative allocated \$2.4 billion for AI investments to (1) accelerate job growth, (2) boost productivity by helping researchers and businesses develop and adopt AI, and (3) ensure this is done responsibly. Funding will be distributed across four major initiatives –

- **\$2.0 billion** - Build Canada's computing capabilities and technological infrastructure for research and commercialization
- **\$300 million** – Support small and medium businesses (fewer than 500 employees) as they bring new AI solutions to market and increase their own efficiencies
- **\$50 million** – Create the Canadian AI Safety Institute
- **\$50 million** – Support workers who may be impacted by the mass adoption of AI solutions (e.g., creative sector)



Additional federal funding has since been announced to complement these programs, including \$125 million to ISED's five global innovation clusters to accelerate the commercialization and adoption of new Canadian AI solutions and a potential \$15 billion in loan & equity investments from the Canadian pension fund for large-scale AI data center projects.

These dedicated funding opportunities should not overshadow the billions of dollars in regular funding for process improvements, digital transformation, sustainability, R&D, and other outcomes that can leverage AI solutions as part of a larger project.

This creates a large, active, and potentially lucrative funding landscape for public and private sector organizations of all sizes across Canada. AI-friendly funding programs worth highlighting include:

[Regional Artificial Intelligence Initiative \(RAII\)](#)

This funding accelerates the development, commercialization, and adoption of AI technologies for small and medium businesses. Successful applicants stay competitive on the global stage by innovating, enhancing operational efficiency, and increasing productivity.

- **Eligibility:** Canadian companies with fewer than 500 employees
- **Application Details:** \$200 million is available. Awards are provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

[CFI Innovation Fund](#)

This funding supports infrastructure for critical research that helps Canada stay at the forefront of global exploration, knowledge generation, and innovation. One of the three program streams specifically supports the creation, renewal, and upgrade of core facilities to attract and retain top researchers.

- **Eligibility:** Canadian universities, colleges, research hospitals and non-profit research institutions.
- **Application Details:** \$425 million is available annually. The next call for proposals is anticipated in Fall 2025.

[CIB Building Retrofits Initiative](#)

This funding accelerates the adoption of energy-efficient upgrades in commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings. Successful projects support long-term sustainability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. While AI is not expressly named in this program, it can be built into the larger sustainability efforts of applicants.

- **Eligibility:** Public and private sector organizations in Canada
- **Application Details:** Funding is offered in the form of a loan from the Canada Infrastructure Bank. Proposals may be submitted at any time.

CYBERSECURITY | TRENDS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Whereas the federal government's approach to AI has historically taken shape as an energizer and investor in innovation, their role in cybersecurity matters has been much more advisory. The [National Cyber Security Strategy](#), released in 2018 and revised in 2025, has two central pillars –

- **Whole-of-Society Engagement** - Facilitate partnerships to tackle key issues in the cybersecurity landscape, including (1) detecting and disrupting cyber threats; (2) providing education & awareness training; and (3) ensuring workforce readiness.
- **Agile Leadership** - Create and adapt action plans to keep Canada at the forefront of innovative approaches to cybersecurity risks and opportunities.

Unlike AI, the federal government has not put forward massive, multi-billion-dollar budget packages for cybersecurity innovation, commercialization, or deployment. Following the two pillars of their national strategy, funders have dedicated dollars to support collaborative, multi-agency initiatives to (1) build AI training resources; (2) offer workforce development to reskill or upskill cyber security professionals; or (3) write safety measures that can be leveraged by dozens, if not hundreds of organizations across the country. One such example is the [National Cybersecurity Consortium](#), which dedicates \$80 million each year to support such partnerships.

Applicants interested in funding to deploy cybersecurity measures to keep their own data and processes protected need to get a little more creative when searching for programs. As noted above with AI funding, there are billions of dollars available in grants and loans for Canadian organizations. While cybersecurity-specific programs may be minimal, there are plenty of opportunities to incorporate those solutions as part of a broader project.

Cyber-friendly funding programs worth highlighting include:

[Industrial Research Assistance Program \(IRAP\)](#)

This funding supports small and medium-sized businesses to scale up and compete. Successful applicants use funding to invest in research and development (R&D) as they build their innovation capacity, develop new technologies, and grow their business. While cyber is not expressly named in this program, it can be built into larger efforts of applicants as they keep

proprietary data secure and share large quantities of information between sites.

- **Eligibility:** Canadian companies with fewer than 500 employees
- **Application Details:** \$100 million is available each year. Proposals may be submitted at any time.

[John R. Evans Leaders Fund \(JELF\)](#)

This funding supports Canadian research institutions in attracting and retaining top-tier researchers by providing essential resources and infrastructure. Successful projects build out provincial-of-the-art infrastructure while setting aside additional costs for operation and maintenance. Cybersecurity solutions fit squarely within those parameters.

- **Eligibility:** Canadian universities, colleges, research hospitals, and non-profit research institutions.
- **Application Details:** \$50 million is available each year. Proposals may be submitted in one of their three annual calls – February 15, June 15, or October 15.

[Canada Community Building Fund](#)

This funding helps local governments address local infrastructure needs, including public transit, roads & bridges, utilities, energy systems, airports, culture, tourism, sport & recreation, and fire protection. Again, cyber is not expressly named in this program, but it can be leveraged by applicants to maintain the safety of critical infrastructure in their communities.

- **Eligibility:** Canadian companies with fewer than 500 employees
- **Application Details:** \$2.4 billion is distributed across 3,700 municipalities each year.

As the Canadian government continues to prioritize AI and cybersecurity, it is clear that substantial funding opportunities will persist. With the 2025 federal budget announcement this spring, we anticipate further updates and spending announcements that will shape the future of these critical sectors. Therefore, it is essential to stay informed and proactive in your pursuit of funding. To ensure you remain at the forefront of these developments, we encourage you to stay connected with Grants Office. We are committed to providing you with the latest news and insights on government spending, helping you navigate the evolving funding landscape and capitalize on the opportunities that arise.

Program Snapshot

Regional Artificial Intelligence Initiative (RAII)

SUMMARY

The Regional Artificial Intelligence Initiative (RAII) is a targeted funding program designed to accelerate the development, commercialization, and adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies across Canada. RAII supports projects that demonstrate, implement, and scale AI-driven solutions to enhance operational efficiency, innovation, and productivity. By fostering the integration of AI into critical sectors such as healthcare, manufacturing, agriculture, and clean technology, the initiative drives the commercialization of transformative AI technologies, helping organizations stay competitive on the global stage.

A total of \$200 million was distributed across Canada's seven Regional Development Agencies (RDA). Applicants must apply to their RDA for funding.

