HOW FRIENDLY IS YOUR STATE EDUCATION WEBSITE FOR GRANT-SEEKERS?
A STATE-BY-STATE REVIEW

Legal Update:
Funding for COPS Hiring Program Now Available

Funding Your Healthcare Project:
The Importance of a Thorough Search

PLUS! SUMMARY INFO ON 6 EXCITING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES!
ON THE COVER
In this issue, we take a look at the grant seeker-friendliness of each State Education Agency (SEA) website. If you’ve ever wondered how your SEA stacks up compared to others, this is your chance to see which states are “hot” with grant funding for K-12 and which states are not.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

DEAR READERS,

We talk a lot about federal funding programs, which is appropriate, since the federal government is by far the largest source of grant funding in the country and federal opportunities have the broadest possible relevance for our readers. But in this issue of FUNDED, we’re taking a stab at some state grants intelligence that you might find actionable as well.

This month’s cover story by Elizabeth Evans features a survey of state-administered K-12 grant pages that are ostensibly the go-to sites for relevant state grants info. As you’ll see, some states do a better job than others in centralizing and promulgating their funding opportunities. Hopefully this article will be helpful information for grantseekers and a prompt to grant administrators at several states to up their game.

Ashley Schultz goes on to provide us with an overview of the COPS Hiring Program and an eye-opening discussion of how grants can be used as a tool to achieve political, as well as community development, objectives.

Chris LaPage rounds out the issue with a refresher on the importance of thorough funding research for healthcare grants, along with tips and resources to help make your search more productive.

And there are a lot of other goodies in this issue as well, including highlights of funded projects, summaries of active grant opportunities, and a compendium of all the federal grantmaking agencies. Taken together, this issue is sure to help you up your game.

Be sure to check out the grantscasts our team will be presenting on, or review some of the replays of past events on topics you find interesting. As always, if you have comments, feedback, corrections, or topics for future issues, feel free to drop me a line at: mpaddock@grantsoffice.com.

I hope you enjoy this issue of FUNDED as much as we’ve enjoyed bringing it to you!

Sincerely,

Michael Paddock
Editor and Publisher,
FUNDED
The COPS Hiring Program (CHP) provides funding directly to law enforcement agencies to hire and/or rehire career law enforcement officers in an effort to increase their community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts. In the last program cycle, priority consideration was provided for: (1) Violent Crime; (2) Homeland Security Problems; or (3) Illegal Immigration.

Funding under this program may be used to do the following:

- Hire new officers, which includes filling existing officer vacancies that are no longer funded in your agency’s budget. These positions must be in addition to your current budgeted (funded) level of sworn officer positions, and the officers must be hired on or after the official award start date as it is listed on your agency’s award document;

- Rehire officers laid off by any jurisdiction as a result of state, local, or Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) budget reductions. The rehired officers must be rehired on or after the official award start date as it appears on your agency’s award document/ Documentation must be maintained showing the date(s) that the positions were laid off and rehired; and

- Rehire officers who are (at the time of application) currently scheduled to be laid off by your jurisdiction on a specific future date as a result of state, local, or BIA budget reductions. Recipients will be required to continue funding the positions with local funding until the date(s) of the scheduled layoffs. The dates of the scheduled layoffs and the number of positions affected must be identified in the CHP application. In addition, documentation must be maintained detailing the dates and reason(s) for the layoffs.

The only allowable costs under CHP are the approved full-time, entry-level salaries and fringe benefits of newly hired or rehired sworn career law enforcement officers hired or rehired on or after the award start date.

**ELIGIBILITY**
Eligible applicants are state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies that have primary law enforcement authority.

**DEADLINE**
A new solicitation is expected to be released in late Summer.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**
https://cops.usdoj.gov/chp
As a result of the COPS Office grant, the SCSD created the IMPACT program. The program’s design consisted of three separate units working collaboratively to curb youth gang violence:

- **The IMPACT Youth Services Unit** The grant allowed six deputy sheriffs and one sheriff sergeant to focus on youth outreach and provide exposure to kids in practical life-enhancing programs as an alternative to gang membership.

- **The IMPACT Gang Suppression Unit** The grant resources provided the ability to obtain funding for nine officers dedicated toward the investigation and arrest of gang members. The task force membership increased after gaining regional support from local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

- **The IMPACT Intelligence Operations Group** The grant allowed the distribution of four intelligence deputies assigned to investigations and corrections. The group works directly with gang teams and other regional units.

