GRANT RESOURCE GUIDE

LAUREN UNDERWOOD
14TH DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

RESOURCES FROM CONGRESSWOMAN UNDERWOOD

This Grant Resource Guide provides an overview of federal grants, tips and best practices for the application process, and information about how Congresswoman Lauren Underwood's office can help residents of the 14th District of Illinois seeking federal funding.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Thank you so much for your interest in learning more about the federal grant process as you serve our community.

The 14th District of Illinois is full of civically engaged citizens who are passionate about their communities and their ideas about how to improve the lives of their family, friends, and neighbors. Advocating for more federal funding that will benefit the residents of the 14th District of Illinois has been one of my highest priorities in Congress, and I'm often asked how non-profits, local governments, and other eligible grant seekers can apply for federal grants to support local projects or initiatives.

Federal grants are highly competitive and the process of researching and applying can be difficult and overwhelming, especially for someone who is new to the world of federal grants. This Grant Resource Guide provides an overview of grants, tips, and best practices for the various stages of the application process; information about how my office can help and suggestions for additional resources. I hope it proves a useful starting point for all of those who are new to the process, and an important reminder on how my office can be a partner and advocate for the many worthy organizations and local governments in the 14th District who apply for funding from the federal government each year.

From sending a monthly grant newsletter of federal funding opportunity announcements to writing letters of support for grant applications, I'm committed to making sure that my constituents have the resources and support they need when seeking federal funding. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office if we can be of assistance to your organization or if you have any questions or encounter any problems with the information provided here.

I wish you the best of luck through this process and am looking forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Lauren Underwood

LAUREN UNDERWOOD
14TH DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

CONTENTS

LAUREN
UNDERWOOD
14TH DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

LAUREN
UNDERWOOD
14TH DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

Agency Mission: Create a strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination, and transform the way HUD does business.
Best for: Local Governments, Non-Profits, Public Housing Authorities

Agency Mission: Protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities.
Best for: Higher Education Institutions. Non-Profits, Local Governments

Agency Mission: To enforce the law and defend the interests of the United States according to the law; to ensure public safety against threats foreign and domestic; to provide federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime; to seek just punishment for those guilty of unlawful behavior; and to ensure fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans.
Best for: Local Government, Law Enforcement Agencies

Agency Mission: To foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers, and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights.
Best for: Non-Profit Organizations

Agency Mission: To shape and sustain a peaceful, prosperous, just, and democratic world and foster conditions for stability and progress for the benefit of the American people and people everywhere. This mission is shared with the USAID, ensuring the country has a common path forward in partnership as we invest in the shared security and prosperity that will ultimately better prepare us for the challenges of tomorrow.
Best for: Non-Profit Organizations

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UNDERSTANDING GRANTS

WHAT IS A FEDERAL GRANT?

A grant is one of many different forms of federal financial assistance. Grants are a way the government funds ideas and projects to provide public services, stimulate the economy, support critical recovery initiatives, innovative research, and many other programs.

Federal grants are not benefits or entitlements to individuals. Grants are intended for projects serving broader needs at the local or state level. Most federal funding goes to state and local governments, which in turn may make subawards to local entities such as eligible nonprofit organizations. Local governments seeking funds for community services, infrastructure, and economic revitalization may be eligible to tap into state or federal funds. Government funding may also be available for nonprofit organizations for initiatives such as establishing food kitchens or after-school tutoring programs.

Federal grants are not earmarks. Members of Congress do not direct spending or advocate for earmarks to any entity or specific state, locality, or congressional district other than through the formula or competitive grant process. Members of Congress can advocate for funding for grant programs through the appropriations process. Congresswoman Underwood can support organizations and municipalities in the 14th District of Illinois by writing letters of support for those who wish to apply for funding through the grant process. See the Assistance from Congresswoman Underwood section of this resource guide for more information on how our office can help those seeking federal funds.

WHAT IS NOT A GRANT: ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS

Grants are not for individuals who may look to the government for assistance. Individuals seeking financial help may find the websites below useful:

- Individuals looking for earned federal benefits such as for child or health care, housing or energy costs, or disability or veterans' needs, should visit http://www.benefits.gov for more information on federal assistance
- Students seeking financial aid can search Student Aid at https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/
- Individual looking for assistance to start or expand a small business should visit the Small Business Administration (SBA) website at http://www.sba.gov to find information on programs, loans, and advisory and technical assistance (such as business counseling) as well as contact information for local SBA offices.

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14TH DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

Grant seekers may have seen or heard media advertisements claiming federal grants are available to help individuals. Sometimes, it's an ad for a "free grant" to pay for education costs, home repairs, home business expenses, or unpaid bills. However, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the nation's consumer protection agency, cautions individuals that "money for nothing" or "free government grant" offers are usually scams. Consumers should beware of paying "processing fees" for information that is available free to the public. If a grant seekers thinks they may have been a victim of a government grant scam, they should file a complaint with the FTC online at https://reportfraud.ftc.gov, or call toll-free, 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); TTY: 1-866-653-4261.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL GRANTS?

Determining that your organization is eligible to apply for and receive a federal grant is very important. If you are not legally eligible for a specific funding opportunity, you would waste a lot of time and money completing the application process.

Many groups or organizations are eligible to apply for government grants. Typically, most grantees fall into the following categories

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS
- State Governments
- Local Governments
- City or Township Governments
- Special District Governments
- Native American Tribal Governments (federally recognized)
- Native American Tribal Governments (other than federally recognized)

EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS
- Independent School Districts
- Public and State Controlled Institutions of Higher Education
- Private Institutions of Higher Education

PUBLIC HOUSING ORGANIZATIONS
- Public Housing Authorities
- Indian Housing Authorities

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
- Organizations other than small businesses

For the full legal eligibility requirements, you need to carefully read the application instructions that are attached to every funding opportunity on Grants.gov. The awarding agencies normally define eligibility in those instructions.

TYPES OF FEDERAL GRANTS

Discretionary Grants are a type of grant in which a federal agency selects the awardee (i.e., grant recipient) based on merit and eligibility. For discretionary grants, the federal awarding agencies review, assess, and evaluate the quality of the grant application to inform their funding decisions—it's a competitive process. With other types of grants, federal agencies have less discretion in the final funding decision.

Mandatory Grants are a type of grant that are awarded to each eligible applicant, generally a government entity, based on the conditions defined in the authorizing statute. Grant seekers may be more familiar with the terms block grant or formula grant. These can be types of mandatory grants the federal agency must award based on the eligibility, qualifications, or formula in the authorizing statute. Non-profits or other non-government entities may eventually receive this grant via pass-through funding. Depending on the grant program, the state or local government may use the mandatory grant funding to issue subawards to local entities to accomplish the purpose of the grant. For example, building a road or providing public education.