ELIGIBILITY

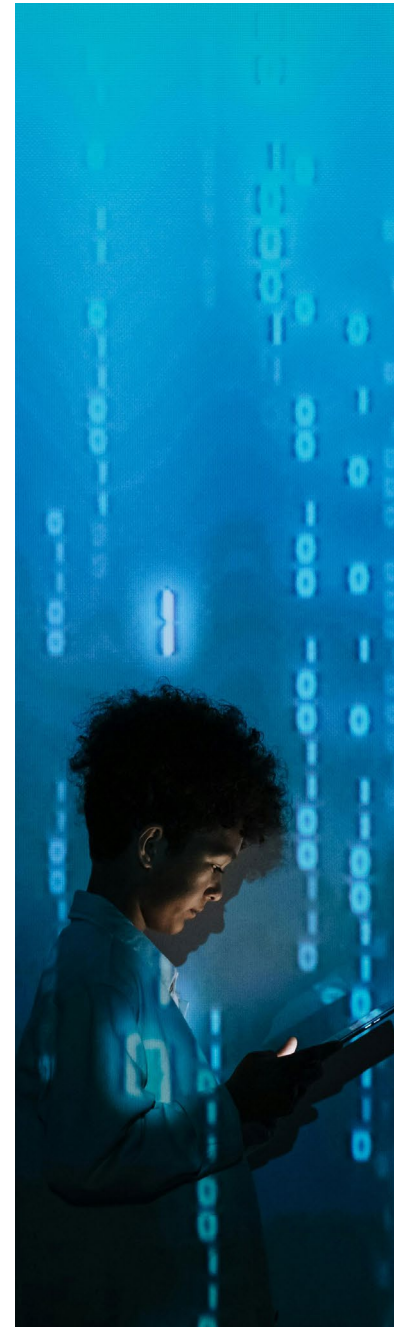
Eligible applicants are Canadian-based companies with fewer than 500 employees. Nonprofit organizations may also apply.

DEADLINE

Deadlines for the Regional Artificial Intelligence Initiative (RAII) vary by region, as the program is administered by regional development agencies such as FedDev Ontario, PrairiesCan, and PacifiCan.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the website of your local Regional Development Agency for information on RAII funding in your area. <https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/ised/en/canadas-regional-development-agencies>



State Funding for Transportation Projects

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

Local governments have ample opportunities to receive funding for varying transportation-related projects. As federal competitive funding remains at a sort of standstill, now is as good a time as ever to focus on what type of funds states will provide for counties, municipalities, and cities.

Most states have competitive grant programs for transportation projects. They fund planning and capital projects and everything in between. It is usual for states to pass one-time funding opportunities to reflect a specific need, but there are certainly programs that routinely become available every year or every other year as certain states have biennial budgets. Some are created with both federal and state funds, which is why it is always important to know the exact source of funding for any grant that you wish to apply.

Examples of where states choose to focus on funds will differ, but the hallmarks mostly include sustainability, safety, Complete Streets, infrastructure, and accessibility. Sample programs that fit within each focus area will be explained below, although some of the programs will touch on several hallmarks.

SUSTAINABILITY

- Illinois has a program called Driving a Cleaner Illinois, which funds the replacement of diesel trucks with all-electric trucks. Applications are due on June 6, 2025.
- In California, the Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program provides competitive grants to local agencies so they can develop and implement capital projects allowing them to create transportation infrastructure to adapt to climate change.
- Washington offers a program every two years called Green Transportation Capital, which provides funding to transit agencies for various cost-effective capital projects to reduce carbon intensity. The next deadline is expected in 2026.



SAFETY

- Townships in Ohio can apply for the Township Safety Sign Grant Program, which provides up to \$50,000 in safety signage materials. Applications are due by June 6, 2025.
- In New York, \$10 million is available for municipalities to develop Local Road Safety Plans. The minimum ask per project is \$250,000, with applications due by June 13, 2025.
- PennDOT offers the Automated Red Light Enforcement Transportation Enhancements Grant Program, which is meant to improve safety at signalized intersections by providing automated enforcement at locations where red-light running has been an issue. Applications will be accepted between June 1 and June 30, 2025.

COMPLETE STREETS

- Municipalities in Massachusetts can apply for funding to address critical gaps in transportation through the Complete Streets Funding Program. The application deadline will vary depending on the project, but there is a rolling deadline for any organization that would like training or Complete Streets policy development and implementation.
- Colorado offers the Revitalizing Main Streets grant program, which is meant to help enhance active transportation safety through improvements to the vitality of downtowns, creating community connecting uses of public spaces, and safely accommodating all modes of travel.
- Oregon has had success with its Great Streets Program. This program will fund sidewalk gaps, intersection improvements, and drainage for protection against extreme weather. Although primarily funded through federal monies, this program has received allocation through the State Highway Funds.

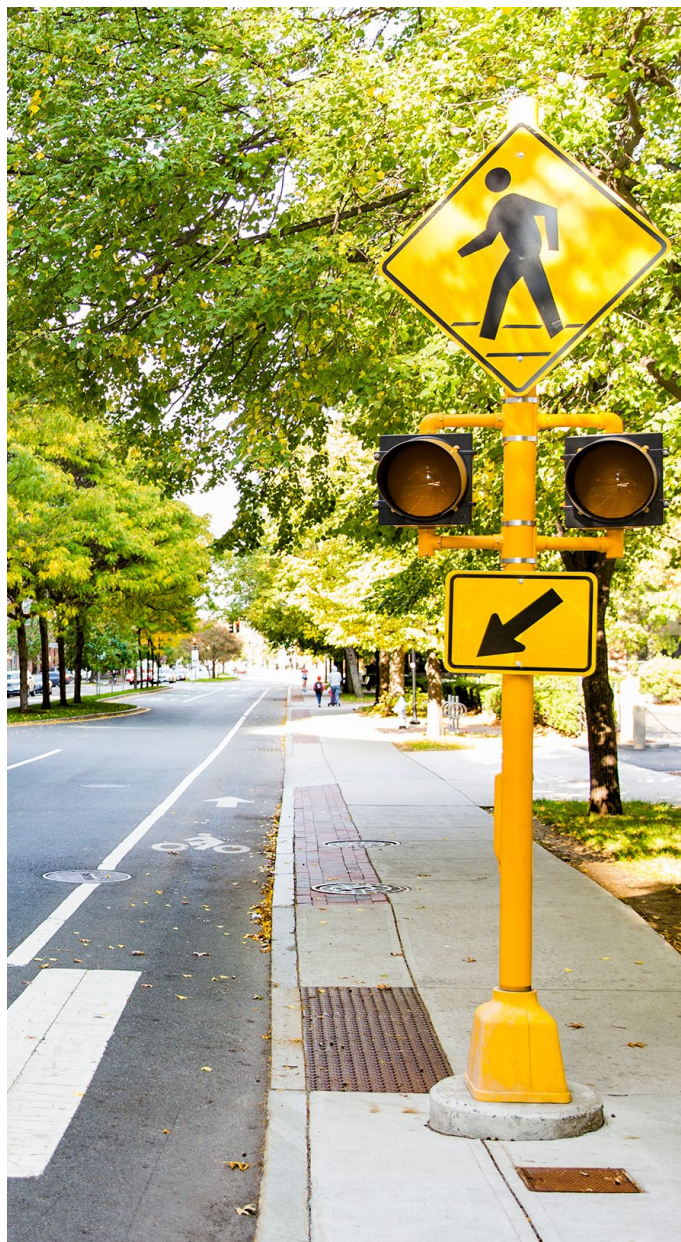
INFRASTRUCTURE

- Texas has two specific programs under its Maritime Funding Program: The Maritime Infrastructure Program, which will fund port infrastructure and security projects, and the Seaport Connectivity Program, which will fund various construction activities near ports.
- Counties in New Jersey can access grants under the Local Bridge Fund. NJDOT made \$47.3 million available in FY 2024. The next deadline is yet to be determined.
- Indiana has a program called the Community Crossings Matching Grant, which funds various local road and bridge projects across the state.

ACCESSIBILITY

- Florida offers a program that assesses new transportation services for those who lack access to reliable transportation. Applications are due May 12, 2025, with \$3 million in total funding available.
- In Connecticut, the Community Connectivity Grant Program will fund projects to improve conditions for bicyclists and pedestrians, with applications due by May 21, 2025.
- Non-profit organizations in Wisconsin can apply to the Wisconsin Employment Transportation Assistance Program, which funds activities such as expanded transportation services for low-income workers; public transportation expansion or carpools; as well as individual solutions like car repairs or used car loan programs. The next deadline is expected in November 2025.

