

FUNDED



A GRANTS OFFICE PUBLICATION

BODY-WORN CAMERA POLICY & IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROGRAM



DRAFTING YOUR LETTER OF INTENT

**UNDERSTANDING A CONTINUING BUDGET RESOLUTION &
ITS IMPACT ON GRANT PROGRAMING FOR 2017**

PLUS SUMMARY INFO ON 6 EXCITING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES!

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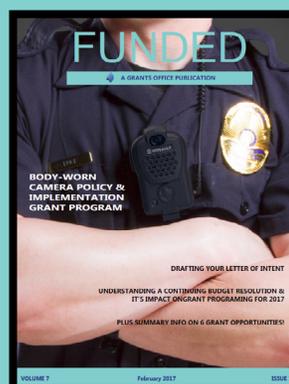
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ON THE COVER

In this issue, we discuss the third and final competition for President Obama's Body-Worn Camera Policy & Implementation Grant Program funded through the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Read more on page 8.

(Photo Credit: Arrow Electronics)

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Despite all the changes in the political arena, grants remain as important a tool of public policy as ever. And Grants Office is here to help you see your way clear through all the legislative and programmatic changes that are certain to be part of the landscape in the months and years to come.

This month, we're covering a wide swath of education, public safety, and healthcare funding, along with some tips for introducing your project to a funder and insights into what happens once you've submitted your application.

It starts with an analysis of the congressional budgeting process and the impact on grants of the increasingly common practice of using continuing resolutions as a means of funding the federal government.

We continue with coverage of two public safety grant programs that, as it happens, are both due February 16th - the Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program and the Improving Criminal Justice Responses grants, dealing with domestic violence response. Program Snapshots provide highlights of these programs, as well as the nearly \$1billion program that has been released to combat the opioid crisis, and several educational opportunities on the horizon.

Be sure to check out our webcasts and come visit us at the conference our team will be presenting at all over the country in the coming months. We'd love to meet you in person! As always, if you have comments, feedback, corrections, or topics for future issues, feel free to drop me a line at: mpaddock@grantsoffice.com. I hope you enjoy this issue of FUNDED as much as we've enjoyed bringing it to you!

Sincerely,

Michael Paddock
Editor and Publisher,
FUNDED



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Understanding a Continuing Budget Resolution and its Impact on Grant Programming in 2017

A continuing budget resolution is intended to be a rarely used, short-term tool to keep the government funded while offering Congressional representatives a temporary extension in order to continue negotiations with the aim of passing an annual federal budget. In practice, however, this has become the primary mechanism by which the federal government is currently being funded. The issue for federal grantmaking organizations is that the continuing resolution only extends the previous year's funding level commitments, typically only through a finite date. Thus, once the resolution expires, these agencies could be faced with a dramatically different level of allocated funds in order to carry out the remainder of the federal fiscal year.

When our executive and legislative branches of government are effectively working together, the mandates set forth within Title III of the Congressional Budget Act are followed as the timeline for federal appropriations:

- **1st Monday in February** – President submits executive budget to Congress
- **February 15** – Congressional Budget Office submits report to Budget Committees
- **6 weeks after President submits budget** – Congressional Committees submit views and estimates to Budget Committees
- **April 1** – Senate Budget Committee reports concurrent resolution on the budget
- **April 15** – Congress completes action on the concurrent resolution on the budget
- **May 15** – Annual appropriations bills may be considered in the House
- **June 10** – House Appropriations Committee reports last annual appropriation bill
- **June 15** – Congress completes action on reconciliation legislation
- **June 30** – House completes action on annual appropriations bill
- **Before October 1** – President signs budget bill into law prior to start of Federal Fiscal Year



Instead of this reliable, legally mandated timeline, however, recent trends show lawmakers interpreting the process for the annual federal budget in a much more ad hoc manner. One might inquire as to the last time a budget was actually passed according to the aforementioned timeline, but such a question only begins to highlight how little regard has been shown for the established process in recent memory. In fact, the last time that the legally prescribed process was followed, passing a federal budget, was in April 2009!