FORMULA GRANT is a type of mandatory grant that is awarded based on statistical criteria for specific types of work. The authorizing legislation and regulations define these statistical criteria and the amount of funds to be distributed. Medicaid is an example of a formula grant. Formula grants are much different than discretionary grants, in which organizations (and sometimes individuals) submit applications for a competitive review and selection process. Formula grants, in contrast, are noncompetitive.

BLOCK GRANTS refers to grant programs that provide federal assistance for broadly defined functions, such as community development or social services. Block grants allow the grant recipient more discretion than other grants in determining how to use the funds to meet a broader program goal. Block Grants are a type of mandatory grant. Federal block grants are typically for U.S. state or territory governments and allow these government entities to determine specifically how to allocate and spend the funding. Of course, there are rules and guidelines for implementation that vary with each grant program as defined in the authorizing statute. Nonprofits or other service providers may be eligible to receive block grant funds via pass-through funding from states or territories.

In some cases, one entity – the one who submitted the grant application – will serve as a pass-through to partnering entities, which are called subrecipients. The government funding they receive to carry out their responsibilities is called the *subaward*.

WHAT IS THE GRANT LIFECYCLE?

The grant lifecycle refers to the entire process a grant goes through—from creating the opportunity through implementation and ending with the closeout. While the grant lifecycle can be long and includes some complex elements, it also has a lot of consistency and follows a relatively linear path: pre-award phase, award phase, and post award phase.

The duration of the grant lifecycle and its phases varies based on several things: grant type, grant program, federal agency, and authorizing legislation. The duration of the Post Award phase varies the most because that is when implementation occurs (i.e., doing the work of the grant).

GRANT LIFE CYCLE

Congress appropriates funds to grant program. Grant seekers find funding on grants.gov or cfda.gov

1 PRE-AWARD

AGENCY: Calculates formulas and/or establish review panels & publishes notice of funds available

RECIPIENT: Reviews notice of funds & submits grant application

2 AWARD

AGENCY: Issues award notices & enters into grant agreements

RECIPIENT: Receives notice of award, completes required reviews & sign grant agreement

4 CLOSEOUT

AGENCY: Reconciles closeout documentation

RECIPIENT: Submits program performance and financial reports

3 POST AWARD

AGENCY: Monitors project activities & review reporting requirements

RECIPIENT: Submits required financial reports

PRE-AWARD PHASE The beginning of the process that includes the grantor announcing the funding opportunity through the application submission and review of grant applications.

- *Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA):* The awarding agencies prepare and publish FOAs based on the related legislation and their budget. An FOA includes all the pertinent information and requirements for an applicant to assess their eligibility, competency, and interest in the funding opportunity; in most cases FOAs are published on https://grants.gov

- *Register to apply:* Registering to apply for grants on Grants.gov includes several steps and types of registration, including DUNS, SAM.gov, and Grants.gov accounts. It's not a highly complex process, but it can take 1 to 3 weeks to complete, so please register as early as you can. Do not allow yourself to miss the application deadline because you waited until the last week to try to register.

- *Complete an application:* The application planning process is lengthy, but it is critical when considering all eligibility requirements and the competition grant seekers may face for funding. While the specific steps vary widely depending on the type of grant applied for, major components of the planning process include developing ideas, conducting research, writing a proposal, and completing the application.
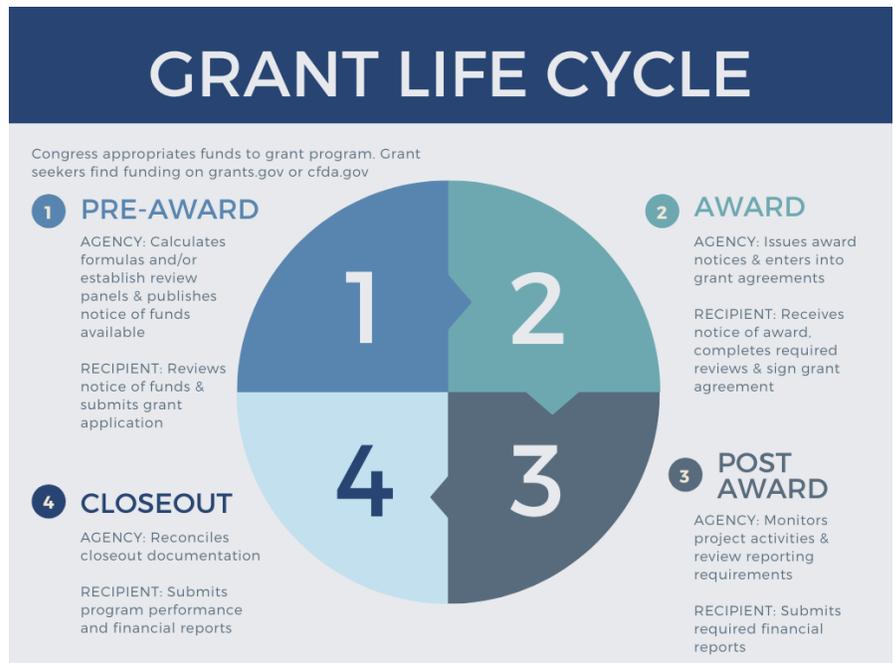
- *Application Review Process:* Once the application submission deadline passes, the awarding agencies get to work reviewing the applications. The specific process for reviewing an application varies based on the type of grant you applied for. The generally applicable steps are as follows:
  - ⇒ Initial screening to ensure application is complete
  - ⇒ Programmatic review and assessment of the substance of the applications
  - ⇒ Financial review of proposed budgets

AWARD PHASE The shortest of the three phases, the award phase is when the federal agency notifies award recipients

- *Notice of Award (NOA)* is sent once the final award decisions are made. The NOA is the official, legally binding issuance of the award. When you or your organization accepts the grant (i.e., by signing the grant agreement or by drawing down funds) you become legally obligated to carry out the full terms and conditions of the grant.

POST AWARD PHASE The post award phase can be the longest phase, as it contains the implementation of the grant program, along with all the reporting and audits.

- *Reporting:* The agency monitors your progress and expenditures through various programmatic and financial reporting procedures, as well as using performance metrics per the grant agreement. While the majority of award recipients carry out the grants ethically and efficiently, these monitoring procedures are necessary to maintain transparency and to prevent fraud and abuse. The awarding agency typically has a grants management officer and program officer designated to each grant, both of which will work with you throughout the life of the grant.

- *Auditing:* Federal grant-making agencies and grant recipients are audited. The Government Accountability Office (GAO), Office of Inspector General (OIG), and various departments within each Federal agency monitor and analyze policies, expenditures, and other activities within each grant-making agency.

CLOSEOUT PHASE The closeout phase is where the grant process ends. In order to complete a closeout, you, the award recipient, must submit the final financial and programmatic reports.