These are just 15 examples of what type of projects states are funding for communities of all sizes. Cities, counties, and municipalities should continue to look for potential state opportunities even when the federal grant landscape returns to its normal levels.



Program Snapshot

New York Local Road Safety Plans



SUMMARY

Almost \$10 million is available to support local municipalities in developing Local Road Safety Plans, which identify and analyze problem areas and prioritize potential safety improvements.

Minimum awards are \$250,000.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include counties, towns, villages, native nations, and metropolitan planning organizations

DEADLINE

Applications are due June 13, 2025.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/operating/osss/highway/rwdsap>

Post-Award Considerations at the Pre-Award Stage

Sandy Trowbridge, Grants Development Associate

A standard grants lifecycle generally consists of a pre-award phase, award phase, and post-award phase. When navigating the pre-award phase (wherein you search for and apply for grant opportunities), it is helpful to keep a few key points in mind concerning the post-award phase (wherein you implement the project and report on progress). Doing so will both help in putting forth a strong grant application and ensuring that your organization will be able to effectively implement the grant if awarded.

WHAT CAN GRANT WRITERS DO TO CONTRIBUTE TO POST-AWARD SUCCESS AT THE PRE-AWARD STAGE?

Closely review the funder's post-award requirements upfront.

There are likely to be a wide variety of financial and programmatic reporting requirements that your organization will need to adhere to if awarded. For example, some funders may require monthly budget updates. Others may require quarterly programmatic reports. These requirements will likely require the ongoing collection of data and close tracking of financial expenditures, all requiring staff time and effort. You can get a general sense of what will be required by reviewing the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) as well as the funder's website, wherein they may go into further detail on their post-award requirements. If considering a state or federal opportunity, it may also be helpful to take a look at any requirements detailed in the authorizing legislation as well as [Uniform Guidance \(2 CFR Part 200\)](#). It is important to consider whether your organization has the technical expertise, staffing levels, and systems in place to both implement the project itself and manage the various reporting requirements effectively if awarded. Are you able to



plan your project with these requirements in mind and allocate your resources accordingly? Can you obtain the required expertise through hiring or staff training? If not, reconsider your pursuit of the opportunity in favor of other options that will be more feasible for your organization to implement effectively. Otherwise, noncompliance could potentially result in your organization being faced with financial penalties or reputational damage that could negatively impact your ability to secure future funding.

Ask the project implementation team to review your proposal materials before submission.

If you are not the one that will ultimately be implementing the project, ask one or more members of the project implementation team (including project managers, project accountants, procurement specialists, etc.) to review the proposal before submission to confirm that the promised actions are all feasible. From past direct experience, they might have a more fully developed understanding of how long certain actions will take or how much they will cost. Asking them to review both the budget and the narrative in advance of submission will get their buy-in early on and ensure that their implementation best practices and lessons learned are incorporated into future projects from the start.

Confirm that your internal policies and procedures are documented.

Many funders will assess an organization's capacity when making grant award decisions. The purpose of this review is to ensure that you have the internal controls, personnel, and technology required to effectively manage the grant award upon receipt and ultimately be good stewards of their funding. To ensure that you are well-prepared for any such review, consider questions such as the following:

- Do you utilize an accounting system that allows you to track costs separately by project and track staff time according to the project-specific level of effort? Will this accounting system allow you to track actual project spending against the project budget and provide the level of financial reporting detail requested by the funder?
- Are you accurately capturing all required supporting documentation to back up project spending (including receipts, invoices, approvals, etc.) so that you are prepared in the event of an audit? Is this documentation easily accessible and organized?
- Do you have internal controls built into your written policies and procedures that ensure the appropriate checks and balances are in place to limit any potential for risk, fraud, or abuse?
- Do your procurement policies include conflict of interest rules and clear processes for vendor selection?
- If pursuing government funding, are your internal policies and procedures all fully compliant with [Uniform Guidance \(2 CFR Part 200\)](#)?
- Do you have systems in place to collect, manage, and evaluate both qualitative and quantitative data throughout the full period of performance? Will this data allow you to meet the monitoring and evaluation requirements of the funder and adequately demonstrate your project's progress?

If the answer to any of these questions is no, work with your leadership to address these gaps now. Doing so will ensure that you can pursue grant opportunities at any level (local, state, federal, or foundation) with confidence.

Confirm you will be able to adhere to any registration or certification requirements.

Some applications note that you will need a specific certification or registration in hand at the time of the award, if not in advance of application. Consider whether it is reasonable to believe that you will be able to secure whatever is required by the noted deadline. For example, New York State requires grant applicants to be prequalified through the New York State Financial System (SFS) before application submission. This process may take up to two weeks to complete fully. Another example is highlighted by the fact that nonprofit organizations applying to certain federal opportunities (such as the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)) are required to have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) in hand before subaward. This process may take up to four weeks to fully complete. Understanding these requirements in the pre-award stage will ensure that you can get the process rolling far in advance of any deadlines and limit the likelihood of your proposal being disqualified from consideration due to non-adherence with registration or certification requirements.

MOVING FROM THE PRE-AWARD TO THE AWARD STAGE

Once you are notified of the award, be sure to thank the funder and complete all required paperwork. Concurrently, take the time to pass all of the information gleaned from the above actions forward. This can be done by scheduling a proposal to implementation handover meeting with all members of the proposal and project implementation teams to share any insights gained during the proposal process. Having already considered the above points during the pre-award stage will help ensure a smooth startup at the award stage and allow your project implementation team to hit the ground running at the post-award stage.

Alyssa's Law and Its Impact on School Safety Grants

Sam Rawdon, Grants Development Associate (K-12 Education)

Alyssa's Law, named after Alyssa Alhadeff, one of the 17 victims of the tragic 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, is a law passed in 2019 that requires all public schools in Florida to implement a panic alarm system linked to law enforcement. This system's purpose is to immediately alert authorities in the event of an emergency, particularly during active shooter situations or other violent threats. The law is a critical part of a broader effort to enhance school safety and improve emergency response times. While Alyssa's Law mandates the installation of panic alarms, its influence extends beyond this, sparking a national conversation about school safety and widely impacted funding for security measures in schools. It has shaped the allocation of school safety grants, providing financial support for a wide range of security enhancements designed to protect students, staff, and faculty.

Alyssa's Law has had a reaching effect on the way school safety grants are distributed. Many state and federal agencies now prioritize funding for technologies that improve communication between schools and law enforcement. With the law mandating the installation of panic alarm systems, states and districts implementing Alyssa's Law can apply for grants to cover the cost of installing these systems. Consequently, school safety grants have become a crucial tool in ensuring that Alyssa's Law is effectively implemented across various communities.

One of the most significant changes prompted by Alyssa's Law is how grant funding is allocated. Federal and state governments now designate funds specifically for panic alarm systems, allowing schools to upgrade their existing security infrastructure. This is especially valuable for districts with limited resources for school security. By providing targeted financial support for panic alarms, Alyssa's Law ensures that all schools can improve their emergency response capabilities, regardless of their financial status.

Additionally, Alyssa's Law has facilitated a shift toward a more integrated approach to school safety, recognizing that various security systems must work together. Panic alarms are just one component of the larger safety network, but their implementation has led to a broader emphasis on holistic safety measures. Many schools receiving safety grants now use the funds to invest in a variety of technologies, such as surveillance cameras, enhanced door locks, and communication tools, all designed to create a comprehensive security system.

