Congressman
ANDRÉ CARSON
Representing Indiana's 7th Congressional District
www.carson.house.gov

Washington
2453 Rayburn HOB
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General Guide to Government Funding

Government funding comes in many different forms. The information below outlines four common types of federal government funding including individual benefits, appropriations, grants and procurement.

Individual Benefits: This type of funding is also known as entitlement programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and VA benefits. While most federal government funding is awarded to organizations or state and local government, entitlement benefits are available to qualifying individuals. For more information or assistance with individual benefits, please visit www.GovBenefits.gov or contact my District Office.

Appropriations: Each year, the United States Congress has a constitutional obligation to debate and pass several pieces of legislation, known as appropriations bills, which fund the operations of the federal government and maintain services for the American public. These bills fund every aspect of our government, ranging from our military to student loan programs to disease research and prevention.

Most of the funding set aside in each appropriations bill is allocated to large departments, agencies, and programs. In the past, members of congress also had an opportunity to bring tax dollars back to their districts by requesting funds on behalf of deserving local projects. These projects may include afterschool activities, job training programs, police and fire departments, infrastructure improvements proposed by local government and countless community organizations. Since elected to Congress in 2008, Congressman Carson worked through this process to ensure that Indianapolis residents see the direct impact of their tax dollars in their city. Regrettably, in 2010, the House Republican majority suspended the appropriations process and it is unclear if or when the moratorium will be lifted.

Grants: There are three common types of federal grants: formula, project, and matching. A definition for each is listed below.

- **Formula Grants** are non-competitive and are distributed to state and local governments based on quantifiable variables. For example, X dollars goes to every student in the state. These grants are allocated for broad purposes such as highway programs, education funding, and block grants. Please note that although formula grants are initially non-competitive, once funding is received by a federal agency or state and local government, these dollars may be available to eligible organizations through an application or request process.
- **Project Grants** fund specific projects and services addressing a specific policy need identified by Congress. Availability of this funding fluctuates year-to-year. Project grants are most often competitive and available to eligible organizations through an application or request process. Examples of project grants include Wetland Protection grants through the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency or Minority Business Development programs through the U.S. Small Business Administration.
- **Matching Grants** require that the recipient contribute something towards the project—normally cash services or facilities to match a percentage of the grant. These are used to encourage recipient to efficiently manage the program. Matching grants are most often competitive and available to eligible organizations through an application or request process.

Procurement: Some small and large companies are eligible for government procurement opportunities. To learn more about the procurement process please visit www.fbo.gov or http://www.usa.gov/Business/Business_Gateway.shtml or contact my District Office.

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Grant Support Services available through my office

Please contact Kathy Souchet-Downey (kathy.downey@mail.house.gov) for more information about the services listed below.

- **Letter of Support:** Provide a letter of support to accompany your organization's grant application to a federal agency. General support letters are not available.
- **Grants E-Newsletter:** Send listing of recently announced federal funding opportunities and other federal grant resources.
- **Resources:** Direct applicants to grant writing sources and funding opportunities through federal, state, and local governments.
- **Agency Inquiries:** Serve as a liaison with federal, state, and local agencies for grant related questions.
- **Award Notifications:** Announce grant awards when Congressional office receives advance notice.
- **Grants Workshop:** Host grants workshop or presentation to connect grantseekers to agencies with funding opportunities.

Where Can I Go To Find Federal Grant Opportunities?

Grants.gov: www.grants.gov

Grants.gov has information on federal grant opportunities, and it serves as the site to electronically apply for competitive grant opportunities from all federal grant agencies. Special features through this site include the ability to check the most recent federal grants available and create a RSS feed of with news and information important to the grantseeker. Please note that agencies must register with Grants.gov before applying for most federal grants. More information on how to register is available on the site and in this handout.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: www.cfda.gov

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) is the basic reference source to identify and research federal grant and nonfinancial assistance programs that meet specific objectives of a potential applicant. However, the availability of funding for the listed programs depends on annual budget appropriations. As such some authorized programs may be described in the Catalog, but Congress may choose not to fund them in a certain budget year. Each program listed in CFDA is assigned an identifying number that can be used to search available funding in Grants.gov.

Federal Agency Websites

In addition to the CFDA and Grants.gov, grantseekers may wish to visit individual federal agencies for information on grant opportunities, programs, and past grantees. The following page includes a listing of federal agencies and their respective contact information.

Agency	Web Address	Phone Number
Department of Commerce	www.commerce.gov/grants	202.482.4248
Department of Education	www2.ed.gov/fund	1.800.872.5327
Department of Energy	http:// science.energy.gov/funding-opportunities	1.202.586.5430
Department of Health and Human Service	www.hhs.gov/grants	1.877.696.6775
Department of Housing and Urban Development	www.hud.gov/grants	202.708.1112
Department of the Interior	www.doi.gov	202.208.3100
Department of Justice	www.justice.gov/business	202.514.2000
Department of Labor	www.dol.gov	1.866.633.7365
Department of Transportation	www.dot.gov/grants	855.368.4200
Environmental Protection Agency	www.epa.gov	312.353.2000
Federal Emergency Management Agency	www.fema.gov/grants	1.800.621.3362
National Archives	www.archives.gov/grants	1.866.272.6272
Corporation for National and Community Service	www.nationalservice.gov/build-your-capacity	1.800.833.3722
Institute of Museum and Library Services	www.imls.gov	202.653.4657
National Endowment for the Arts	www.arts.gov/grants/apply/index.html	202.682.5400
National Endowment for the Humanities	www.neh.gov/grants	202.606.8400
National Science Foundation	www.nsf.gov/funding	703.292.5111
Department of Agriculture	www.usda.gov	202.720.2791
Department of Defense	www.defense.gov	703.571.3343
Department of Homeland Security	www.dhs.gov	202.282.8000
Department of Veterans Affairs	www.va.gov	1.877.332.0334

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Federal Grant Application Process through www.Grants.gov

In order to apply for a federal grant via Grants.gov, you must complete the registration process on behalf of the organization you represent. Information on how to register, including the steps below, is found at http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html.