When the process is followed, agencies can begin planning for the following fiscal year, which should include the administration of any grant programs that are contained within the federal budget or can be funded through the agency's discretionary allocations. As we know, however, this has not been the case for nearly a decade. Instead, from 2010 forward most federal agencies have often found themselves in an annual state of

funding limbo while they wait for Congress to work out an agreement related to that year's federal budget as proposed by the President. As we enter into 2017, federal grantmaking organizations find themselves, yet again, in a familiar position — they are in the second quarter (January-March) of the 2017 federal fiscal year, but a full federal budget has yet to be passed for 2017. Since 2009, Congress has continued to kick the proverbial can down the road. Although, in early December 2016, Congress did manage to pass a continuing budget resolution thus keeping the government funded at 2016 levels through April 28, 2017 (just past the start of the 3rd quarter of the fiscal year). Yet, as we know, this is neither ideal nor a long term solution.

A common side effect of continuing budgetary resolutions is the delay in the release of grant programs that one would typically see occurring on an annually predictable basis. While this does create uncertainty, grantseekers can take advantage of the delayed timelines to better prepare for future submissions. The main drawback to budgetary resolutions, though, is when a federal agency releases a long forecasted grant program with a disclaimer, noting that projects "will be funded subject to federal appropriations". This



FEATURE

lack of predictability can often give way to major inefficiencies and waste of resources within the grants application and administration processes. Both the funder's and applicant's time and efforts could be potentially wasted on the development of grant proposals that are reviewed, but never funded because the money does not become available as expected.

On the bright side, by now most federal agencies and prospective grantseekers have become accustomed to operating in the face of all of this uncertainty. Learning to be comfortable with ambiguity is now just another tool of the trade for grant funders and seekers alike. Under the past administration, Federal agencies could comfortably assume that, in all likelihood, their budget would remain relatively in line with the previous year of funding. They were more often correct than not. Eventually a continuing budget resolution would be passed by Congress that maintained

the previous year's funding levels throughout the remainder of the current fiscal year. Working under this precedent, federal agencies can usually predict what their total budget will be for the year and can plan accordingly for discretionary grant programs. Likewise, these agencies also understand that any grant programs authorized by statutes from the previous year will also be carried over to the next, so long as resolution funding continues.

While no one can deny that the current state of the appropriations process in Washington, D.C. results in high levels of uncertainty, this ambiguity should not dissuade potential applicants from pursuing federal grants out of fear that their efforts will be a waste of time. In all likelihood, if a program is released, funding will become available. Even in the rare instance when funding does not become available, remember: the time and energy put into a proposal can usually be recycled as you apply to other federal, state, and foundation grantmakers.



Piecemeal funding forces many grant-making agencies, as well as their respective grant-seeking organizations, to think creatively about their current expenditures and habits related to grant funding. How does your organization handle funding uncertainty? How does this uncertainty impact the longterm health of your organization?

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

BODY-WORN CAMERA POLICY & IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (BWC PIP)

SUMMARY: The purpose of this program is to support the implementation of body-worn camera (BWC) programs in law enforcement agencies across the country. Grant funding helps develop, implement, and evaluate a BWC program as one tool in a law enforcement agency's comprehensive problem-solving approach to enhance officer interactions with the public and build community trust.

While BWC equipment may be purchased under this program, successful applicants must demonstrate a commitment and adherence to a strong BWC policy framework, including comprehensive policy adoption and requisite training.

NEXT DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted by February 16, 2017.

ELIGIBILITY: Public agencies of state government, units of local government, federally recognized Indian tribal governments that perform law enforcement functions, or any department, agency, or instrumentality of the foregoing that performs criminal justice functions (e.g. campus police departments).

Watch the Budget:
Applicants cannot request more than \$1500 per camera!

FOR MORE INFORMATION: https://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program_ID=115

BWC PIP applicants are responsible for a mandatory 50 percent (dollar-for-dollar) match. This can be satisfied with cash or in-kind sources. Federal funds can be used to purchase storage integral to the BWC program as long as it is acquired as a package. While federal funds cannot be used for separate, line-item storage, local law enforcement agencies may use their matching funds for this purpose.

Scoring Bonus Points on Your Body Worn Camera Grant Proposal

In December 2014, President Barack Obama announced a three-year, \$263 million investment to strengthen community policing initiatives across the United States. As a part of this initiative, \$75 million was specifically designated for grants under the “Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program” (BWC PIP). This program set a goal to assist in the purchase of 50,000 BWCs over its three year cycle of funding.