Despite the positive impact on school safety, there are some criticisms of Alyssa's Law. Some argue that while panic alarms are valuable, they may not address the underlying causes of violence in schools. Critics suggest that a more comprehensive approach, including a greater focus on mental health support, conflict resolution programs, and other preventative strategies, could yield more long-term benefits. Additionally, concerns have been raised about the financial burden on schools to maintain and upgrade their security infrastructure, especially in districts already facing budgetary challenges.

Alyssa's Law has played a key role in reshaping how school safety is prioritized and funded in the United States. By mandating the installation of panic alarm systems and influencing the distribution of safety grants, the law has contributed to creating safer environments for students and staff. However, like any legislation, it is essential to continue evaluating its effectiveness and strike a balance between physical security measures and comprehensive programs that address the root causes of violence while providing students with the support they need to succeed.



Program Snapshot

COPS School Violence Prevention Program



SUMMARY

Provides funding to school districts, local law enforcement, and state and local governments to improve physical safety and security at schools and on school grounds through evidence-based, holistic, and comprehensive school safety programs and technology.

Funding is 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; and
- Any other measure that the COPS Office Director determines may provide a significant security improvement.

A total of \$73 million is available in FY2025.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include states, units of local government, Indian tribes, and public agencies. These can include:

- School districts, including public charter schools and school districts with a single school
- School boards
- Local law enforcement agencies

DEADLINE

Applicants must submit their SF-424 and SF-LLL forms in grants.gov by June 18, 2025. Full applications must be submitted in JustGrants by June 26, 2025. Similar deadlines are anticipated annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://cops.usdoj.gov/svpp>

ARTICLE UPDATE

Update to E-Rate and Rural Health Care Funding Caps for Fiscal Year 2025

Sam Rawdon, Grants Development Associate (K-12 Education)

In our last issue of Funded (published Feb. 7), we included an article titled [“The Future of E-Rate Funding for K-12”](#). This article provided an overview of the program, along with details about two Supreme Court cases related to E-Rate funding.

Regarding the first case, [Wisconsin Bell, Inc. v. United States ex rel. Heath](#), the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that because a portion of E-Rate funding is provided by the government, submitting false claims for E-Rate funding can be held liable under the False Claims Act (FCA). This ruling on February 21, 2025, serves as a “win” for the E-Rate program.

As for the second case, *FCC v. Consumers’ Research*, challenging the constitutionality of the Universal Service Fund’s (USF) funding mechanism, which supports E-Rate funding, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments on March 26, 2025, and a decision is anticipated by June 2025.

We will provide updates on any SCOTUS rulings related to E-Rate as news becomes available [via social media](#).

In the meantime, for the fiscal year 2025, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has announced an increase in funding caps for the E-Rate and Rural Health Care (RHC) programs by 2.4 percent to represent inflation-adjusted raises. The E-Rate program, which supports broadband access for schools and libraries, will see its funding cap raised to roughly \$5.05 billion to better meet growing demands for high-speed internet, especially in underserved areas. Similarly, the RHC program will receive additional funding of approximately \$723.8 million to expand telehealth services in rural communities, improving access to vital healthcare resources. These increases aim to address the digital divide and support equitable access to education and healthcare nationwide.

Read our recent [article on E-Rate Funding](#).

For more information: <https://www.fcc.gov/document/e-rate-and-rhc-programs-inflation-based-caps-funding-year-2025>



Beginner's Guide to Forming Partnerships with Institutes of Higher Education

Dr. Liz Shay, Higher Education

Whether it is through conversations with one of our grants consultants, other grant-seeking efforts, or completely outside of the grants space, organizations often realize that they should consider collaborating with institutes of higher education. These partnerships can open additional avenues to pursue different types of projects and work towards your organization's mission-driven goals in new ways. Grant makers often favor collaborative efforts as they are seen as having a larger impact on the money invested in the project.

Regardless of why you started considering collaborating with an institute of higher education, navigating these conversations can often seem intimidating or complex. This article is a guide to the basic information you need to feel confident in pursuing partnerships with institutions.

BENEFITS FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION

We are often asked why we recommend collaborations with institutes of higher education for certain projects. Beyond grant maker requirements for these partnerships, there are other benefits to your organization.

Additional Expertise

Institutes of higher education have many faculty and staff with specific areas of expertise that can complete the skills and knowledge within your organization. Most commonly, institutions of higher education provide expertise in research, instructional approaches, or workforce development techniques. Colleges and universities have many individuals with one or more of these areas of expertise across different fields. Here are a few examples of these types of collaborations:

- A K-12 school district may be interested in studying innovative educational techniques and evaluating their efficacy. A researcher from an institution with expertise in the research of education can help with this evaluation component while the K-12 school implements educational innovation.

- A healthcare system may want to provide new and more effective continuing medical education (CME) courses for their practitioners. The medical instructional faculty at an institution can be involved to help design and implement this curriculum.
- A government or community organization may be designing a new economic development initiative for their community. An institute of higher education can provide expertise in workforce development to provide short-term credentialing options to help residents get upskilled or reskilled in the project's industries.

Grants Experience

If your organization is smaller or newer to grant-seeking, collaborating with an institute of higher education can also provide you with grant experience. Institutions are often robust grant-seekers with significant experience in applying for and receiving grant funding. They are also skilled in the grant management process once an award is in hand. This knowledge can be helpful for your organization in a couple of ways:

- They can provide guidance to improve your organization's grant-seeking and grant-management policies and practices.
- Their proven track record can help lend additional strength to your grant proposals because they have a long history of successes that can be referenced in the application.

Building a Pipeline

Institutes of higher education are training the next generation of individuals entering the workforce. Collaboration with these schools can help build the pipeline for you to have skilled people to hire to work at your organization. For example:

- A healthcare system can collaborate with a medical school to develop and implement an innovative curriculum that helps students be at the cutting edge of medicine when they graduate.
- A high-needs K-12 school district can work on a student teaching program with an education school. This type of project gets student teachers into these K-12 classrooms, providing instructional support at the schools now and more awareness of how to effectively support students in similar schools once the future teachers graduate.
- A government or community organization can develop an internship partnership where higher education students can get real-world work experience at this organization. This collaboration builds the capacity of the organization to provide their programming as well as help the students better understand the work before entering their careers full-time.



BENEFITS FOR THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

When discussing potential collaborations with institutes of higher education, the most common question we get asked is about why a college or university would be interested in partnering with another organization. Although the reasons vary depending on institution and project type, here are a few of the benefits higher education entities get from collaborations.

Additional Research Opportunities

Many institutes of higher education have faculty conducting research. Although this is most common at 4-year research universities, where most or all faculty are doing some amount of research, even smaller institutions and 2-year colleges often have at least a few faculty pursuing research efforts. Depending on the field and the types of research being conducted, some questions are best addressed when partnering with other organizations. Whether it is access to particular data or patient populations, discussions with subject matter experts to better understand areas of difficulty, or transitioning from theory to practice, collaboration with other entities can open up new research questions for researchers and allow them to more fully explore their fields of interest.