LAUREN
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14TH DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

LOOKING FOR GRANTS

KEY SOURCES FOR FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

BETA.SAM.GOV

Official descriptions of more than 2,200 federal assistance programs (including grants, loans, and other financial and nonfinancial assistance) can be found on beta.SAM.gov. The website, produced by the General Services Administration (GSA), is currently in beta, and it houses federal assistance listings previously found on the now-retired Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA). Each federal assistance program has a corresponding CFDA program number; these CFDA numbers are still used as numerical program identifiers. The site will eventually be renamed SAM.gov.

About 1,800 assistance programs are classified as grants. Assistance listing descriptions include:

- federal agency administering a program
- legislation authorizing the program
- objectives and goals of program
- types of financial or nonfinancial assistance
- uses and restrictions
- eligibility requirements
- application and award process
- criteria for selecting proposals
- amount of obligations for some past and current fiscal years
- range and average of financial assistance
- regulations, guidelines, and literature relevant to a program
- information contacts and headquarters, regional, and local offices
- related programs
- examples of funded projects
- formula and matching requirements, where applicable
- requirements for post-assistance reports

GRANTS.GOV

This is the centralized location for grant seekers to find and apply for federal funding opportunities. Today, the Grants.gov system houses information on over 1,000 grant programs and vets grant applications for federal grant-making agencies awarding more than $500 billion annually. After grant seekers identify federal programs in beta.SAM.gov, they may be directed to register and apply at Grants.gov when application announcements for competitive grants become available.

Grant seekers can use Grants.gov to:

- Check on notices of funding availability (NOFA) posted by federal agencies
- Access an RSS feed of grant opportunities and sign up to receive email notification of grant opportunities
- Register and download applications for current competitive funding opportunities from all 26 federal grants-making agencies.
- Find information on how to obtain a Dun and Bradstreet (DUNS) numbers and registering with the System for Award Management (SAM); both are required for all federal grants.

STATE ADMINISTERING AGENCIES

Many federal grants, such as formula and block grants, are awarded directly to state governments, which then set priorities for funding and allocate funds within that state. For more information on how a state intends to distribute federal formula funds, grant seekers can contact the state and appropriate state agency. State government agencies are familiar with federal program requirements, can assist local governments and nonprofit organizations with proposals, and can provide other guidance.

Constituent can find information on how to contact Illinois state agencies by searching https://www2.illinois.gov/agencies or reaching out to their State Representative or State Senator for assistance.

Illinois Catalog of State Financial Assistance (CSFA)

CSFA is a single, authoritative, statewide, comprehensive source document of State financial assistance program information. State agencies have populated the CSFA with federal, federal pass-through and state awards received. The CSFA also records grantee awards under each CSFA number. The public can search the CSFA for agencies with active grant programs, currently funded grants, current funding opportunities, and registered grantees.

Use the following link to access the CSFA: https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grants/SitePages/CSFA.aspx

For assistance with utilizing the CSFA contact:

Governor's Office of Management and Budget
401 South Spring
603 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706 Phone: 217-782-4520
Email: OMB.GATA@illinois.gov

PRIVATE, CORPORATE, AND ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES

Groups seeking funding for projects need first to determine the most appropriate sources of funds. Because government funds may be limited, sources of private funding can also be considered. State and community foundations may be particularly interested in funding local projects; however, many projects may require a combination of government and private funding. Local business or private foundation funding might be appropriate for supporting local memorials or programs. Community fund-raising may be more suitable for some school enrichment activities, such as band or sports uniforms or field trips.

LAUREN
UNDERWOOD
14TH DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

Below are some resources for assistance finding non-federal funding opportunities.

Candid (formerly the Foundation Center and GuideStar)
Visit: http://candid.org
Information gateway to the grant seeking process, private funding sources (including national, state, community, and corporate foundations), guidelines on writing a grants proposal, addresses of libraries in every state with grants reference collections, and links to other useful internet websites can all be found on Candid. Candid maintains a comprehensive database on foundation grantsmanship, publishes directories and guides, conducts research and publishes studies in the field, and offers a variety of training and educational seminars. Free information on the website includes the following:

- Introduction to Finding Grants https://grantspace.org/training/courses/introduction-to-finding-grants/
- Foundation Finder http://foundationcenter.org/find-funding/fdo-quick-start Search for information about more than 90,000 private and community foundations.
- Introduction to Proposal Writing Short Course https://grantspace.org/training/introduction-to-proposal-writing/ Free tutorial on developing a good grant proposal.
- Foundation Center Funding Information Network http://foundationcenter.org/find-us#lookup_form Libraries in every state providing the Foundation Directory Online and free funding information for grant seekers.

Community Foundations Locator (Council on Foundations)
Community foundations may be particularly interested in funding local projects and maintain diverse grants programs.
Visit: http://www.cof.org/community-foundation-locator

Funding Sources: Funding State by State (Grantsmanship Center)
The website provides listings by state of top grantmaking, community, and corporate foundations that grant seekers might consider in identifying likely sources of private foundation funding.
Visit: https://tgci.com/funding-sources/illinois

Grants and Related Resources (Michigan State University Libraries)
Visit: https://libguides.lib.msu.edu/grants
The site provides government and private grants resources, primarily internet, by subject or group categories. Includes information on:
- Researching Potential Funders https://libguides.lib.msu.edu/c.php?g=96743&p=769466
- Grants for Nonprofits https://libguides.lib.msu.edu/c.php?g=96743&p=622545

LAUREN UNDERWOOD
14TH DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

APPLYING FOR GRANTS

REGISTERING YOUR ORGANIZATION

Before your organization can apply for a federal grant, there are several steps an organization must complete prior to submitting an application. An organization is an entity that submits grant applications on behalf of the group, such as a state government, nonprofit organization, or a private business.

OBTAIN A DUNS NUMBER

A DUNs Number is a nine-digit non-indicative numbering sequence assigned to all types of business organizations including sole proprietorships, corporations, partnerships, non-profits, and government entities. It stays with a business throughout the lifecycle including name, address and corporate structure changes and even bankruptcy. The DUNS Number is issued free of charge for all entities wanting to do business with the U.S. Federal Government.

To obtain a DUNS number, call 1-866-705-5711 or visit http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform. You will need the following information to request a DUNS Number:

- Name of your organization
- Organization address
- Phone number of the organization
- Name of the CEO/organization owner
- Legal structure of the organization (corporation, partnership, proprietorship)
- Year the organization started
- Primary line of business
- Total number of employees (full and part time)

NOTE: By April of 2022, the federal government will stop using the DUNS number to uniquely identify entities registered in the System for Award Management (SAM). At that point, entities doing business with the federal government will use a unique entity identifier (UEI) created in SAM.gov. They will no longer have to go to a third-party website to obtain their identifier. Active registrants will have their UEI assigned and viewable within SAM.gov; there is no action for registered entities to take at this time. This transition allows GSA to streamline the entity identification and validation process, making it easier and less burdensome for entities to do business with the federal government. Users are not required to take any action at this time.