In the wake of events like what happened in Ferguson, MO, President Obama continually met with Community leaders, local law enforcement, and Department of Justice staff. One outcome of these discussions is the BWC PIP grant. (Official White House Photo by Lawrence Jackson)

2017 marks the third and final year of the BWC PIP Initiative. Solicitations in 2015 and 2016 funded nearly 180 law enforcement agencies throughout the nation, well exceeding the President’s initial goal of purchasing 50,000 body-cameras and the associated data storage infrastructure. In its final solicitation, the Department of Justice is making \$17 million available, and anticipates assisting an additional 63 agencies to “establish or enhance” body-camera initiatives. This “establish or enhance” dual-purpose allows applicants to request funding

for programs that must be implemented from scratch, as well as those applicants seeking to grow an existing program (such as extending a successful BWC pilot program to the entire force).

BWC PIP has proven to be a very competitive program over the last two years. In fact, the Department accepted approximately 30% of all requests through the 2016 solicitation. With a smaller funding pool in 2017, the level of competition is expected to be even higher. If your agency plans to apply to the BWC PIP this February, it is highly recommended that your application address one or more of the solicitation’s optional priorities in effort to improve your application’s standing: (1) Meeting all 18 of the provided BWC technical specifications; and (2) Forming Partnerships.

Meeting the 18 Body-Camera Technical Specifications

In 2017, priority consideration will be given to applicants that incorporate all 18 operating characteristics outlined in the Department’s [Technical Guidance on Body-Worn Camera Technologies](#). This list includes minimum specifications for body-camera recordings, such as frame rate, resolution, and audio quality. The list also addresses data management by setting base requirements for file compression, data transfer, and video/audio synchronization. These qualifications are not random; they are the result of the Department of Justice and various branch agencies’ efforts to gather evidence and best-practices on body-camera implementation over

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the last several years. For more information, check out the resources linked at the end of this article.

It is not necessary for your agency to individually list all 18 of these operating characteristics in the application narrative to be considered for this technical priority. In fact, it is not even necessary to select the exact make and model of body-worn cameras your agency will purchase with grant funds. Instead, call out this list in your application. Pledge to incorporate these 18 characteristics in your agency's decision to procure body-camera technology, if awarded. This shows the reviewers that you are aware of the minimum specifications suggested by the Department and will not purchase

a solution that falls short.

Forming Partnerships

Applicants will also receive priority consideration by partnering with other law enforcement agencies. Such partnerships can take various forms, but should ultimately focus on decreasing costs and reducing duplicated efforts. For example, multiple police departments may lower prices by purchasing body-worn cameras and data storage in bulk from one vendor. County governments may volunteer to host a physical storage repository of footage not only for itself, but also for other law enforcement agencies within its boundary. Campus



BWC PIP can fund the purchase, deployment, and maintenance of body-camera systems, but don't forget to also include elements of policy development, implementation, and officer training as part of your budget. For more information on recommendations and lessons learned, check out the COPS Guide to Implementing a Body-Worn Camera Program. <https://www.justice.gov/iso/opa/resources/472014912134715246869.pdf>

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safety officers may join training exercises with surrounding municipal agencies for shared policy development and program review. In a similar vein, agencies in the same geographic region may work with a single prosecutor to streamline local processes for submitting evidence and managing data.

Partnerships are particularly useful for law enforcement agencies with less than 25 sworn officers. In the 2017 solicitation, the funder will not consider requests for less than \$20,000 (\$10,000 in federal funds + \$10,000 in local match funds). If your agency does not require this level of funding, the Department encourages combining your request with other area departments to meet the award threshold.

In order to be considered for this second priority, only one agency needs to submit an application. This lead agency must be an eligible applicant for BWC PIP, which is limited to public agencies of state government, units of local government, and federally recognized Indian tribal governments. In practice, this definition has been utilized for government entities, as well as state-controlled higher education institutions. All other partnering agencies should be listed as “sub-recipients” in the application. These sub-recipients are not limited to the same eligibility categories and may include private universities, K-12 schools, and other nonprofit agencies that perform law enforcement functions.

Each partnership included in the application must be acknowledged in writing and attached as a separate document to the BWC PIP application. The format of such documentation is not clearly stated in the 2017 solicitation, but is generally accepted in the form of a letter of intent or formal memoranda of understanding (MOU). Be sure to identify each agency in its own individual letter, clearly stating the agency’s commitment to the

program, number of sworn officers requesting body-worn cameras, and how its portion of the local match will be met. Given the solicitation’s emphasis on cost-savings, you may also highlight any gained efficiencies and/or combined purchase power achieved through the partnership. Each letter should then be signed by a high-level authority within the agency, such as a City Council member, Mayor, Sheriff, Superintendent, or Director of Campus Safety. Fortunately, these attachments are not counted against the 15-page maximum limit.