Real-World Applications

One of the most common ways institutes of higher education collaborate with other organizations is that their researchers

will be able to explore real-world applications for their work. Assessing their theories in the actual environments they will be used in allows for a better understanding of potential impacts and challenges. These findings will also help practitioners in the future maximize the efficacy of their work. For example:

- An education researcher studying ways to improve student engagement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) courses may want to collaborate with a K-12 school district to implement and evaluate these approaches in the classroom. Findings will then be able to help inspire future K-12 teachers as they develop their curricula.
- A medical researcher may want to explore the progression of a particular disease and the impacts of various interventions. Collaborating with a hospital system to work with their patients to try to improve outcomes can also help the researcher understand their research questions. In the future, their findings may be incorporated into standard medical practice.
- An engineering researcher developing hardware and software to manage complex transportation situations may benefit from a collaboration with a city. The researcher can use real-world data to refine their solutions and test them in the city's transportation network, hopefully improving transit for the residents. Effective approaches can be replicated in other parts of the city's transportation system or in other parts of the country.

Building a Pipeline

Institutes of higher education want to ensure that their students develop the skills and knowledge necessary to be successful in their chosen careers. Collaboration with other organizations can help instructors understand what the day-to-day job looks like for employees of that entity. The instructors can then apply this knowledge to refine their course materials to ensure that students are ready to fulfill those job roles. In other collaborations, organizations may explicitly discuss their needs for future employees with the college or university and be involved in the curriculum innovation. This process ensures alignment between what is being taught and what skills and knowledge students will need to get hired after graduating.

These collaborations can often also involve internships or job shadowing opportunities for students. This type of collaboration gives the students real-world experience in their chosen field. Other organizations also benefit from the mentorships and the chance to have additional people working to achieve their mission-driven goals.

PLACES TO START

Once you have decided that working with an institute of higher education will be beneficial for your project goals, determining the best person to reach out to is the next step. There are several different approaches you could take, depending on your organization and the type of project you are looking to implement. Below are a few of the most popular places to start.

People You Already Know

One of the best places to start is with people that you already know. If you (or someone else at your organization) already has a relationship with someone at the institute of higher education, reach out! Even if they are not the right person for the project you are working on, they may have relationships with relevant stakeholders. A warm introduction can go a long way towards moving forward with conversations about forming partnerships.

Individual Researchers

If you are working on a project that will require collaboration with one or more researchers, reach out to them directly. To find the best researcher, explore their websites. These are usually linked from the department web pages. They will include details about their research priorities, areas of interest, and contact information. Find a researcher who has areas of interest that align well with your proposed project.

Department Chairs and School Deans

Sometimes, faculty websites do not give you full details about the best fit for to whom to reach out. In this case, contact the department chair or school dean. Which of these to reach out to is dependent on the structure of the institution; start with the lowest level possible (AKA choose a department chair, if available, first). Although they frequently have many competing priorities and may not be able to respond directly, someone from their office may be able to connect you with a relevant researcher.

Grants Teams

Another avenue is to start with the grants teams at an institute of higher education. There are a few names/structures where you might find these individuals:



- Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) or Office of Sponsored Research (OSR): most often found at institutions with significant research. If there is also an Institutional Advancement Office or Foundation, then the OSP/OSR office usually handles federal (and perhaps state) funding.
- Institutional Advancement Office or Institutional Foundation: most common type of grants team across all institutions. If there is also an Office of Sponsored Programs or Office of Sponsored Research, then Institutional Advancement or the foundation office usually handles foundation funding.

With some exceptions, mainly in the foundation grant funding space, these organizations do not write grants. However, they have a high-level understanding of the grants activities occurring at their institution and who is involved with various projects. Like with a department chair or school dean, this office may be able to connect you with a relevant person for the type of project you are proposing.

Community Partnerships Offices

Some institutions, especially larger ones, have Community Partnerships Offices. There can sometimes also be offices for specific types of community partnerships, such as digital equity or economic development. These offices are specifically designed to form and nurture partnerships with community organizations. They are also often involved in the implementation of community outreach projects. Use the contact information on their website to reach out and discuss potential collaborations. They may collaborate with you directly, or they may connect you with a relevant person for your type of project.



WHAT TO INCLUDE IN OUTREACH

Now that you have determined who you want to reach out to, the next step is to craft your outreach message. Spending a bit of time on this part will help to improve your chances of getting a positive response. Although you want to keep this message short and focused, you also want to make sure that you include a few pieces of information.

Introduction to the Proposed Project

Give a brief description of what you are hoping to accomplish with this project. Think about this as similar to an elevator pitch or an abstract. No more than a few sentences, but enough to spark their interest.

Why They Should Care

This is the most important part of your message. Similar to sending a letter of intent to a grant maker, show them why the recipient should care. This understanding will demonstrate that you have thought about this potential partnership, you are serious, and your project is worth spending time on.

What You Bring to the Table

You also need to briefly explain your expertise and what you can contribute to the collaboration. You are looking for a partnership, not for them to just take over, so share the skills and knowledge that you will utilize in this effort.

Where They Can Help

Identify the gaps in skills and knowledge that you know need to be filled through this collaboration. Share what you need support with to accomplish the proposed project. This will give them a sense of what type of partnership you are looking for.

Invitation to Meet

A face-to-face conversation (either in-person or virtual) is key to forming relationships. Include an invitation to connect further to explore the potential partnership in more detail. You are looking for particular expertise, and part of that is in project formation,

so also plan to discuss mutual goals and how each organization will contribute.

CONCLUSION AND TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Collaborating with institutes of higher education can help your organization pursue different types of projects and work towards your mission-driven goals. Colleges and universities also benefit from these partnerships through research applications and building a pipeline for their students. Consider forming and nurturing these collaborations at your organization. When starting this process, there are a few things to consider, as discussed below.

Be Patient

Institutes of higher education are often large organizations composed of many different departments and offices. Employees are quite busy and have many competing priorities. They may be interested in working with your organization, but other matters can distract them. Be patient, and do not get frustrated if things do not move as quickly as you hoped. It will likely take time and discussions with multiple people before you move forward with discussions about a partnership.

Form Strategic Partnerships

Although this article is discussing collaboration with institutes of higher education from the perspective of grant funding, strategic partnerships can be more beneficial for both organizations. Do not always start with a specific grant or deadline in mind. Instead, know what types of projects you are looking to accomplish and what skills and knowledge you will need from the institution. Start the conversations there and look to form long-term partnerships that work towards mission-driven goals for both organizations. Often, you will end up working on several grant-funded projects together over the course of a collaboration.

Use MOUs When Appropriate

Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) are legal documents that outline a partnership between two or more organizations. The text will describe what each organization is contributing to the collaboration and expectations of the partnership. The document should also be signed by the leadership of each organization, showing buy-in and commitment on the part of each member of the collaboration. Some grant makers require MOUs in application submissions, but even if they are not required, they are still good to have in your project planning. When you pursue funding for the project in the MOU, the division of funding between organizations will be based on the division of activities. Parts of each award will likely go to each organization to implement their efforts towards the project goals.

Program Snapshot

Computer Science for All (CS for All)



SUMMARY

This program is focused on helping students learn computer science and be equipped with the computational thinking skills they need to be creators in the digital economy. Projects should explore innovative solutions to computer science and computational thinking education at all levels in the preK-12 education setting. These may be separate courses or integrated into broader science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) educational initiatives.

Applicants are researcher-practitioner partnerships building knowledge about how to provide computer science and computational thinking formal learning at elementary, middle, and high school grade levels. These partnerships must involve well-organized teams of academic researchers and preK-12 practitioners (teachers, administrators, and counselors), possibly augmented with other community, foundation, policy, and industry partners. Ultimately, the goal of any project is to implement and analyze projects to further the scientific literature in relation to computer science and computational thinking education.