The 360-degree gang responsive IMPACT program, made possible by COPS Office resources, is rapidly changing the quality of life for citizens in the Sacramento region. Unlike a traditional program of arresting, prosecuting, and providing after school programs, the IMPACT focus redefined collaboration. To date, the Youth Services Unit has developed 33 different programs and provided unique opportunities to more than 37,000 youths. For the Intelligence Operations Group, the mission is to collect all of the available information and save it into one network that is 28 CFR Part 23 compliant. To date, the Intelligence Operations Group has collected and analyzed more than 500,000 individual items of information. By working together, the Gang Suppression Unit and the Intelligence Operations Group determine the center of gravity associated with the different gangs and target the elite members of the organizations. To date, there have been 521 arrests, 561 firearms seized, over 7 lbs of cocaine, 5 oz of heroin, 500 lbs of marijuana, and 10 lbs of methamphetamine.

**FUNDED ORGANIZATION**
Sacramento County Sheriff's Department

**PROJECT TITLE**
IMPACT Program

**FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION**
https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/CPOS/ss/Vol1No10Sacramento-County.pdf

**ORGANIZATION WEBSITE**
http://www.sacsheriff.com/
Legal Update:
FUNDING FOR COPS HIRING PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE

By Ashley Schultz

Within the first week of taking office in January 2017, President Trump issued an executive order directing government agencies to “to employ all lawful means to ensure the faithful execution of the immigration laws of the United States against all removable aliens” (Executive Order No. 13768, 2017). This call to order was specifically targeted at sanctuary cities, threatening that any jurisdiction found to willfully refuse this directive would be cut off from future federal funding – including formula and competitive grant programs.

The announcement came of little surprise, particularly considering Trump’s hardline stance on illegal immigration while on the campaign trail. The executive order requires agencies to comply with 8 USC § 1371, an existing federal statute that prohibits state and local governments from passing laws or enacting policies that restrict the sharing of information with Department of Homeland Security personnel about the citizenship/immigration status of an individual. This law lies at the crux of the dispute between the federal government and sanctuary cities, as the latter often take deliberate action to limit their collaboration with the enforcement of immigration law in an effort to bolster trust and cooperation within their local communities.

The interpretation and subsequent implementation of 8 USC § 1371 has since filled the pages of trade periodicals like the one you’re reading now. The ultimate fate of Trump’s Executive Order will likely not be decided for several years – particularly given the stalwart resolution of both sides and the continued stalemate in Congress that impedes legislative action on the matter. For now, however, we want to take a pause to examine how this conflict has impacted grant funding opportunities for criminal justice agencies across this US. This moment of review is particularly timely as the Trump administration enjoys a recent victory in the court case City of Los Angeles v. Barr wherein the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the Department of Justice and lifted the nationwide injunction on the COPS Hiring Program (CHP) grant.

OUTLINE OF LEGAL DISPUTES IN CITY OF LOS ANGELES V. BARR

The origin of this legal dispute lies with the City of Los Angeles’s 2017 application to the COPS Hiring Program. This popular grant offers funding for law enforcement agencies to hire and/or rehire officers in an effort to increase their community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts. In the 2017 grant cycle, the COPS Office received more requests for funding than it was able to satisfy ($410M requested; $98.5M available) and was thus forced to deny nearly 85% of applications. One of these denied applicants was the City of Los Angeles, who claimed their proposal denial was directly related to an unfair and unlawful distribution of priority consideration (think: bonus points) within the grant itself.
The 2017 COPS Hiring Program application scored applicants based on fiscal need (20%), crime (30%), and level of effort dedicated to community policing (50%). Agencies could receive preferential consideration if they expanded the scope of their project to include one of three new program categories: (1) violent crime; (2) homeland security; or (3) illegal immigration. Agencies were given the option to receive even more favor by submitting a “Certification of Illegal Immigration Cooperation” in which they agreed to conditions outlined in Executive Order No. 13768 – including:

1. Permitting US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) personnel into any detention facility in order to question an individual about his or her citizenship status; and

2. Providing notice to DHS personnel before releasing an individual of interest due to his or her citizenship status.

It’s important to note that CHP applicants could opt to pursue one, two, or none of these choices. An exact scoring breakdown was not provided as an indication of how much of a boost any single action would provide for an applicant, but it can be assumed that including one or two of these items would give an applicant a helpful leg up in the review process – making their proposal more likely to be selected than others. Given its status as a sanctuary city and history of speaking out against 8 USC § 1371, the City of Los Angeles did not request consideration for any bonus section, opting instead to focus their application on “building trust and respect” and declining to submit a certification.