Body Worn Cameras come in many different shapes, sizes, and brands. Be sure to speak with multiple vendors to figure out which model will not only be the most affordable, but also the best fit for your department’s needs. (Photo Credit: Panasonic)

As a general note regarding grant funding, in instances where a funder offers optional or competitive priorities, while not required, responding to these priorities is often highly encouraged. This is because when a proposal is reviewed (i.e. given a numerical score), effectively addressing additional priorities can garner one’s application additional points. Think of it like answering the extra credit question on a homework assignment: there are a base number of points one could earn for doing the required work, but then there are also a few additional points one could receive for doing just a little bit

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more work. If one were to answer a question on the homework incorrectly - losing points - they could stand to make up those lost points through extra credit. However, if one were to answer all questions correctly, these bonus points would push them well over the top. This, in turn, pushes the distribution curve for the class' grades up on that assignment, and 95-100% is no longer good enough to be graded as an "A".

When pursuing grant funding, you are competing against others for funds. Those proposals which have scored (i.e. were graded) the highest will end up being the ones that the funder chooses to award. Thus, as stated previously, including plans to address one or both of these optional priorities could go a long way towards the success of your proposal. In the case of BWC PIP, peer reviewers will consider inclusion of the aforementioned priorities under the "Project

Design and Implementation" section of the application, which accounts for 35% of your total score. Why not give yourself the best chance at making a more competitive application by being sure to incorporate one - if not both- optional priorities into your project?

Remember, BWC PIP applications are due February 16, 2017. Avoid the last minute panic and put your organization in the best possible position to receive funding by starting now! Make contact with the local prosecutor's office, gather data, formulate a budget, and craft a strong, well-written narrative. Consider implementing one or both of the 2017 priorities to give your application an extra boost to reviewers. We also recommend reviewing the Department of Justice's online resources for local law enforcement on wearable video solutions at:

- Bureau of Justice Assistance: [Body-Worn Camera Toolkit](#)
- Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office: [Implementing a BWC Program](#)
- National Institute of Justice: [Research on Body-Worn Cameras and Law Enforcement](#)

Happy Writing!



BWCs can sometimes be difficult to mount depending on your officer's uniform style and body type. Be sure to consider these factors when looking at the type of camera and mount you'd like to purchase for your officers. Most BWCs come with interchangeable mounts, so cameras could be worn on belts, vests, or the very uniform an officer is wearing! (Photo Credit: WatchGuard Video; see page 24 for information on the upcoming BWC webcast sponsored by WatchGuard)

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

IMPROVING CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSES TO SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, & STALKING GRANT PROGRAM

SUMMARY: The purpose of this program is to coordinate effort between governments, courts, victim service providers, coalitions, and rape crisis centers to ensure that (1) victims can pursue healthy and safe lives, and (2) offenders are held accountable for crimes. Applicants can request funding for victim support services, paid staff positions, training, and legal advocacy. The program also has potential technology components, funding solutions that strengthen a community's ability to recognize, investigate, and prosecute instances of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. This includes not only improving computer tracking systems and decreasing data backlogs, but also outfitting law enforcement and/or sexual assault response teams with the tools they need out in the field.

NEXT DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted by February 16, 2017.

ELIGIBILITY: States; units of local government; Indian tribal governments; state, tribal and local courts (including juvenile courts); state, tribal, or territorial domestic violence or sexual assault coalitions; or victim service providers.

Did You Know? OVW gives special consideration to applications that prioritize:

- Involvement with organizations and programs that focus on marginalized communities
- Involvement with organizations and programs that support underserved populations (based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, etc.)
- Program support for sexual assault services, law enforcement response, and/or prosecution
- Implementation of promising or evidence-building practices
- Integrate principles outlined in recent Department of Justice [guidance](#) on Identifying and Preventing Gender Bias in Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence into policies, training, and systems of accountability

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/922506/download>

Working toward these same initiatives on your college or university campus? [Check out the Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence & Stalking on Campus program highlight in our previous edition of Funded.](#) Applications are also due February 16, 2017!