Projects can be in one of four strands:

- **PreK-8 Strand:** focus on designing, developing, and piloting instructional materials that integrate computer science and/or computational thinking into preK-8 classrooms
- **High School Strand:** focus on preparing and supporting teachers to teach rigorous computer science courses
- **PreK-12 Pathways Strand:** focus on designing pathways that support school districts in developing policies and systems for incorporating computer science and/or computational thinking across all grades and potentially the transition into introductory levels at community or four-year institutions of higher education and/or the workforce
- **Research Strand:** focus on building strategically instrumental, or “high-leverage,” knowledge about the learning and teaching of introductory computer science to support key computer science and/or computational understandings and abilities for all students

ELIGIBILITY

All capable entities can apply. Applicants to the PreK-8 Strand, High School Strand, and PreK-12 Pathways Strand must be researcher-practitioner partnerships. Applicants to the Research Strand may be any qualified research entity. Competitive applicants are usually partnerships of a research institute of higher education with a school district.

DEADLINE

Applications are to be submitted by February 11, 2026. A similar deadline is anticipated annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/csforall-research-rpps-computer-science-all>

Project Highlight

Computer Science for All (CS for All)

FUNDED ORGANIZATION

University of Minnesota, led by College of Saint Scholastica

PROJECT TITLE

“K12 CS Pathways for Rural and Tribal Communities”

AMOUNT FUNDED

\$1,999,941

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The College of Saint Scholastica’s National Center for CS Education partnered with Hermantown Community School, Fond du Lac Ojibwe School, St. Louise County Public Schools, and Duluth Public Schools for this project. The goal is to increase access to and participation in computer science education. Computer science pathways for this project include early experiences in elementary and middle school that will help students establish foundational computer science knowledge and skills as well as spark their interest in taking high school computer science electives. For schools supporting the homeland of seven tribes of Anishinaabeg, the project is developing the Ojibwe language for computer science concepts and practices and developing computer science lessons that include Ojibwe language and culture.

The ultimate goals of this project include:

1. Creating a professional learning network for 8 school districts in rural or tribal communities
2. Collaborating with rural and tribal educators to develop inclusive K-8 computer science-integrated curricular materials aligned to Minnesota Department of Education standards
3. Expanding connections between Ojibwe language and culture and computer science and developing support resources
4. Supporting districts in creating sustainable K12 computer science pathways

Researchers will study the efficacy of these approaches to answer several research questions related to computer science education, particularly for rural and tribal communities.

FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION

https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=2401154

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE

<https://www.css.edu/>



Key Pieces of National Institutes of Health Funding for New Grantseekers

Marc Smithers, Grants Development Associate (Higher Education)

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has consistently been one of the largest sources of federal grant funds and serves as the global leader in health research funding. Of its \$47.7 billion budget in the fiscal year 2023, [\\$34.9 billion was awarded](#) across 58,951 grants to 2,743 organizations for biomedical research. For grantseekers that are either new to federal biomedical agencies or are simply looking to expand their scope of funding streams, a basic understanding of how NIH grants are applied for and awarded is an important first step in considering whether to pursue funding through this essential federal grant maker.

CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE STARTING YOUR SEARCH

Perhaps the most important aspect of NIH funding to understand is that the [mission of the NIH](#) is to support training, research, and discovery of knowledge within the biomedical sciences. This unique focus differentiates the kinds of projects they fund from other federal agencies within scientific fields such as the National Science Foundation (NSF) or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Though there is surely overlap in scientific research, and even instances where workers in the same lab are funded through different scientific agencies for similar kinds of research, understanding that NIH funding goes to biomedical research and support is fundamental to understanding what opportunities good fits for your organization may be to pursue.

SEARCHING FOR GOOD PROGRAM FITS

Once you have determined that your organization engages in the type of research and training that NIH funds, searching for the right opportunity to pursue is your next task, and this is where the coding and levels of funding opportunities within the NIH can be quite daunting to the uninitiated grantseeker. The vocabulary used within their agency can be so confusing that



the NIH publishes a [glossary](#) and other various tools to help grantseekers navigate their programs, which are divided into different [activity codes](#) and [funding categories](#). As a first step, understanding how activity codes are used is helpful. Activity codes range from programs aimed at research (R) to career development (K) to training (T) and are used throughout the institutes and centers (IC) of the NIH. These letters are paired with different two-digit numbers that make up a program's activity code, such as R01, which is the most common NIH grant for independent research, or S10, which is the Research Infrastructure Program within NIH that funds instrumentation purchases for biomedical research purposes. Activity codes are used by multiple different programs, such as the Basic Instrumentation Grant Program, the High-End Instrumentation Grant Program, and the Shared Instrumentation Grant Program, all of which have an S10 activity code. The ability to determine a program's activity code, then, can provide grantseekers with an understanding of what funding is available and for what purposes. The NIH does warn grantseekers, however, that while these activity codes are fairly standard throughout the different institutes and centers within the NIH, there is some variation. Reviewing the notice of funding opportunity will give grantseekers the clearest understanding of a program's purpose and eligibility requirements.



FUNDING AMOUNTS

Another unique aspect of NIH programs is [how they are funded](#). Unlike other agencies, which typically award money from a total funding amount that has been designated for that particular grant program, most NIH funding is awarded through their overall grant funding budget with all applications in competition with one another for the same funds. This is an important aspect of the review process to consider, as funding a competitive proposal is not always just a matter of your application standing out among those that have been submitted for the program you hope to be funded through but also may be judged against submissions to other programs if overall funding levels are constrained.

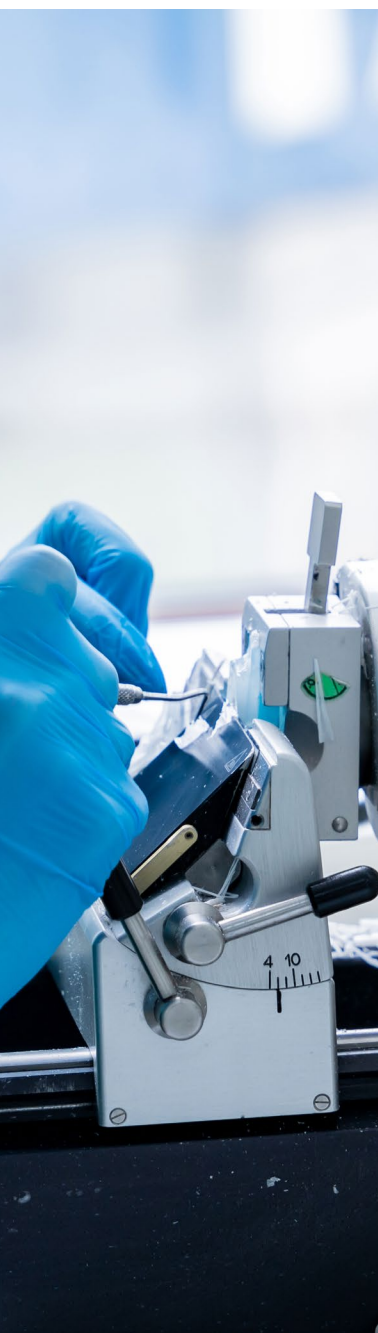
As you consider whether you may have a competitive project for an NIH program, one other tool the agency provides can be helpful in your deliberation. The NIH is one of the few governmental agencies that provides samples of previously approved applications. As you review their funding opportunities, look through some of these sample applications to get an idea of what is required for a competitive proposal and also the amount of time that may be needed for you to pull together the required information. The NIH suggests that a simple R01 application can take [two or more months to draft](#), so be sure to consider the complexity of your project, as well as any partnerships or internal collaboration that will likely impact on the time required for you to draft a competitive proposal.