REGISTER WITH SAM

The System for Award Management (SAM) is an official website of the U.S. government. There is no cost to use SAM. Registering with SAM is a required step in order for your organization to be able to apply for federal grants. SAM is a web-based, government-wide application that collects, validates, stores, and disseminates business information about the federal government's trading partners in support of the contract awards, grants, and electronic payment processes.

You can access https://www.sam.gov and complete the online registration process. You also need the authorizing official of the organization to send a notarized letter to SAM and an EIN to complete the registration. Generally, after completing the online registration and sending your notarized letter, it takes up to two weeks to register with SAM, then one business day for updates made in SAM to be reflected in Grants.gov. However, your organization must first have an EIN. If your organization does not have an EIN, you should allow an additional 5 weeks to request and obtain an EIN from the IRS.

REGISTER WITH GRANTS.GOV
Before applying for a funding opportunity, you need to register an account with Grants.gov. The Grants.gov registration process can be completed in minutes.

Step-by-Step Guide to registering for a Grants.gov Account

1. Click the Register link in the top-right corner of the Grants.gov banner
2. Click the Get Registered Now button on the Register page.
3. Complete the Contact Information and Account Details sections. All fields with a red asterisk (*) are required.
   - Email Address - When entering an email address, please keep in mind that all correspondence with Grants.gov will be sent to that email address.
   - Username - Enter a username to log in to Grants.gov. It may only contain alphanumeric characters, question marks, periods, dashes, underscores, and the @ symbol. Your username cannot contain a space, nor can it only include numbers. Select a username you will remember.
   - Password - The password you choose must meet the following password requirements:
   - Must contain at least eight (8) characters
   - Must contain at least one (1) uppercase letter (A-Z)
   - Must contain at least one (1) lower case letter (a-z)
   - Must contain at least one (1) number (0-9)
   - Must contain at least one (1) special character (e.g. ! @ # $ % ^ & *)
   - Cannot be the same as the previous six (6) passwords
   - Cannot contain dictionary words, names, or your Username
4. Select whether to subscribe or unsubscribe from Grants.gov Communications. The Alerts are important messages about time-sensitive or major system changes. The Newsletter features training, system enhancement updates, and other resources to help the federal grants community.
5. Click the Continue button.
6. Click the Send Temporary Code button, then access your email account to access the temporary code.
7. Enter the temporary code you received in the email from Grants.gov into the Temporary Code field and click the Continue button.
8. Decide if you would like to add a profile to your Grants.gov account or click the Continue button to log in. You need to add a profile to submit an application. After registering, review the Workspace Overview page to learn how to apply for a grant.

SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

Completing a grant application can take time and should be started as soon as possible. Before beginning an application, it's important to keep in mind:

- You must have a complete Grants.gov account. If you don't set up your account properly, you risk facing delays when you are ready to begin work on the application.
- You should read the Funding Opportunity Announcement's eligibility requirements carefully. You don't want to spend time on an application only to realize later that you are not eligible to apply.

For most federal grants, you will complete and submit your application through Grants.gov's workspace. Workspace allows a grant team to simultaneously access and edit different forms within an application. Plus, the forms can be filled out online or offline depending on what is best for the organization. How an organization manages their application on Grants.gov workspace will depend on the organization, how many Grants.gov users are within the organization or if the organization has hired a consultant, and more. For more information on using Grants.gov workspace including tutorial videos and informational articles, visit https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/workspace-overview.html

The application itself requires everything from basic organizational information, to explanations of proposed work and financial data. When an application package has been completed per the opportunity instructions and checked for errors, it can be submitted through Grants.gov. The basic sections of a standard grant proposal include the following:

- Cover letter
- Proposal summary or abstract
- Introduction describing the grant seeker or organization
- Problem statement (or needs assessment)
- Project objectives
- Project methods or design
- Project evaluation
- Future funding
- Project budget

For help drafting a grant proposal see APPENDIX A of this guide for the Congressional Research Service's "How to Develop and Write a Grant Proposal" which discusses preliminary information gathering and preparation, developing ideas for the proposal, gathering community support, identifying funding resources, and seeking preliminary review of the proposal and support of relevant administrative officials. This guide also include information on the actual writing of the proposal, from outlining of project goals, stating the purpose and objectives of the proposal, explaining the program methods to solve the stated problem, and how the results of the project will be evaluated, to long-term project planning, and, finally, developing the proposal budget.

TRACKING A GRANT APPLICATION

After an application is submitted, a grant seeker can track the status of their application by using the Grants.gov Tracking Number listed on the confirmation screen or email and entering this number in the appropriate field at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/track-my-application.html. There are a range of statuses a grant seeker might see, here are some of their definitions:

- Received: Grants.gov has received the application, but the application is awaiting validation.
- Validated: Grants.gov validated the application and it is available for the agency to download.
- Rejected with Errors: Grants.gov was unable to process your application because of an error(s) and cannot accept the application until you correct the error(s) and successfully resubmit the application. You will receive an email with a list of errors. You can also view the errors at any time via the Check Application Status page: just click the Details link associated with the rejected application.
- Received by Agency: The agency has confirmed receipt of the application.
- Agency Tracking Number Assigned: The agency has assigned an internal tracking number to your application. This is the last status that Grants.gov tracks. Updates beyond this must be checked with the agency directly. Note: All agencies do not assign tracking numbers. If you do not see an agency tracking number, this does not infer that the agency did not receive or process your application. The assignment of tracking numbers is based on the policy of a particular agency.

Once the federal grant-making agency receives the application, you will need to contact the agency point of contact for additional tracking and status information during the application review. When you are reviewing the FOA, you should write down the the agency contact listed in the opportunity to help you track the status of the application once it is received by the agency and if you have any program-related questions throughout the application process.

HOW OUR OFFICE CAN HELP

Advocating for more federal funding to support the 14th District has been one of Rep. Underwood's highest priorities in Congress. From sharing funding opportunity announcements (FOA) in a monthly e-newsletter to writing letters of support for grant applications, Rep. Underwood's office is here to support organizations and governments within the 14th Congressional District of Illinois throughout the federal grant application process.

