



Grants Guide

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Ed.'s Note: This information is excerpted from the Grants Guide published in the September 2009 issue of Law and Order magazine. For a comprehensive guide to researching, applying for, and managing grants, visit the archives at www.lawandordermag.com.

If you have a worthwhile project, if you do your grant research homework, and if you write a good grant application proposal, it is likely that you will get grant money to fund your project. Better yet, it is almost a certainty that if you manage your grant well, your chances of future grants will improve.

There are, literally, thousands of federal, state, county, regional, local and private sources of grant money. But there are also thousands of competitors for that money. You must stand out from the crowd to be the recipient of a grant. Focus your efforts on matching your project to the grantor(s) likely to fund it. That means using your resources wisely, paying attention to every detail of the grant process, and being patient in developing a project, proposal and grant management scheme that assure your success.

Because every grantor has its own procedures and requirements, you need to determine what the grantor funds, and what it wants from its applicants. Become thoroughly informed about potential grants, and the steps to get them. Know everything about your agency's goals, work, problems, and evaluations. Be able to state, in a narrative, the story of your agency, why it needs a grant, and what your agency will do with the grant money.

Following is a listing of some of the web-based resources available to assist you in funding your initiatives. Don't limit yourself, however. Leave no opportunity unexplored when it comes to seeking support for your bicycle operations.

Key Websites for Research:

www.grants.gov By law, this is designated to be the main clearinghouse for all federal grants. The reality is that it has taken a bit longer than anticipated to get all those grants into this website, but progress has been fairly quick. This should be your first choice when beginning your research for a federal grant. Billions of dollars of grant money appear on this website. Use the website to set your preferences and determine your eligibility for grants, and download the resources and helps for your research in funding, managing and monitoring the availability of future grants. There are links to state, territory and outlying area websites, too.

www.recovery.gov A website has been established to track much of the information about The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), including money available under the law. At present, about \$4 billion is designated for crime control and improvements in criminal justice. In keeping with the goal of the ARRA, the projects funded under it are supposed to create or preserve jobs, reduce pollution, stimulate the economy and be "transparent" to the public so that taxpayers can see exactly where their money is going and how it is being spent. The website cross-references by category, geographical area and federal agency (such as



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Department of Justice or Department of Homeland Security). Information is provided about funds already paid for projects, and what monies are still available. Among the projects that can be funded with ARRA funds are those of law enforcement, prosecution and court programs, corrections, drug treatment, technology and victim/witness programs. The website also has a link to subscribe to updates—a wise choice given that the ARRA is relatively new and that changes and updates will probably be many as the law evolves. Because the website changes often, it is wise to check it regularly to determine what funds become available, and what is being updated or honed. At press time, 20 states, territories and the District of Columbia have received ARRA funds for projects that will maintain or increase public safety.

www.dhs.gov/xgovt/grants The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has billions of dollars available for grants, particularly as they apply to projects for preparedness, response, equipment, training, exercises, and administration. The areas for programs include the state Homeland Security Program, Urban Areas Security Initiative, Metropolitan Medical Response System, Operation Stonegarden (U.S. land borders), the Citizen Corps Program, and others. There are links to the FEMA-directed projects for port security, critical infrastructure protection, regional/local mass transit system security, and equipment and training for first responders. On this website, you can learn your state's Homeland Security contacts, and information about Homeland Security grants.

www.fema.gov/government/grant/index.shtm Most of the federal Emergency Management Agency's focus is on disaster-specific grants, but other grant opportunities exist, too, for such matters as environmental and historical preservation, hazard-related grants, non-disaster programs, and repetitive flood claims programs. About \$3 billion is being offered in 2009 for preparedness program grants.

www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/grants/engage/access.shtm The Transportation Security Administration focuses most of its grants on projects to enhance safety and security of intercity buses, transit systems, ferry systems, mass transit, commercial trucking, freight railroad, and other forms of the nation's transportation. The website recently underwent some changes to make it more interactive.

www.cfda.gov The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance has been a strong database for federal grant programs available to state and local governments, tribal governments, domestic public and quasi-public groups, and private profit and non-profit groups and individuals. But with the growth of www.grants.gov, it is probable that the website will not be as widely used as it once was. It is being improved and may still include a user's guide, search features, links to other federal websites, and tips about available grant assistance such as how to write grant proposals. It has an archive of 2008 grant activity.