CONCLUSION

As the NIH continues to revise some of its processes under the new presidential administration, now is a perfect time for those who are unfamiliar with its funding cycles to become acquainted with some of the nuances of its programs. Knowing the fundamentals of what NIH tends to fund as well as basic terminology used in their programs can provide a helpful starting point for institutions that are new to the grantseeking space or those seeking to partner with biomedical researchers.

Program Snapshot

Basic Instrumentation Grant (S10)



SUMMARY

Provides funding for a single, costly, specialized modern scientific instrument for use by biomedical researchers at academic and research institutions. The instrument can be purchased for individual institutional usage or shared-use arrangements. The instrument must be used for advanced biomedical research and/or clinical treatments.

Types of instruments that can be purchased with funding include:

- Ultramicrotomes;
- Basic cell sorters;
- Confocal microscopes; or
- Computer systems (supercomputers, computer clusters, and data storage systems).

Funded instruments must be dedicated to biomedical research only. The minimum award is \$25,000. Maximum awards are \$350,000.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include higher education institutions and nonprofit institutions engaged in biomedical research. Applicants must have not received S10 instrumentation funding of \$500,001 or greater in the previous three fiscal years.

DEADLINE

Applications are due June 2, 2025, with future deadlines on June 1st in both 2026 and 2027.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-24-326.html>

Expanding Health Systems and the Role of Foundation Funding

Amber Walker, Grants Development Associate (Healthcare & Human Services)

Hospitals and health systems of all sizes know that securing grant funding can be a crucial part of the ongoing growth of their organization. Healthcare needs are evolving, and securing financial support from foundations can help providers address those changing needs. Understanding the different funding avenues, the strategies needed to secure them, and the types of projects that attract funding can significantly improve the chances of receiving grant support.

Foundations are local, regional, or national in scope, often with different priorities, criteria, and grant award processes. Hospitals and healthcare systems seeking funding must carefully evaluate which foundations align with their goals, whether it is expanding direct services, investing in infrastructure, medical research, or enhancing workforce development.

COMMON GRANT FUNDERS

Local foundations are more accessible than regional or national funders due to their proximity and focus on the community they serve. Local foundations tend to prioritize funding projects that directly benefit their specific geographic area. Local foundations are familiar with the specific needs of the community, making it easier for healthcare organizations to relay their urgent needs. While local foundations focus on more geographically restricted areas, regional and national foundations often provide broader opportunities. However, hospitals and healthcare systems seeking funding from these sources must demonstrate how their projects or programs could have implications for healthcare delivery on a larger scale. They may want to know how the initiative aligns with trends or needs in healthcare across multiple communities or regions. Additionally, providing data on the replicability and scalability of the program may be required. By framing their needs in terms that resonate on a systemic scale, healthcare organizations can make a compelling case for regional and national funders.

TIPS TO SECURE FOUNDATION FUNDING

The key to securing foundation funding lies in knowing your community's needs and crafting a compelling narrative that aligns with those needs. Several tools can aid in gathering relevant data to strengthen your proposal. Additionally, a well-crafted proposal should highlight your healthcare system's unique characteristics. For example, a hospital located in a rural area or a teaching hospital may have distinct advantages in workforce development funding.

- **Health Professional Shortage Area and Medically Underserved Area Search Tools:** These tools can help identify areas with shortages of healthcare and areas where people experience barriers to care.
- **Rural Grant Eligibility Search Tool:** This tool is useful for healthcare systems operating in rural areas, which may be eligible for specific grants designed to address rural healthcare challenges.
- **Census Data:** Demographic and socioeconomic data from the Census can provide insights into the needs of specific populations, helping tailor the proposal.
- **Local Health System Data:** Hospitals and health systems should leverage internal data to demonstrate the current state of healthcare services in their region and how the proposed project would address existing gaps.

Many foundations have rolling application deadlines, and others stagger their grant programs throughout the year, which means it is always a good time to be on the lookout for your next funding opportunity. Developing strong relationships with local foundations is a good starting point, as these organizations are often more familiar with community needs and more willing to fund smaller, hyper-local initiatives. Larger national foundations, however, may have a broader scope and focus on systemic changes that can influence healthcare delivery on a much larger scale.

Securing foundation funding for healthcare systems is a process that requires careful planning and a deep understanding of community needs and your organizational capacity to address them. Crafting a compelling proposal that demonstrates a clear understanding of community needs, aligning with foundation priorities, and using data-driven narratives are key strategies in securing successful grant funding. Whether you are focused on capital improvements, workforce development, or service expansion, the right funding opportunity can significantly enhance your hospital or healthcare system's ability to thrive.

Program Snapshot

Hearst Foundation



SUMMARY

The Hearst Foundations support well-established non-profit organizations that address important issues within the foundation's major areas of interest, which are:

- **Education** - Preference is given to undergraduate education at medium size private, liberal arts colleges and universities. In addition, a limited number of grants may also be awarded to support K-12 programs and graduate level study.
- **Health** - The Hearst Foundations assist leading regional hospitals, medical centers and specialized medical institutions providing access to healthcare for high-need populations. In response to the shortage of healthcare professionals necessary to meet the country's evolving healthcare demands, the Foundations also fund programs designed to enhance skills and increase the number of practitioners and educators across roles in healthcare. The Foundations also support public health, medical research and the development of young investigators to help create a broad and enduring impact on the nation's health.
- **Culture** - For cultural institutions that offer innovative programs in the arts and sciences, the majority of which enable access for young people. The Foundations' focus includes education initiatives for students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. The Foundations also support programs that nurture artistic development.
- **Social Service** - For comprehensive direct-service organizations that foster effective solutions to social and economic problems. Priority is given to efforts that enable children, youth and families to lead productive and independent lives. Within these areas, the Foundations generally provide endowment, program, and capital grant support.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants are nonprofit organizations that address significant issues within their major areas of interest including culture, education, health and social service; and that primarily serve large demographic and/or geographic constituencies.

DEADLINE

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis and can be submitted at any time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the Hearst Foundation website at <https://www.hearstfdn.org/faq/>

Department of Justice Grant Funding in Jeopardy for ‘Sanctuary’ Jurisdictions

Shannon Day, Senior Grants Development Consultant (Public Safety)

A [Department of Justice memo](#) released on February 5, 2025, indicates the department’s intention of withholding federal grant funding from so-called “sanctuary jurisdictions,” furthering demands put in place by an [Executive Order](#) signed by President Trump on January 20, 2025.

There is no legal definition of a “sanctuary” jurisdiction, but unofficially, it is a state, county, city, or town with policies to protect undocumented immigrants. During the first Trump administration in 2016, the DOJ [withheld Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant \(JAG\) program funding](#) from numerous jurisdictions, including New York, Las Vegas, Chicago, and Miami. Attorneys General from 20 states filed an [appeal](#) in 2018. It is important to note that while federal funds were tied up in various lawsuits, the Supreme Court never ruled on the legality of the Department of Justice’s actions during the first Trump term because the Biden administration overturned the policy in 2021, immediately releasing federal funds. However, lower courts have repeatedly upheld the legality of most sanctuary laws. Law enforcement agencies cannot hold a person in custody for “an unreasonable amount of time” (this is undefined in the Constitution, but most states and prosecutors define “reasonable” as 72 hours) without bringing charges against them or without a signed judicial warrant transferring custody to another jurisdiction. According to Onondaga County, New York Sheriff Toby Shelley, when asked if his department would comply with administrative warrants, “If we do things that are against the law, we will be sued, and that will cost the taxpayers...So it is important to understand the law.” (Hayes, 2025)

We are already seeing litigation against the 2025 DOJ memo at the [local level](#) in a few states. We anticipate that more cities and states will join these lawsuits, similar to what we saw during the first Trump administration.