In the resulting lawsuit, the City alleged their denied CHP proposal was placed at a competitive disadvantage due to their position on immigration. The City's case was affirmed by an area court, but the decision was swiftly appealed by the Department of Justice. The resulting legal battle stretched for two federal fiscal years – causing the 2018 and 2019 CHP program cycles to be delayed seemingly indefinitely.

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) is one of three main grant-making branches within the Department of Justice. In addition to hosting the COPS Hiring Program each year, the agency distributes funding for the School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP), Community Policing Development (CPD) Program, and Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS).
On July 12, 2019, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the Department of Justice – affirming that COPS Office did not exceed their statutory authority by granting extra consideration to applicants who (1) chose to focus their CHP projects on illegal immigration; and/or (2) submitted a Certification of Illegal Immigrant Cooperation (City of Los Angeles v. Barr 18-5559, 2018). Again, the descriptions and debates of this legal decision will likely fill pages of trade journals in the legal field for months – if not years – to come. For our part though, we’ll highlight what this decision means for future iterations of the CHP grant as well as other federal programs (e.g. Justice Assistance Grant) that are still caught in the crosshairs of battle between sanctuary cities and the Trump administration.

In City of Los Angeles v. Barr, the court determined that the COPS Office could legally impose conditions on grant recipients when choosing where to allocate funds in a competitive program. In this instance, they deemed the bonus was a “financial inducement,” not a coercive act. Much like with any other publicly funded grant opportunity featuring competitive priorities, CHP applicants were free to choose from one of three project focus areas – two of which did not address illegal immigration. The defendants argued that the City of Los Angeles could have selected one of the other competitive funding priorities (violent crime or homeland security) without sacrificing its position as a sanctuary city. What’s more, the court noted that numerous applicants received CHP funding in 2017 without seeking priority consideration through a special project or a Certification of Illegal Immigration Cooperation.

The court also refuted the City’s claim that illegal immigration is “unrelated” to the central tenets of the COPS Hiring Program. The grant itself is intended to improve public safety in US communities by increasing the number of law enforcement officers in a given area. Citing recent acknowledgement of such matters in a Supreme Court, the circuit court asserted that illegal immigration presents a “public safety issue” and is therefore a reasonable focus area for CHP grant applicants. “Cooperation relating to enforcement of federal immigration law,” they note, “is in pursuit of the general welfare, and meets the low bar of being germane to the federal interest in providing the funding to address crime and disorder problems” (City of Los Angeles v. Barr 18-5559, 2018).

Of note is that the Ninth Circuit’s decision on both of these matters is not without precedent in previous conflicts over federal grant dollars. Earlier courts have ruled in favor of cases of “relatively mild encouragement” – or slight preferential consideration offered for grantees who agree to support a particular federal objective. In the 1987 case of South Dakota v. Dole, for example, the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) threatened to reduce federal highway funding by 5% in states who refused to adopt a minimum drinking age of 21. A similar conflict raged over passage of the Affordable Care Act when Congress threatened to eliminate 100% of Medicaid funding to states who opted out of the new federal healthcare program. This penalty was ultimately shut down by the US court system, claiming the potential loss of hundreds of millions of Medicaid dollars in each state exceeded the established grounds of mild encouragement. Conversely, the USDOT reduction of federal funds by 5% was allowed to stand because the restrictions were not so coercive as to force a compulsive action from a State. This tracks to our instance of Los Angeles and the CHP grant. The Department of Justice offering bonus points to support a priority of the federal government was deemed allowable because applicants were given a chance (i.e. they were not coerced) to accept or deny the conditions in exchange for funding.