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

STATE TARGETED RESPONSE TO THE OPIOID CRISIS GRANT PROGRAM

SUMMARY: As part of the funding authorized through the 21st Century CURES Act, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is making almost \$1 billion available to states over the next two years through State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grants. The program aims to address the opioid crisis by increasing access to treatment, reducing unmet treatment needs, and reducing opioid overdose related deaths through the provision of prevention, treatment and recovery activities for opioid use disorder (OUD) (including prescription opioids as well as illicit drugs such as heroin). These grants will be awarded to states and territories via formula based on unmet need for opioid use disorder treatment and drug poisoning deaths. Examples of allowable activities under the program include:

- Train substance use and mental health care practitioners, on topics such as best practices for prescribing opioids, pain management, recognizing potential cases of substance use disorder, referral of patients to treatment programs, and overdose prevention including CDC's opioid prescribing guidelines.
- Train OUD prevention and treatment providers, such as physicians, nurses, NPs, PAs, counselors, social workers, care coordinators and case managers.
- Support innovative telehealth in rural and underserved areas to increase the capacity of communities to support OUD prevention and treatment.
- Integrate health information technology programs, including enhancing clinical decision tools, to support identification of patients with OUD and engage them in treatment.
- Enhance the State Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), working with CDC grantees where applicable, to increase use of PDMP data (where appropriate).

NEXT DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted by February 17, 2017.

ELIGIBILITY: Single State Agencies (SSAs) as outlined at <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/ssadirectory.pdf>. Local and regional substance abuse service providers may be able to access the funding through sub-contracting and subgranting at the state level.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/ti-17-014>, and State Allocations (See Appendix E): <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/pdf/ti-17-014.pdf>

Drafting Your Letter of Intent

When approaching Foundations for funding, a common first step is to submit what is known as an LOI (i.e. a Letter of Intent, Letter of Inquiry, or Letter of Interest).

LOIs are structured as a formal business letter, and as such should be on your organization's official letterhead. This letter should be brief — between two and three pages in length — yet detailed enough to summarize your ultimate full proposal. Note, an LOI is not a vague exploration of an idea. The funder expects that you have already fully thought through your proposed project. Thus, if it takes a friend unfamiliar with your project more than 5 minutes to read and obtain a clear understanding of what you want to do with the foundation's funding, you should continue to edit and hone both your project idea and your LOI's message. A funder's time is precious, and your LOI may be one of hundreds that they must make their way through in a short period of time. As such, there is no need to take a "kitchen sink" approach to content. Your goal is to entice the funder into inviting you to submit a full proposal wherein you will provide your fully developed project plan and request.

Following is a description for each key part of an LOI.

INTRODUCTION

This is an important part of your letter. Were the funder to only read this paragraph, it should be sufficient to tell them how much they are funding, to whom, and for what general purpose. It should be a concise summary of your request to the funder, yet engaging enough to make the reviewer want to read on. In this paragraph you should list all vital information: the

Before you begin drafting, extensive research on the organization from which you are requesting funds should be done; study the Foundation's website reviewing: their mission, grant making guidelines, and annual report. If the foundation does not list previous awards made to grantees, thoroughly investigate their past 990 tax forms. These forms are publically available. Once you have familiarized yourself with the funder, you should be able to determine whether or not the foundation is an appropriate match for your organization and specific project idea.

name of your organization, the amount of money you are requesting (and if applicable the name of the specific grant/fund), a brief description of why you are requesting these funds, as well as a projected timetable for your project. If you have a pre-existing relationship with the funder, it also helps to acknowledge this as part of your introduction.

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

State who you are as an organization. What are your organization's mission, vision, and overarching goals? What sort of services do you provide and to whom? If applying to a foundation not in your immediate vicinity, be sure to specify the geographic scope of your services. How does your organization line up with the funding organization's areas of interest(s)? There should be a direct link between what you currently do, and what you hope to accomplish with the foundation's funding.

FEATURE

STATEMENT OF NEED

This is the most essential part of your letter. The purpose of grant funding is to address a specific problem or challenge. Your goal for this paragraph is to convince the reader that there is an important issue that cannot be solved through current means, thus additional support is required. In this section you'll want to specify the target population and geographic scope of your specific project if different from what has already been covered in your organizational description. Provide concrete examples of the challenge(s), and include abridged statistical data for the reader. These things are an effective way to show need as well as what you hope to accomplish through your project.