MONTHLY GRANT NEWSLETTER
Want to keep in touch with Rep. Underwood's office about upcoming federal grant opportunities, grant trainings and resources, and information on how our office can assist with federal grants? You can sign up for her monthly grant e-newsletter that is sent the first week of each month by visiting https://underwood.house.gov/services/grant-app-info

UPDATED GRANT RESOURCES & GRANT RESOURCE GUIDE
Rep. Underwood's grant application page on her website is kept updated with guidance and key resources to help eligible grant seekers find information on federal grants, loans, and nonfinancial assistance for projects, as well as on private funding. You can also download the most up to date grant resource guide by visiting https://underwood.house.gov/services/grant-applicants

PROJECT GRANT SEARCH
Rep. Underwood's office can assist grant seekers by helping identify available federal funding sources for a specific organization or project in the 14th District of Illinois. A grant seeker will meet with a member of Rep. Underwood's staff to share organization background as well as detailed information on the type of funding that would benefit their organization or a specific project proposal. Rep. Underwood's staff can use this information to make recommendations on current funding sources and keep in touch with the organization to share new funding opportunity announcements that the grant seeker should consider exploring. Grant seekers can contact Rep. Underwood's office at the contact information below to request a grant recommendation meeting.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT
Grant seekers submitting an application for a federal grant that would benefit the 14th District of Illinois can request a letter of support from Rep. Underwood to include in their application. Keep in mind that the grant seeker or organization must reside in or have a direct benefit to Rep. Underwood's constituents for her to

consider writing a letter of support. For more information or to request a letter, reach out to Rep. Underwood's office at the contact information below.

ASSISTING WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES

In some circumstances, Rep. Underwood's staff can serve as liaison between grant seekers and federal agencies to help clarify the intricacies of a proposal development, application, and follow-up procedure of grant application. Grant seekers who need assistance communicating with federal agencies about grant opportunities should reach out to Rep. Underwood's office at the contact information below.

TRACKING GRANT APPLICATIONS

After submitting an application, a grant seeker from the 14th District of Illinois can reach out to Rep. Underwood's office for status updates from federal agencies. Grant seekers who need assistance tracking a grant application should reach out to Rep. Underwood's office at the contact information below.

CONTACTING REP. UNDERWOOD'S OFFICE

Grant seekers in the 14th Congressional District of Illinois should use the contact information below to reach out to Rep. Underwood's office to hear more about how our office can help throughout the federal grant application process.

Congresswoman Underwood's West Chicago Office
490 E. Roosevelt Rd., Suite 202
West Chicago, IL 60185
Phone: (630) 549-2190
Email: Underwood.DistrictOffice@mail.house.gov
Visit: https://underwood.house.gov/

GRANT MAKING AGENCIES

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID)

USAID partners to end extreme poverty and to promote resilient, democratic societies while advancing our security and prosperity. Poverty is multi-dimensional, requiring an approach to address hunger and food in-security, illiteracy and innumeracy, ill-health, dis-empowerment, marginalization, and vulnerability. USAID's Feed the Future, Global Health, Global Climate Change, and Power Africa initiatives target symptoms of and pathways out of poverty. USAID's work on education is already reaching millions in extreme poverty. Similar-ly, the organization's cross-cutting efforts in promoting democracy, rights and good governance, empowering women and girls, advancing prosperity, building resilient societies, and mitigating climate change are all es-sential to ending poverty.

Visit: https://www.usaid.gov
Agency Point of Contact: Lia Melakou, lmelakou@usaid.gov

- Faith-Based and Community Initiatives: Working closely with faith-based and community stake-holders is critical to the success of USAID's mission. These efforts are coordinated through USAID's Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (CFBCI). The CFBCI serves existing and prospec-tive faith-based and community partners by: providing a bridge for faith-based and community groups seeking to connect with USAID's mission.
- American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) Grant Programs: USAID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) program provides assistance to schools, libraries, and medical centers outside the United States. ASHA's grants help these institutions train future leaders in a wide vari-ety of disciplines, support local and regional infrastructure to foster development, and cultivate positive relationships and mutual understanding among citizens of the United States and other nations.
- Denton Program: The Denton Program allows private U.S. citizens and organizations to use space available on U.S. military cargo planes to transport humanitarian goods to countries in need.
- Development Innovation Ventures: Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) is an open competi-tion supporting breakthrough solutions to the world's most intractable development challenges—interventions that could change millions of lives at a fraction of the usual cost.
- Food for Peace: The emergency food assistance and multi-year development programs monitor food insecurity throughout the world, save lives in times of crisis, tackle chronic undernutrition, and help the most vulnerable break the cycle of poverty and hunger through agriculture and liveli-hoods support.
- Grand Challenges for Development: The Grand Challenges for Development initiative is rooted in two fundamental beliefs about international development: Science and technology, when applied appropriately, can have transformational effects; and engaging the world in the quest for solu-tions is critical to instigating breakthrough progress. Under the Grand Challenges for Development initiative, USAID will focus on defining problems, identifying constraints, and providing evidence based analysis.
- Limited Excess Property Program: allows non-profit organizations registered as Private Voluntary

Organizations (PVOs) with USAID to access government excess property through the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) and the Defense Logistics Agency's (DLA) Disposition Services' excess property programs.

- Ocean Freight Reimbursement: The Ocean Freight Reimbursement (OFR) Program is the oldest ongoing Private Voluntary Organization (PVO) support program, allowing recipients to ship a wide variety of goods overseas for use in privately-funded development and humanitarian assistance programs.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE (CNCS)

The Corporation for National and Community Service is the nation's largest grant-maker supporting service and volunteering. Through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps and the Learn and Serve America programs, the Corporation is a catalyst for change and offers every American a chance to contribute through service and volunteering.

Visit: https://www.nationalservice.gov
Point of Contact: Danielle Horetsky, DHoretsky@cns.gov

- AmeriCorps: AmeriCorps programs provide opportunities for Americans to make an intensive commitment to service. The AmeriCorps network of local, state, and national service programs engages more than 80,000 Americans in projects around the nation each year.
- Senior Corps: Senior Corps offers a network of programs that tap the rich experience, skills, and talents of older citizens to meet community challenges.
- Social Innovation Fund: The SIF targets millions in public-private funds to expand effective solutions across three issue areas: economic opportunity, healthy futures, and youth development and school support.
- Volunteer Generation Fund: supports volunteer organizations and state service commissions in boosting the impact of volunteers in addressing critical community needs. The fund will focus investments on volunteer management practices that increase both volunteer recruitment and retention.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Established in 1862, the Department of Agriculture serves all Americans through anti-hunger efforts, stewardship of nearly 200 million acres of national forest and rangelands, and product safety and conservation efforts. The USDA opens markets for American farmers and ranchers and provides food for needy people around the world.

Visit: https://www.usda.gov
Point of Contact: Kim Radcliff, kim.radcliff@usda.gov

- Farm Service Agency (FSA) Loans: FSA makes direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution, or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed, and supplies. Loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

- Housing Assistance: USDA provides homeownership opportunities to low- and moderate-income rural Americans through several loan, grant, and loan guarantee programs. The programs also make funding available to individuals to finance vital improvements necessary to make their homes decent, safe, and sanitary. USDA Multi-Family Housing Programs offer Rural Rental Housing Loans to provide affordable multi-family rental housing for very low-, low-, and moderate-income families; the elderly; and persons with disabilities. In addition, rental assistance is available to eligible families.