In the end, it was ultimately determined the City of Los Angeles was not directly denied CHP funding due to its position on immigration. They simply did not score enough points on the Department of Justice’s rubric to be one of the 179 awarded applicants. The nationwide injunction on the COPS Hiring Program grant was then lifted, effectively allowing funds allocated by Congress in fiscal years 2018 and 2019 to be distributed to new applicants. At the time of writing, no further legal action has been filed by the City or Department of Justice in relation to the City of Los Angeles v. Barr.
CURRENT AND FUTURE EFFECTS ON FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING

Less than a week after the final ruling of was filed, the COPS Office began preparations to open applications for the next COPS Hiring Program competition. Interested agencies can anticipate seeing two full years’ worth of funding (2018 and 2019 allocations) combined into the same solicitation – potentially offering upwards of $200M for US law enforcement agencies to hire and/or rehire officers. It is unclear at this point if the COPS Office plans to include similar priority considerations for this new funding cycle as they had in 2017. As it currently stands, however, the courts have determined that any repeat attempt to give preference for applicants that address illegal immigration will be permitted.

It’s important to note, though, this ruling does not impact the 9+ cases currently working their way through lower courts related to funding conditions placed on the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance (JAG) program. The JAG grant program distributes $260M annually to criminal justice agencies across the US. The 2017 and 2018 JAG program guidance required applicants to increase information sharing between federal, state, and local law enforcement – citing a need for “federal immigration authorities have the information they need to enforce immigration laws and keep our communities safe” (USDOJ Press Release 17-826, 2017). To this point, all 2017 and 2018 JAG applicants have been required to sign certifications and assurances that guaranteed their participation in this initiative. If an applicant submitted their JAG application without all proper signatures, their award was withheld until all paperwork was properly executed. As of now, it is expected that the 2019 JAG competition will be the same.

These legal conflicts over JAG funding are more complicated and – arguably – have a larger potential impact, pending the courts’ decisions. For one, the JAG program is distributed as a combination of formula and competitive funding. Those law enforcement agencies who receive JAG formula funding each year plan on being awarded a predictable, consistent amount of dollars for use towards their annual budget. Experiencing an abrupt loss in that income can have far-ranging impacts on a department’s ability to provide service across its jurisdiction – including adequate staffing levels, proper maintenance of technology and equipment for officers, and community safety events that connect a law enforcement agency with surrounding residents.

More than 30% of JAG funding is distributed via formula grants for medium- to large-sized criminal justice agencies across the US. According to a 2016 report from the DoJ, 1500+ local governments are eligible for these formula awards. The five governments eligible to receive the largest awards were New York City ($4.3 million), Chicago ($2.1 million), Houston ($1.7 million), Philadelphia ($1.7 million), and Los Angeles ($1.4 million).
What’s more, the nature of placing requirements on a formula grant – rather than a competitive one – appears to be outside the recent court decision on the competitive CHP grant. The inclusion of signed certifications and assurances to comply with 8 U.S.C. § 1373 in the 2017 and 2018 JAG applications was not offered to agencies as priority consideration (i.e. extra credit for when the application is scored). It was set as a requirement. As a result, some jurisdictions are refusing to collect JAG funding that was directly allocated to them.

The City of Los Angeles, for example, was eligible for $1,822,801 in formula JAG funding for 2018. Given Los Angeles’ status as a sanctuary city, they felt signing JAG assurances and certifications to work with immigration authorities would force it to “abandon its longstanding law enforcement policies, intended to improve cooperation between immigrant residents and municipal police” (City of Los Angeles v. Sessions, 2018). As such, the City sued once they became ineligible for JAG funding. The City of Alameda also opted out of more than $10,000 in 2017 and 2018 because the new requirements were in direct conflict with their sanctuary city policy passed in January 2017 (Hegarty 2018). Los Angeles, Alameda, and others are likely waiting for official decision(s) from the 9+ court cases currently in progress before finding a clear path forward in receiving and spending JAG grant dollars.

While we wait for that moment, public safety grant funding timelines have experienced significant delays. The Department of Justice is still processing 2017 and 2018 JAG awards as a result of a temporary stay issued by the Seventh Circuit Court. To date, only 918 of the anticipated 1500 awards (61%) have been distributed for 2017 funding. Even fewer (56%) have been awarded from the 2018 funding bucket. For communities who planned on these once-reliable funds, purchase of greatly needed equipment has been delayed and future projects aimed at improving community safety have been shelved.

Last, but certainly not least, is the now almost routine delay in announcements for 2019 JAG funding cycle. The Department released new applications to local jurisdictions (e.g. for Los Angeles to receive its anticipated $1.82M) on July 27th, a process which has historically occurred in the May or June each year. This means that all criminal justice agencies – even those who are prepared to comply with the new set requirements – are experiencing a significant lag in critical grant funding for public safety efforts. More waits to be seen on how such conflict will resolve itself both in the courts and on a national scale.
PUBLIC WORKS & ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

SUMMARY
The Economic Development Administration’s (EDA’s) mission is to lead the Federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for economic growth and success in the worldwide economy. EDA provides strategic investments on a competitive merit basis to support economic development, foster job creation, and attract private investment in economically distressed areas of the United States. Grants and cooperative agreements made under these programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets and support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities.