<http://phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/grants> This website will benefit you if your project relates to safe transportation of hazardous materials. Funds available can benefit state, territorial, tribal or local hazmat emergency planning and training. There are also links for conferences, training and meetings offered by the US Department of Transportation. Current and historical grants are archived for easy reference.



I P M B A

www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/nofas/index.html The U.S. Department of Agriculture has a Rural Development Program to fund projects in rural areas in facilities, equipment, housing, utilities and business. There are also links to loans and grants, cooperative grants, community facilities loans and grants, telecommunications loans and grants, and community development programs, all as they relate to rural settings and rural development.

www.ojp.usdoj.gov The Office of Justice Programs in the U.S. Department of Justice has grant money for a variety of projects in training, crime prevention and emergency management. There are also links to past projects funding through the OJP—something of value to you if you want to see trends and how to prepare a successful project and application. New to the website are links specifically for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and its grant opportunities.

www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov This White House website for the Office of National Drug Control Policy describes an overview of funding opportunities for law enforcement training and technical assistance, equipment procurement and other programs especially targeted to reduction of drug abuse. Information on workshops and materials is also included.

www.gpoaccess.gov The U.S. Government Printing Office disseminates information from the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the government, and offers a guide to those branches. The website has a link to a list of official federal resources that can be useful when you need background information about goals and purposes of federal agencies or when you need to check such references as the Congressional Record, Congressional bills, the Code of federal Regulations, conference committee reports, the Federal Register and other government publications.

<http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Benefits.shtml> This website has an easy-to-navigate, alphabetical list of government benefits, grants and financial aid. It is designed particularly for the general public, but it can be valuable in grant research and learning the nature of the assistance available for a project.

www.hud.gov/grants/index.cfm The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development website has a grants page with information about current grant opportunities. It links to www.grants.gov for applications for the grants.

www.hrsa.gov/grants/default.htm The Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website has a grant policy statement, current and archived grant opportunities, and a form for e-mail updates of new grants through the HRSA.

www.justnet.org Home to the Internet presence of the Justice Technology Information Network, this website is valuable for technology information, and search and topic lists for grants and their links in equipment, testing, evaluation and technology improvements.

www.loc.gov The Library of Congress is a concise reference tool for not only federal grant research and information, but also general resources and information.

www.npstc.org The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) is a federation of organizations for public safety and interoperability of communications. The website has information on broadband, software-defined radio, re-banding, and technical education.



www.federalgrantswire.com This free resource guide for federal and other government grants and loans provides information by name, subject, applicant type or agency type. It also has tips for successful grant writing.

www.techsoup.com Primarily for non-profit organizations, this website can be helpful if your project will see your agency partnering with a non-profit. The website also has helps for locating donated and discounted technology products.

www.psf.us The Public Safety Foundation of America provides grants for such public safety functions as planning, equipment procurement, and training.

www.research.ucla.edu/ocga/sr2/Private.htm This University of California, Los Angeles Office of Contract and Grant Administration website has an alphabetical list of links to foundations and organizations that provide project grants.

www.Foundationcenter.org This website focuses on potential private grantors and also includes information about in-person grant writing courses and seminars, and webinars. It also has an archive of previous courses and seminars.

www.1hawthorn.com This website of the Hawthorn Institute has information about available grants and the process of successfully applying for grants. While much of the information centers on Missouri and the region around it, the website has value beyond that geographic area in providing information about upcoming grant writing and grant management seminars.

www.jispnet.org This website is the Justice Information Sharing Practitioners' Network, which seeks to enhance education of those serving in criminal justice and public safety. The organization lists seminars and webinars, some of which relate to grant writing.

www.nw3c.org The National White Collar Crime Center focuses on prevention, investigation and prosecution of high-tech crime. Its website lists seminars, some of which are grants related.

www.GrantWritingUSA.com This company is a leader in courses about grant writing and grant management. The website also contains information about how to host one of their grant seminars.

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