- Rural Development Loan Assistance: forges partnerships with rural communities, funding projects that bring housing, community facilities, business guarantees, utilities, and other services to rural America. USDA provides technical assistance and financial backing for rural businesses and cooperatives to create quality jobs in rural areas.

- Beginning Farmers and Ranchers: provides direct and guaranteed loans to beginning farmers and ranchers who are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources.

- Crop and Livestock Insurance: helps producers manage their business risks. The mission of USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) is to promote, support, and regulate sound risk management solutions to preserve and strengthen the economic stability of America's agricultural producers. As part of this mission, RMA operates and manages the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC).

- Federal State Marketing Improvement Program: provides matching funds to State Departments of Agriculture and other appropriate State agencies to assist in exploring new market opportunities for food and agricultural products, and to encourage research and innovation aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the marketing system.

- Specialty Crop Block Grant Program: funds can be requested to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and nursery crops (including floriculture).

- The Farmers Market Promotion Program: grants are targeted to help improve and expand domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities.

- Organic Cost Share Program: provides assistance to organic producers and/or organic handlers.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The Department of Commerce fosters and promotes the nation's economic development and technological advancement through vigilance in international trade policy, domestic business policy and growth, and promoting economic progress at all levels.

Visit: https://www.commerce.gov
Point of Contact: Greg Coss, gcoss1@doc.gov

- Economic Development Administration: Through strategic investments that foster job creation and attract private investment, EDA supports development in economically distressed areas of the United States. EDA works directly with local economic development officials to make grant investments that are well-defined, timely, and linked to a long-term, sustainable economic development strategy.
- Market Development Cooperator Program: includes financial and technical assistance from the International Trade Administration (ITA) to support projects that enhance the global competitiveness of U.S. industries. The non-profit groups compete for a limited number of MDCP awards by proposing innovative projects that generate exports that create or sustain U.S. jobs.
- National Telecommunications & Information Administration Programs: administer grant programs that support the deployment of broadband infrastructure, enhance and expand public computer centers, encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service, and promote statewide broadband planning and data collection activities.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The Department of Defense provides the military forces needed to deter war and protect the security of the United States through five major areas: peacekeeping and war-fighting efforts, Homeland Security, evacuation and humanitarian causes.

Visit: http://www.defense.gov

- National Security Education Program: program to award scholarships to U.S. undergraduate students, fellowships to U.S. graduate students, and grants to U.S. institutions of higher education. These awards are for study or program development in languages and regions critical to national security.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Department of Education ensures equal access to education and promotes educational excellence through coordination, management, and accountability in federal education programs. The Department works to supplement and complement educational efforts on all levels, encouraging increased involvement by the public, parents, and students.

Visit: https://www.ed.gov
Point of Contact: Holly Clark, holly.clark@ed.gov

- Institute of Education Sciences: The mission of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) is to provide rigorous and relevant evidence on which to ground education practice and policy and share this information broadly. IES is the research arm of the U.S. Department of Education.
- Academic Improvement and Teacher Quality Programs: several major formula and discretionary grant programs. These programs provide financial assistance to state and local educational agen-

cies, institutions of higher education, community and faith-based organizations, and other entities. Funding supports activities designed to recruit and retain a high-quality teaching staff for America's schools, to strengthen the quality of elementary and secondary education, including through after-school programs, to test and disseminate information on new approaches for improving educational results, to improve literacy skills for children and students from birth through 12th grade, and to raise the educational achievement of at-risk students, such as Native Hawaiian and Alaska Native children and youth.

- More Dept. of Education Funding Opportunities: https://www2.ed.gov/programs/find/title/index.html?src=apply-page

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

The Department of Energy's goal is to advance national, economic, and energy security in the U.S.; to promote scientific and technological innovation in support of that goal; and to ensure environmental cleanup of the national nuclear weapons complex.

Visit: http://www.energy.gov
Point of Contact: Terri Diehl, terri.diehl@hq.doe.gov

- Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs Office: collaborates with state and local governments, Indian tribes, and overseas U.S. territories to leverage resources to achieve near-term and measurable reductions in overall energy use, improvements in energy efficiency, growth in renewable energy capacity, and expanded economic opportunities.
- State Energy Program: maximizes the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy in each state through communications and outreach activities and technology deployment. Additionally, SEP helps states improve the security of their energy infrastructure by assisting them with the development of state energy plans.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The Department of Health and Human Services is the federal government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially to those who are least able to help themselves.

Visit: https://www.hhs.gov
Point of Contact: Ronald Dortch, ronald.dortch@hhs.gov

- Administration for Children & Families: programs aim to empower families and individuals to increase their economic independence and productivity; encourage strong, healthy, supportive communities that have a positive impact on quality of life and the development of children; create partnerships with front-line service providers, states, localities and tribal communities to identify and implement solutions that transcend traditional program boundaries; improve access to services through planning, reform and integration; and address the needs, strengths and abilities of vulnerable populations including people with developmental disabilities, refugees, and migrants.
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality: grants support research to improve the quality, effectiveness, accessibility, and cost effectiveness of health care.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: awards over 25,000 acquisition and assistance actions each year and obligates approximately $11 billion in federal funds.
- Food and Drug Administration: sponsors several competitive grant/cooperative agreement programs related to food safety and human health issues. These grants/cooperative agreements provide federal-state agencies with the opportunity to enhance or develop new and existing programs intended to aid in safeguarding products intended for human or animal use.

National Institutes of Health: provides financial support in the form of grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts. Awards many grants specifically for research, also provides grant opportunities that support research-related activities, including: fellowship and training, career development, scientific conferences, resource and construction.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The Department of Homeland Security has three primary missions: Prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism, and minimize the damage from potential attacks and natural disasters.

Visit: https://www.dhs.gov
Point of Contact: Mary Tutman, mary.tutman@hq.dhs.gov

- Federal Emergency Management Agency Grants: coordinate the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror. FEMA offers both non-disaster grants and disaster assistance.
- Transit Security Grant Program: provides security grants to mass transit and passenger rail systems, intercity bus companies, freight railroad carriers, ferries, and the trucking industry to help protect the public and nation's critical transportation infrastructure against acts of terrorism and

other large-scale events.
- Science and Technology Directorate: invests in scientific research leading to the development of new and innovative technologies.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Housing and Urban Development's mission is to increase homeownership, support community development, and increase access to affordable housing free from discrimination. HUD fulfills this mission through high ethical standards, management, and accountability, and by forming partnerships with community organizations.