METHODOLOGY

This section is closely tied to the statement of need. How do you plan to use the funder's grant money to address your problem? Your project plan should be clear, logical, and achievable. What are your specific objectives? Do you have SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely) goals? Describe the overall project succinctly, but be sure to include major activities and any identified personnel who will be responsible for

these milestones. Also make sure to state how evaluation will be part of your project, clarifying how you will know if you have achieved your desired outcomes.

OTHER FUNDING

Some foundations prefer to be the only funder for a project, while others would rather be one of many. Start building trust with the foundation early on by being transparent about any other funding sources for your project. Include the amounts and sources of any funding already secured externally or leveraged internally. This is also a good time to briefly mention your plans for sustaining the project after the life of the grant. Funders do not like to hear that you plan on simply seeking another grant to continue your program, so it is advised that you mention how your organization plans to fold-in on-going costs associated with the project.

CONCLUSION

For a final time, briefly summarize your project goal. Note that you are open to further communication and ready to answer any questions that the funder may have. Provide them with your direct phone number and personal email address. Thank the funder for their time and consideration. Be sure to use a proper business salutation such as "sincerely" or "respectfully", and avoid an overly friendly or informal closing.

POST SCRIPT

Attachments should only be included if specifically requested by the funder. Common inclusions are your organization's list of directors, your organization's overall budget or copy of your organization's most recent tax record, and a copy of your organization's tax designation status (e.g. 501(c)3 tax exempt).



Doing follow up with a funder when your LOI or full application is denied is an essential part of the grant-seeking learning experience and improving your practice as a grant writer. Think of your LOI as a living document, a template which can always be improved upon. Don't wait to take reviewers' feedback into account until you're ready to apply again. Strike while the iron is hot (i.e. when feedback has just been received and is fresh in your mind)! You can use the feedback opportunity as a launching point for further discussions and relationship building with the funder... hopefully to lead you to a funded project the next time around.

Remember, when drafting an LOI, your goal is to describe a compelling need or situation; promote your vision for change by presenting a clear solution; convey confidence in your ability to solve the issue; and to ask for specific, justifiable amount in order to do so. Be sure to use simple, concise language and avoid jargon specific to your field. Foundation funders come from all walks of life, and may not have intimate knowledge of your field's vernacular.

Before sending your letter, take a final look at the funder's guidelines for contacting them and submission of an LOI. Failure to adhere to these guidelines is easy way for funders to "sort the wheat from the chaff" and make their first round of eliminations from the consideration pool. As such, be sure to double check that you have not neglected to include any requested information with your LOI or attached documents. Remember, it isn't necessary to thoroughly detail

every aspect of your project. There will be plenty of room for expanding upon your organization's description, statement of need, and methodology if invited to submit a full proposal. Seek parsimony in your writing, choose words that will have maximum impact, and excite the reader to want to know more.

And as a final note, if denied, never forget to write a follow up letter. Thank the funder for the opportunity to submit your LOI, but be sure to ask them for feedback. Ask if they are willing to debrief with you so that you may learn from the experience for moving forward with future requests. This feedback is instrumental for improving your next request to the funder and other foundations!

We wish you the best of luck and that your LOI leads to many funded projects!

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE (DLT) GRANT PROGRAM

SUMMARY: The Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program is specifically designed to assist rural communities in acquiring distance learning and telemedical technologies so that local teachers, and medical service providers who serve rural residents can link to other teachers, medical professionals, and other needed expertise located at distances too far to access otherwise. The DLT Grant Program is primarily focused on providing equipment that operates via telecommunications to rural end-users of telemedicine and distance learning. DLT does not fund communications links between sites (wireless or wire-line) and it does not fund telecommunications or Internet connections. Grants (and eligible matching funds) can be expended only for the costs associated with the initial capital assets associated with the project.

The following are examples of eligible equipment:

- Computer hardware and software
- Audio and video equipment
- Computer network components
- Telecommunications equipment
- Data terminal equipment
- Interactive audio/video equipment
- Inside wiring

NEXT DEADLINE: Applications are expected to be released by mid February 2017. The deadline usually falls in the late spring/early summer of each year.

ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible for a grant, your organization must:

- Be legally organized as an incorporated organization or partnership; an Indian tribe or tribal organization; a state or local unit of government; a consortium; or other legal entity, including a private corporation organized on a for profit or not-for profit basis with the legal capacity to contract with the United States Government. Many applicants for DLT Grants are informal consortia.
- Either operate a rural community facility directly, or deliver distance learning or telemedicine services to another organization that operates a rural community facility.
- Currently deliver or propose to deliver distance learning or telemedicine services for the term of the grant.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants>

THE GRANT AWARD PROCESS:

Just Won Your First Grant Award & Not Sure What to Expect Next? Maybe This Will Help!

1. *Funder Selects Awardees*

2. *Pre-Award Notifications Sent Out*

3. *Award Negotiation*

4. *Award Acceptance & Setup*

5. *Project Start Up*

6. *Reporting to Funder as Carrying Out Project*

7. *End of Grant Project Close out*



PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

CHARTER SCHOOLS PROGRAM (CSP): GRANTS TO CHARTER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS (CMOS) FOR REPLICATION & EXPANSION OF HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS

SUMMARY: The major purposes of the Charter Schools Grants Program (CSP) are to expand opportunities for all students, particularly traditionally underserved students, to attend charter schools and meet challenging State academic standards; provide financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of public charter schools; increase the number of high quality charter schools available to students across the United States; evaluate the impact of charter schools on student achievement, families, and communities; share best practices between charter schools and other public schools; encourage States to provide facilities support to charter schools; and support efforts to strengthen the charter school authorizing process. Through CSP Grants to Charter Management Organizations (CMOs) for the Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools, the Department provides funds to charter management organizations on a competitive basis to enable them to replicate or expand one or more high quality charter schools. Grant funds may be used to expand the enrollment of one or more existing high-quality charter schools, or to replicate one or more new charter schools that are based on an existing, high-quality charter school model.

All applicants must demonstrate that, from the total of their currently operational charter schools, at least 60% of students come from low-income families. In addition, applicants may choose to address the invitational priority of conducting rigorous independent evaluation of their charter schools, and/or one of three competitive priorities:

- School Improvement (turn around of academically poor performing schools)
- Promoting Diversity
- Novice Applicants

NEXT DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted by February 27, 2017.

ELIGIBILITY: Nonprofit Charter Management Organizations or consortia thereof.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/charter-rehqcs/index.html>



Interested in Grants Seeking Support for your School?

Grants Office's K-12 Grants Support Program provides school districts, charter schools, and affiliated local educational foundations with grants information, customized funder research, and consultation to develop project ideas, obtain funding for new projects, and even expand initiatives already in progress. Visit www.k12grants.com for more information!

The K-12 Grants Support Program provides assistance at ALL levels of grant development

- No time to search opportunities for a specific grant project – **Let Grants Office do the research for you!** Our consultants will provide you with a customized funding research report, and organize a follow-up phone call to discuss the available grant opportunities.
- Already interested in a grant opportunity, but not sure where to go next? **Grants Office Consultants are available to coach you through the application process!** Grants Office will be there every step of the way while developing your project plan. We can make sure you don't miss any important details or proposal requirements.
- Is someone in your district able to write your grant proposal, but not 100% confident in their work? **Grants Office Reviewers can edit your proposal draft(s) prior to submission.** We'll tell you where to trim the fat, where to bulk up the detail, as well as offering tips to make a more compelling case to the funder.
- If you do not have the time or resources needed to draft your own grant proposal, **Grants Office can provide writing assistance as well.** Grants Office will work with you to get your project ideas on to paper and submitted!

Grants Office is a national grants development services firm with a 15-year track record of helping schools find and secure funding. If your school or district is part of the New Jersey School Boards Association or the Pennsylvania School Boards Association speak to us today for a special offer!

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

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

SUMMARY: The Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Program provides funding to create, develop, implement, replicate, or take to scale entrepreneurial, evidence-based, field initiated innovations to improve student achievement and attainment for high-need students; and rigorously evaluate such innovations. This program is designed to generate and validate solutions to persistent educational challenges and to support the expansion of effective solutions to serve substantially larger numbers of students. EIR Early-phase grants provide funding to support the development, iteration, implementation, and feasibility testing of practices that are expected to be novel and significant relative to others that are underway nationally. These Early-phase grants are not intended simply to implement established practices in additional locations or address needs that are unique to one particular context. The goal is to determine whether and in what ways relatively newer practices can improve student achievement for high-need students.