- Public Works - Through the Public Works program, the Economic Development Administration (EDA) provides catalytic investments to help distressed communities build, design, or engineer critical infrastructure and facilities that will help implement regional development strategies and advance bottom-up economic development goals to promote regional prosperity. The Public Works program provides resources to meet construction and/or the design of infrastructure needs of communities to enable them to become more economically competitive.

- Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) - Through the EAA program, EDA provides investments that support a wide range of construction and non-construction activities (including infrastructure, design and engineering, technical assistance, economic recovery strategies, and capitalization or re-capitalization of Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) projects) in regions experiencing severe economic dislocations that may occur suddenly or over time. EDA utilizes EAA investments to provide resources that help communities experiencing or anticipating economic dislocations to plan and implement specific solutions to leverage their existing regional economic advantages to support economic development and job creation. Like Public Works investments, EAA investments are designed to help communities catalyze public-private partnerships to foster collaboration, attract investment, create jobs, and foster economic resiliency and prosperity.

ELIGIBILITY
Eligible applicants include: District Organizations; Indian Tribes or a consortium of Indian Tribes; State, county, city, or other political subdivisions of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions; Institutions of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; or Public or private non-profit organizations or associations acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State.

DEADLINE
There are no submission deadlines under this opportunity. Proposals and applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until the publication of a new EDAP NOFO.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/
RURAL HEALTH NETWORK DEVELOPMENT (RHND) GRANT PROGRAM

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

SUMMARY
The purpose of this program is to support mature, integrated rural health care networks that have combined the functions of the entities participating in the network in order to address the health care needs of the targeted rural community. Awardees will combine the functions of the entities participating in the network to address the following statutory charges: (i) achieve efficiencies; (ii) expand access, coordinate, and improve the quality of essential health care services; and (iii) strengthen the rural health care system as a whole. Focus areas to achieve the goals of better care, smarter spending and healthier people include:

- Incentives that focus on value-based payment systems;
- Integrated and coordinated care delivery that improves population health and promotes patient engagement in decisions; and
- Information that creates transparency on cost and quality and brings electronic health information to the point of care for meaningful use of health information technology.

Applicants to the Rural Health Network Development Program will be required to select at least one activity from a prescribed topic from one statutory charge outlined by the authorizing legislation. The prescribed topic areas are:

- Achieve Efficiencies - Integrated health networks will focus on integrating health care services and/or health care delivery of services to achieve efficiencies and improve rural health care services. Networks will focus on integrating their individual systems of care to achieve the following goals: (1) Implement a financial strategy that will reduce costs; (2) Improve quality and delivery of health care services, and (3) Improve medical oversight.
- Expand access to, coordinate and improve the quality of essential health care services - Integrated health networks will collaborate to expand access to and improve the quality of essential health care services by focusing on projects and/or network activities directly related to the evolving health care environment. The new health care environment has a large emphasis on improving and transforming the quality of hospital care by realigning hospital financial incentives. Networks can achieve efficiencies and increase economic and provider financial viability through projects that focus on payment and care reform. Networks are also integral to providing effective coordination of services and expanded access to care through a range of care coordination activities, Health IT use (which meets meaningful use standards) and telehealth implementation.
- Strengthen the rural health care system as whole - Networks will improve population health by implementing promising practice, evidence-informed and/or evidence-based approaches to address health disparities and enhance population health in their communities. Population health can be defined as an approach that focuses on interrelated conditions and factors that influence the health of populations over the course of their lives. The health outcomes and distribution of health outcomes in a population are studied and appropriate policies and interventions are created to address the health concern of that population.

ELIGIBILITY
The applicant organization must be a public or private non-profit entity located in a rural area or in a rural census tract of an urban county, and all services must be provided in a rural county or census tract. To ascertain rural eligibility, please refer to: http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/RuralAdvisor.