Visit: http://www.hud.gov
Point of Contact: Dorthera Yorkshire, Dorthera.Yorkshire@hud.gov

- Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant Program: supports locally-driven strategies to address struggling neighborhoods with distressed public or HUD-assisted housing through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation.
- More HUD Funding Opportunities: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/spm/gmomgmt/grantsinfo/fundingopps

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

The Department of the Interior protects and provides access to the nation's natural and cultural heritage, including responsibilities to Indian tribes and island communities. Departmental goals include resource protection and usage, overseeing recreational opportunities, serving communities, and excellence in management.

Visit: https://www.doi.gov
Point of Contact: Anita Hairston, anita_hairston@ios.doi.gov

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: administers a variety of programs that award grants and cooperative agreements to commercial organizations, foreign entities, Indian tribal governments, individuals, institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, and state and local governments.
- National Park Service: provides preservation assistance through a number of programs that support the preservation of America's historic places and diverse history.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Department of Justice enforces the law and defends the interests of the United States, ensuring public safety against threats foreign and domestic; providing federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime; seeking just punishment for those guilty of unlawful pursuits; and ensuring fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans.

Visit: https://www.usdoj.gov
Point of Contact: Maria Swineford, maria.swineford@usdoj.gov

- Office of Justice Programs: offers federal financial assistance to scholars, practitioners, experts, and state and local governments and agencies. Many of the program bureaus and offices award formula grants to state agencies which sub-grant funds to units of state and local government.
- Office on Violence Against Women: administers 19 grant programs to help provide victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking with the protection and services they need to pursue safe and healthy lives and enable communities to hold offenders accountable for their violence.
- Community Oriented Policing Services Office: offers grants to help law enforcement agencies to hire more community policing officers, to acquire new technologies and equipment, to hire civilians for administrative tasks, and to promote innovative approaches to solving crime.
- More Dept. of Justice Funding Opportunities: https://www.justice.gov/grants

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The Department of Labor fosters and promotes the welfare of job seekers, wage earners, and retirees by improving their working conditions, advancing their opportunities, protecting their retirement and health benefits, and generally protecting worker rights and monitoring national economic measures.

Visit: https://www.dol.gov
Point of Contact: Kia Mason, mason.kia@dol.gov

- Employment and Training Administration: administers a federal government job training and worker dislocation programs, federal grants to states for public employment service programs, and unemployment insurance benefits. These services are primarily provided through state and local workforce development systems.
- Susan Harwood Training Grant Program: awards grants to nonprofit organizations on a competitive basis. The focus of the program is to provide training and education for workers and employers on the recognition, avoidance, and prevention of safety and health hazards in their workplaces, and to inform workers of their rights and employers of their responsibilities under the OSH Act.
- Mine Safety and Health Administration State Grants Program: distributes federal grants to 49 states and the Navajo Nation. Grants are made to the state agency program responsible for miners' health and safety.
- More Department of Labor Funding Opportunities: https://www.dol.gov/general/grants/howto

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Department of State strives to create a more secure, democratic, and prosperous world for the benefit of the American people and the international community.

Visit: https://www.state.gov
Point of Contact: Andrew Reisig, ReisigAR@state.gov

- Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs: aims to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange that assist in the development of peaceful relations. ECA awards grants and cooperative agreements to non-profit organizations to support academic, cultural, and professional exchange programs to promote mutual understanding.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Department of Transportation's mission is to ensure fast, safe, efficient, accessible, and convenient transportation that meets vital national interests and enhances the quality of life of the American people, today and into the future.

Visit: https://www.dot.gov
Point of Contact: Damond Smith, damond.smith@dot.gov

- BUILD Discretionary Grant program: provides a unique opportunity for the DOT to invest in road, rail, transit, and port projects that promise to achieve critical national objectives. Since 2009, Congress has dedicated more than $4.1 billion for six rounds to fund projects that have a significant impact on the Nation, a region or a metropolitan area.
- Surface Transportation Program (STP) is one of the main sources of flexible funding available for transit or highway purposes. These funds may be used (as capital funding) for public transportation capital improvements, car and vanpool projects, fringe and corridor parking facilities, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and intercity or intracity bus terminals and bus facilities.
- More Dept. of Transportation Funding Opportunities: https://www.transportation.gov/grants

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

The Department of Treasury is a steward of United States economic and financial systems, promotes conditions for prosperity and stability in the U.S., and encourages prosperity and stability in the rest of the world.

Visit: https://www.treasury.gov
Point of Contact: Bill Beard, beard.william@irs.gov

- Restore Act: In 2010, the largest offshore oil spill in the United States occurred and the President signed into law the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act which established the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund in

the U.S. Treasury Department. Under the Act, amounts in the Trust Fund will be available for programs, projects, and activities that restore and protect the environment and economy of the Gulf Coast region.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Department of Veterans Affairs strives for excellence in patient care and veteran's benefits for its constituents through high-quality, prompt, and seamless service to United States veterans.

Visit: https://www.va.gov
Point of Contact: Kevin Cone,
kevin.cone@va.gov

- Veterans Cemetery Grants Program: assists states, territories and federally-recognized tribal governments in providing gravesites for Veterans in those areas where VA's national cemeteries cannot fully satisfy their burial needs.
- Rural Veterans Coordination Pilot: program to support Veterans and their families who reside in rural and/or underserved areas of the country. Grantees are expected to use the funds to aid Veterans with the transition to civilian life.
- Grant and Per Diem Program: funds community agencies providing services to homeless Veterans. The purpose is to promote the development and provision of supportive housing and/or supportive services with the goal of helping homeless Veterans achieve residential stability, increase their skill levels and/or income, and obtain greater self-determination.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGECNY

The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency is to protect human health and the environment. Since 1970, the EPA has been working for a cleaner, healthier environment for the American people.

Visit: https://www.epa.gov
Point of Contact: Kevin Wilson, wilson.kevin@epa.gov

- Exchange Network Grant Program: provides funding to states, territories, and federally-recognized Indian tribes to support the development of the National Environmental Information Exchange Network
- Environmental Education Grants Program: seeks grant proposals from eligible applicants to sup-

port environmental education projects that promote environmental awareness and stewardship and help provide people with the skills to take responsible actions to protect the environment.

- Community Action for a Renewed Environment: a competitive grant program that offers an innovative way for a community to organize and take action to reduce toxic pollution in its local environment. Through CARE, a community creates a partnership that implements solutions to reduce releases of toxic pollutants and minimize people's exposure to them.
- Environmental Justice Small Grants Program: provides financial assistance to eligible organizations to build collaborative partnerships, to identify the local environmental and/or public health issues, and to envision solutions and empower the community through education, training, and outreach.
- More EPA Funding Opportunities: https://www.epa.gov/grants

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute serves as a leader in providing services to enhance learning, sustain cultural heritage, and increase civic participation.