So, what does this mean for your department? It could mean that law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, tribal governments, and nonprofits may not receive the funding they rely on for the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of violent crime, drug treatment and enforcement, human trafficking, cold case investigations, victim assistance, etc. We are still in the early days of Round Two, but knowing how your department may be affected and planning is crucial. Communicate with your congressional representatives and senators, look into alternate funding sources through your city, county, or state budget, and consider state or foundation funders.

With this latest memo, local law enforcement agencies must walk a fine line between maintaining public safety and preserving community trust. Aurora, Colorado Police Chief Todd Chamberlain, “What we don’t do is enforce immigration laws, that is not our role...Our role is to make sure that people are safe and that people who have been victimized feel safe enough to come to the police,” (Sherry & Markus, 2025) but with federal funding withheld, his and other departments’ jobs of maintaining public safety and trust will be much more difficult.



Hayes A. (2025, February 3). Onondaga County Sheriff will only detain immigrants on a judge’s order: “We follow the law.” Syracuse.com. <https://www.syracuse.com/crime/2025/02/onondaga-county-sheriff-will-only-detain-immigrants-on-a-judges-order-we-follow-the-law.html>

Sherry, A., & Markus, B. (2025, March 3). What’s at risk if Colorado loses millions in DOJ funding due to “sanctuary” status? A lot. Colorado Public Radio. <https://www.cpr.org/2025/03/03/doj-funding-loss-colorado-sanctuary-status/>

Project Highlight

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) (California)

FUNDED ORGANIZATION

Humboldt County, California

PROJECT TITLE

Humboldt County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Programs

AMOUNT FUNDED

\$660,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The agencies involved with this grant proposal will work collaboratively to increase law enforcement, prosecution, and community outreach resources to successfully reduce the illicit marijuana industry, dismantle and disrupt drug trafficking operations that are trafficking fentanyl, heroin, and methamphetamine throughout the county, and will support the victims of these industries through a variety of resources funded by this grant. This project involves collaboration of two law enforcement jurisdictions, the Humboldt County District Attorney's Office, a non-profit organization, and data analytics by California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt.

FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION

<https://www.bscc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/JAG-2023-Project-Summaries.pdf>

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE

<https://humboldtgov.org/2545/Sheriffs-Office>



Upcoming Grantscasts

New events are added weekly. Visit <https://www.grantsoffice.com/Grants-Intelligence/Grantcasts> for the most updated information and to see our entire library of global Grantscasts.

Unlock K-12 Special Education Grants: Expert Tips to Secure Funding for Inclusive Education

A Grants Office Production

Date: May, 20, 2025

About: Register to uncover how special education funding has been shaped by decades of legislation, advocacy, and evolving priorities, making it a balancing act of federal, state, and foundation funding sources. Explore various funding opportunities designed to support inclusive education initiatives, specialized services, and resources for students with disabilities.

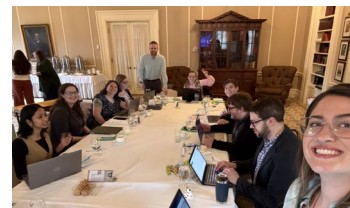
Register [HERE](#)



Visit our FREE “Guidance for Grantseekers Resource Library”

Our FREE Guidance for Grantseekers Resource Library includes a series of short videos, designed to arm you with expert knowledge and confidence for the journey ahead.

[Visit Our Resource Library](#)



We work hard for you and play hard for us!

The Grants Office team recently spent a few days connecting and planning for the year ahead. We're very excited for what's to come so stay tuned!

Recent Grantscasts

View our entire library of FREE upcoming and recent Grantscasts online in our [Grantscast Library](#).

Running Back 2024: A Review of the 2025 Continuing Budget Resolution and the Grants it Will Fund This Year (Episode 3 of our series: Making Sense of Recent Executive Orders and the Impact on Federal Grant Funding)

A Grants Office Production

About: Congress recently passed a Continuing Budget Resolution that funds the government through the rest of FY2025. Join us for a comprehensive overview of the US federal budget, recent trends, and how it impacts funding opportunities across various sectors. Whether you are a nonprofit, educational institution, or government agency seeking federal funding, this session will help you navigate the complex landscape of government spending and position your organization for success.

[Access HERE](#)

Funding Student Engagement Initiatives: Financing Cloud Solutions with Grants

A Grants Office Production, Sponsored by Ingram Micro

About: In an increasingly connected world, K-12 schools and post-secondary institutions consistently look for new ways to engage students in meaningful learning. Students connect with classmates, faculty, and staff by using various technologies to improve engagement. However, maintaining systems for this data safely and reliably has become a challenging cost for institutions to fund. Sign up to learn about grant opportunities in K-12 and higher education landscapes that fund technology costs for supporting student engagement initiatives and how to effectively justify technologies like cloud storage and analytics in your next grant proposal.

[Access HERE](#)

Unlock Digitization Grants: Expert Tips to Accelerate Your Organization's Digital Transformation

A Grants Office Production

About: Explore a variety of funding opportunities aimed at supporting digital transformation initiatives, from automation and cloud adoption to data management and cybersecurity. Gain insights into key grant program goals, eligibility criteria, and allowable digital projects, and hear expert advice on how to enhance your grant readiness. Whether you're just beginning your digital journey or scaling existing technologies, this session will provide valuable tips and tricks to make your grant proposal stand out and increase your chances of success.

[Access HERE](#)

Maximizing Grant Funding Opportunities to Build Smarter, Safer Communities

A Grants Office Production, Sponsored by Samsara

About: Public sector organizations are under increasing pressure to improve operations while maintaining tight budgets. Fortunately, federal and state grant programs can help fund smart technology investments that improve safety, efficiency, and risk management. Don't miss this opportunity to make the most of your budget and improve operations directly impacting your community.

[Access HERE](#)

Unlock Housing Grants: Expert Tips to Secure Funding for Housing Projects

A Grants Office Production

About: Discover a range of funding opportunities aimed at supporting affordable housing projects, community development, and housing accessibility. Gain insights into key grant program goals, eligibility criteria, and allowable project activities, and hear expert advice on enhancing your grant readiness. Whether you're starting a new affordable housing project or expanding existing initiatives, this session will provide valuable tips and strategies to make your proposal stand out and improve your chances of success.

[Access HERE](#)

Securing Our Communities: Accessing Canada's Community Security Program for Nonprofits

A Grants Office Production

About: Join Grants Office for an insightful session on the Canada Community Security Program (CCSP), a funding initiative designed to help nonprofits bolster their security measures against hate-motivated crimes. During this session, we'll guide you through the eligibility criteria, funding guidelines, and application process, while offering practical tips to craft a compelling proposal.

[Access HERE](#)

Fortify Your Frontlines: Funding Cybersecurity with SLCGP and Beyond

A Grants Office Production, Sponsored by CrowdStrike

About: As cyber threats grow more sophisticated, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments – and the K-12 sector – remain prime targets. The State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) offers a critical opportunity to secure your infrastructure, but understanding how to access and leverage those dollars is key.

[Access HERE](#)



GRANTS OFFICE
empowering communities

Benefits of Grants Support