STEP 1: Obtain Data Universal Number System (DUNS) Number

Timeframe: Immediate up to two business days. The DUNS number is a unique nine-character number that identifies your organization. It is a tool of the federal government to track how federal money is distributed. A DUNS number requested by phone, 1-866-705-5711, is provided immediately. A DUNS number requested online, http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform, is provided within one to two business days.

STEP 2: Register with the System for Award Management (SAM)

Timeframe: Three to five business days or up to two weeks. SAM is a Web-enabled application that collects, validates, stores and disseminates business information about the federal government's trading partners. If your organization already has an Employer Identification Number (EIN), your SAM registration should take three to five business days to process. If your organization does not have an EIN, then you should request one from Internal Revenue Service. Allow approximately two weeks before your new EIN is ready for use when registering in SAM. Your organization needs to renew their SAM registration once a year.

STEP 3: Username & Password

Timeframe: Same day. Complete your AOR (Authorized Organization Representative) profile on Grants.gov and create your username and password. You will need to use your organization's DUNS Number to complete this step.

STEP 4: Authorized Organization Representative (AOR)

Timeframe: *Same day. The E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC) at your organization must login to Grants.gov to confirm you as an AOR. Please note that there can be more than one AOR for your organization. In some cases the E-Biz POC is also the AOR for an organization. *Time depends on responsiveness of your E-Biz POC.*

STEP 5: Track AOR Status

Timeframe: *Time depends on responsiveness of your E-Biz POC.* You cannot apply for grants without approval. You can track AOR status by logging in with your username and password created in Step 3.

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Local and Web-Based Nonprofit Resources

- **Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action** (www.arnova.org) conducts research on non-profit organizations, voluntary action, and philanthropy and sharing that information with scholars, teachers, and community leaders.
- **Center for Urban Policy and the Environment** (www.policyinstitute.iu.edu/urban) provides non-partisan and non-ideological research to identify issues, analyze options and develop solutions for community challenges.
- **Lilly Family School on Philanthropy at Indiana University** (www.philanthropy.iupui.edu) conducts research on philanthropy and the non-profit sector.
- **Council on Foundations** (www.cof.org/Locator/index.cfm?crumb=2) provides the Community Foundation Locator tool.
- **The Chronicle of Philanthropy** (www.philanthropy.com) is a leading news source for the philanthropic and nonprofit sector.
- **The Foundation Center** (www.foundationcenter.org/) serves as an information gateway to the grant seeking process, private funding sources and guidelines on writing a grant proposal.
- **Free Management Library** (www.managementhelp.org) offers an online leadership and management library.
- **Funding Information Network at Indianapolis Central Library** (http://www.imcpl.org/about/central/resources/) provides free public access to The Foundation Center resources and offers a variety of trainings on how to build and fund nonprofits.
- **The Grantsmanship Center** (www.tgci.com) provides listings by state of top grantmaking, community, and corporate foundations.
- **GuideStar** (www.guidestar.org) offers a searchable database of over 700,000 U.S. non-profit organizations.
- **Indiana Arts Commission** (www.in.gov/arts) provides a listing of various individual, regional, and multi-year grant programs.
- **Indiana Nonprofit Resource Network** (www.inrn.org) offers capacity building opportunities for nonprofit organizations.
- **The Indianapolis Public Library** (http://www.imcpl.org/about/central/resources/) is a Funding Information Network partner of The Foundation Center, providing visitors with free public access to grantmaker directories, books on fundraising and nonprofit management, and the Foundation Center's electronic databases.
- **Indiana University Nonprofit Legal Clinic** (http://www.law.indiana.edu/students/clinic/non-profit) manages a student legal clinic in Bloomington that delivers free legal services to the Indiana non-profit community.
- **Network for Good** (www.networkforgood.org) is a nonprofit collaboration to help organizations increase capacity, reach new audiences and build Internet strategies.
- **Non-Profit Solutions Center** (www.nonprofitsolutions.iupui.edu) maintains a free, online database of pre-screened consultants and contractors who specialize in working with nonprofit organizations.
- **The Nonprofit Times** (www.thenonprofittimes.com) is a publication that provides information on nonprofit management.
- **Stay Exempt-Tax Basics for 501(c) (3)** (www.stayexempt.org) a micro site provided by the Internal Revenue Service that offers a series of tax courses to help nonprofits achieve and maintain exempt status.
- **United Way of Central Indiana Non-Profit Training Center** (www.inrn.org) helps nonprofit organizations in Central Indiana increase their capacity to govern and manage themselves effectively.