All applicants are required to propose projects that would improve the academic outcomes of high-need students. In addition, EIR Early-phase applicants are also required to address one of the other five absolute priorities:

- Improving School Climate
- Promoting Diversity
- Increasing Post-Secondary Preparedness
- Improving the Effectiveness of Principals
- Re-Engagement of Disconnected Youth

NEXT DEADLINE: Letters of Intent are due by February 13, 2017. Full applications must be submitted by April 13, 2017.

ELIGIBILITY: A Local Education Agency (LEA), a State Education Agency (SEA), the Bureau of Indian Education, a consortium of SEA or LEAs, a Nonprofit Organization, or any of the previous in partnership with: an Institution of Higher Education, an Education Service Agency, a business, or a Nonprofit Organization.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://innovation.ed.gov/what-we-do/innovation/education-innovation-and-research-eir/>

HEADED TO CONFERENCES? ATTEND ONE OF OUR SESSIONS!

Future of Education Technology Conference (FETC) - Orlando, FL

"The Funding Landscape for STEM Education in K-12: Grants for your next project!"

Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 4pm in the STEM THEATER

(OCCC Exhibit Hall Booth #1805)

More Info: <http://bit.ly/2iDGSZI>



Speaker

Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA) - Austin, TX

"Technology-Friendly Grants for K-12"

Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 3:45pm in Room 12A

More Info: <http://bit.ly/2hVaFxE>



Midwest Education Technology Community - Saint Charles, MO

"Navigating the Grant Landscape to Fund K-12 Technology"

Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 10:50am in Room 104

More Info: <http://bit.ly/2jvAnbC>



South by Southwest Education (SXSWedu) - Austin, TX

"Funding K-12 Technology Through Grants"

Thursday, March 7, 2017 at 1:30pm in the Hilton Austin

Downtown Room 410

More Info: <http://bit.ly/2k1ITBv>



International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE) - Las Vegas, NV

"How Do I Pay for All This New Technology?"

(Session # M135)

Monday, March 27, 2017 at 1:30pm in Room S230

More Info: <http://bit.ly/2jA9CCT>



INTERESTED IN BEING A CONTRIBUTOR TO FUNDED?

Grants Office is interested in you!

Is there certain grants-oriented topic that you're passionate about? Do you have intimate experience with a particular grant program or funder that you'd like to share with our readers? Looking to bulk up your résumé and impress potential grant writing clients?

What about obtaining or maintaining your [Grant Professionals Certification Institute \(GPCI\)](#) credentials? These credentials must be maintained every 3 years through continued professional development. Qualifying Professional Development activities include "contributing to a journal or other professional publication", such as Funded!



Funded is published on a quarterly basis so there are ample opportunities to be featured throughout the year. You can submit as many or as few articles as you have time to prepare.

Reach out to us at info@grantsoffice.com with:

- your proposed article (preferably 2500 words or less)
- a short bio (250 words or less)

We're always looking for new writers for Funded Magazine. Join the team today!



UPCOMING GRANTSCAST EVENTS

- **In Plain Sight: Funding Body-Worn Cameras and Other Video-Based Policing Initiatives** - Sponsored by WatchGuard Video
February 3rd, 2017 at 2:00 pm EST
Register: <http://bit.ly/2iy6oRd>
- **Funding Technology-Fueled Innovation in State and Local Government** - Sponsored by NetApp & Avnet Technology Solutions
February 21, 2017 at 2:00 pm EST
Register: <http://bit.ly/2iKPQUy>

RECENT GRANTSCAST RECORDINGS

- **Strategies for Winning a 2017 Body-Worn Camera Policy & Implementation Grant** - Sponsored by NetApp & Stone Security
Replay: <http://bit.ly/2jKhu2x>
- **Funding Video Deployment in Texas Law Enforcement and Education** - Sponsored by NetApp & NetSync Network Solutions
Replay: <http://bit.ly/2jGU9yz>
- **Best Practices for Planning, Funding, and Implementing your Technology Initiative Using the U.S. Communities GPA** - Sponsored by NetApp
Replay: <http://bit.ly/2jVDu9Q>
- **Leveraging 21st Century Community Learning Centers Funding to Expand Your Educaiton Technology Offerings** - Sponsored by PCMG
Replay: <http://bit.ly/2j5zrb0>

Replay these and others at: <http://www.grantsoffice.info/webcasts.aspx>

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