Visit: https://www.imls.gov
Point of Contact: Sandra Narva, snarva@imls.gov

- Museums for America: program supports projects that strengthen the ability of an individual museum to serve its public.
- National Leadership Grants for Libraries: program supports projects that address challenges faced by the library and archive fields and that have the potential to advance practice in those fields.
- National Leadership Grants for Museums: program supports projects that address critical needs of the museum field and that have the potential to advance practice in the profession so that museums can improve services for the American public.
- Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program: supports projects to recruit and educate the next generation of librarians, faculty, and library leaders; and to support early-career research. It also assists in the professional development of librarians and library staff.
- More IMLS Funding Opportunities https://www.imls.gov/grants/apply-grant/available-grants

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration serves as the nation's forefront of such exploration and continues to pioneer in aeronautics, exploration systems, science, and space operations.

Visit: https://www.nasa.gov
Point of Contact: Jamiel Charlton, jamiel.charlton@nasa.gov

- Space Grant: a national network of colleges and universities. These institutions are working to expand opportunities for Americans to understand and participate in NASA's aeronautics and space projects by supporting and enhancing science and engineering education, research, and public

outreach efforts.
- NASA Research Opportunities: solicit and support research through the release of various research announcements in a wide range of science and technology disciplines.
- Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs: fund the research, development, and demonstration of innovative technologies that fulfill NASA needs as described in the annual Solicitations and that have significant potential for successful commercialization.
- International Space Station Funding Opportunities: sources of funding available to scientists to be used for International Space Station (ISS) research and development, payload development, payload processing at NASA facilities, on-orbit operation, and more.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (NARA)

The National Archives and Records Administration enables people to inspect the record of what the federal government has done, enables officials and agencies to review their actions, and helps citizens hold them accountable.

Visit: https://www.archives.gov
Point of Contact: Jeff de la Concepcion, jeff.delaconcepcion@nara.gov

- National Historical Publications and Records Commission Grant Program: supports projects to research and develop means to preserve authentic electronic records; assist archives through a network of state partners; preserve and make accessible records and archives; publish papers documenting America's founding era; publish papers documenting other eras and topics important to an understanding of American history; and improve professional education for archivists and historical documentary editors.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education. The Endowment is the largest national source of funds for the arts.

Visit: http://www.nea.gov
Point of Contact: Daniel Beattie, beattied@arts.gov

- National Council on the Arts: reviews and makes recommendations to the Chairman on applications for grants, funding guidelines, and leadership initiatives.
- More NEA Funding Opportunities: https://www.arts.gov/grants

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

The National Endowment for the Humanities is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities.

Visit: https://www.neh.gov
Point of Contact: Beth Stewart, bstewart@neh.gov

- Division of Education Programs: work to strengthen humanities education through programs aimed at pre-collegiate and post-secondary levels of study.
- Division of Preservation and Access Programs: A substantial portion of the nation's cultural heritage and intellectual legacy is held in libraries, archives, and museums. These repositories are responsible for preserving and making available collections of books, serials, manuscripts, sound recordings, still and moving images, works of art, objects of material culture, and rapidly expanding digital collections. All of the division's programs focus on ensuring the long-term and wide availability of primary resources in the humanities.
- Division of Public Programs: support a wide range of public humanities programs that reach large and diverse public audiences.
- Division of Research Programs: support scholarly research that advances knowledge and understanding of the humanities. Awards are made to scholars working on research projects of significance to specific humanities fields and to the humanities as a whole.
- More NEH funding opportunities: https://www.neh.gov/grants

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The National Science Foundation is an independent federal agency created to promote the progress of science, to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare, and to secure the national defense. The NSF annually funds approximately 20 percent of basic, federally-supported college and university research.

Visit: https://www.nsf.gov
Point of Contact: David Saunders, dmsaunde@nsf.gov

- Biological Sciences Program: supports research that advances the frontiers of biological knowledge, increases our understanding of complex systems, and provides a theoretical basis for original research in many other scientific disciplines.
- Computer and Information Science and Engineering Program: supports investigator-initiated research in all areas of computer and information science and engineering, fosters broad interdisciplinary collaboration, helps develop and maintain cutting-edge national computing and information infrastructure for research and education, and contributes to the development of a computer and information technology workforce with skills essential for success in the increasingly competitive global market.
- Advanced Cyberinfrastructure Program: supports and coordinates the development, acquisition, and provision of state-of-the-art cyberinfrastructure resources, tools, and services essential to the advancement and transformation of science and engineering.
- More NSF funding opportunities: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The Small Business Administration maintains and strengthens the nation's economy by aiding, counseling, assisting, and protecting the interests of small businesses, and by helping families and businesses recover from national disasters.

Visit: ttps://www.sba.gov
Point of Contact: Darryl Groves, darryl.groves@sba.gov

- Small Business Innovation Research Program: a highly-competitive program that encourages small business to explore their technological potential and provides the incentive to profit from its commercialization. By including qualified small businesses in the nation's R&D arena, high-tech innovation is stimulated and the United States gains entrepreneurial spirit as it meets its specific research and development needs.
- Small Business Technology Transfer Program: program that expands funding opportunities in the federal innovation research and development arena. Central to the program is expansion of the public/private sector partnership to include the joint venture opportunities for small business and the nation's premier nonprofit research institutions.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

The Social Security Administration advances the economic security of the nation's people through compassionate and vigilant leadership in shaping and managing America's Social Security programs.

Visit: https://www.ssa.gov
Point of Contact: Tonya Saunders, tonya.saunders@ssa.gov

- Research and Demonstration Grants: fund research and demonstration grants involving the Old-Age Survivors Program, the Social Security Disability Insurance Program (SSDI), and the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Program. Grants are awarded for innovative research and demonstrations, adding to existing knowledge and improving methods and techniques for managing and administering SSA programs.
- Service Grants: provide funding to support beneficiaries in their efforts to return to work and to gain self-sufficiency. Such services include trial work period, early referral for rehabilitation services, and greater use of employers and others in the rehabilitation and placement process.

SOURCES

This guide was compiled by Rep. Underwood's office using information and language from several government sources. It is for informational purposes only for Rep. Underwood's constituents in the 14th District of Illinois and should be considered an overview of the federal grant application process. Grant seekers should consult resources beyond this guide, including the sources listed below that were used to compile this guide.

GRANTS.GOV
This is the centralized location for grant seekers to find and apply for federal funding opportunities, but it also has a wealth of information on those who want to learn more about the federal grant application process. More information by visiting http://grants.gov

GRANTS.GOV COMMUNITY BLOG
The Grants.gov blog contains articles and resources that equip current and prospective members of the federal grant community with information, answers, and tools including a "what is a grant?" series and grant writing tips. More information by visiting https://grantsgovprod.wordpress.com/

CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE
The Congressional Research Service (CRS), a federal legislative branch agency located within the Library of Congress, serves as shared staff exclusively to congressional committees and Members of Congress. Reports available to the public can be found at https://crsreports.congress.gov/. Information from some reports related to federal grants are a part of this resource guide or included as appendix at the end of this report.