DEADLINE
The previous deadline to apply was November 28, 2016. A similar deadline is anticipated annually. A new solicitation is expected to be released in September.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/program-opportunities/fundingopportunities/?id=af-61cc0e-311e-4ea1-8ee4-fd660830869a
RURAL HEALTH NETWORK DEVELOPMENT (RHND) GRANT PROGRAM

FUNDED PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Valley View Hospital (VWH) is a rural acute care hospital located in Western Colorado. In 2014, VWH led a group of rural hospitals in creating the Community Care Alliance (CCA). The CCA is now an established network focused on providing population health management services to its members. The VWH and CCA Practice Transformation Project (PTP Project) addresses HRSA’s stated Second Statutory Charge to “Expand access to, coordinate and improve the quality of essential health care services” through Topical Area #1: “Integrated health networks will collaborate to expand access to and improve the quality of essential health care services by focusing on projects and/or network activities directly related to the evolving health care environment.” The PTP Project will use awarded funds to:

- Increase the quality and transparency of care provided by Network member organizations.
- Improve the quality and safety of healthcare provided through the greater coordination of services provided by Network member organizations
- Improve the health information technology capabilities and functionalities of Network member organizations
- Transition the two MSSP ACOs from Track 1 (no risk) to Track +1 or Track 2 MSSP ACOs (assume risk).

The PTP Project will achieve these goals through activities that increase the Network Members’ capabilities for quality reporting, providing advanced care coordination, including motivational interviewing in care coordination, using a centralized care planning platform. The PTP Project will culminate with the creation of a behavioral health integration curriculum and the two Network managed ACOs transitioning to tracks that assume risk. The PTP Project will result in a decrease in our communities’ Medicare beneficiaries’ total cost of care, emergency department utilization and readmissions. An additional result will be developing the capabilities of our network members to the point where the network’s ACOs would be ready to assume risk.

FUNDED ORGANIZATION
Valley View Hospital Association

PROJECT TITLE
Practice Transformation Project

AMOUNT FUNDED
$300,000

FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION
https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/find-grants

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE
http://www.communitycarealliance.com/

FUNDED August 2019
HOW GRANT-SEEKER FRIENDLY IS YOUR STATE EDUCATION AGENCY WEBSITE?

By Elizabeth Evans

In our work as grant consultants, we encounter schools and districts from across the country. Outside of the US Department of Education or other federal agencies, the next largest provider of competitive grant funding opportunities for Local Education Agencies (LEA) is likely to be their State Education Agency (SEA). Unfortunately, not all states were created equal when it comes to grant funding. Depending on where you call home, the availability of grants for K-12 – let alone finding information about these opportunities – can vary!

Curious to know how “grant-seeker friendly” your state is and how your SEA stacks up compared to others? We’ve grouped each of the 50 SEAs into one of four categories based on the characteristics found most helpful when setting out to uncover grant funding opportunities. Most important is whether the SEA offers competitive grant opportunities in the first place. While each of the 50 SEAs is technically host to at least one competitive grant opportunity (thank you 21st Century Community Learning Centers pass-through grants from the federal government!), the criterion by which we chose to evaluate SEAs was whether or not they offered their own state-funded grant opportunities (i.e. grants unique to your state). Therefore, those SEAs who are not host to any additional competitive grant programs beyond federal pass-throughs were ranked the lowest for grant seeker friendliness. After all, how can you be grant seeker friendly if you don’t offer grant opportunities?

Beyond this initial measure, we explored at three additional criteria all related to the SEA’s website. First was convenience. Are grant opportunities shown in one clearinghouse location or across multiple, individual program-specific webpages? It’s much easier (and certainly faster) to check for grant funding opportunity updates if you only need to go to one page you already have bookmarked within your browser, rather than navigating among multiple pages. The second factor we considered relates to the accessibility of grants information for proposal development. Do you need an SEA-sanctioned log-in to see the grant summary, deadline, and other application instructions or is this data publicly available? Finally, we examined the accuracy of information that is publicly available for grant seekers. Meaning, those SEA websites who haven’t updated information since the transition from No Child Left Behind to Every Student Succeeds Act (in 2016-17) are not as helpful to grant seekers as those that are updated every few months. Yes, believe it or not there are still SEA websites who prominently feature outdated education legislation.

Read on to see where your state ranks!
LUCKY YOU!
These SEAs maintain an up-to-date central repository for all upcoming and current state-funded grant opportunities. This information is also readily accessible to the public. Moreover, you can count on these SEAs to host multiple non-federally sourced competitive grant opportunities each school year! Actual submission of grant applications may still require a log-in credential, but everything you need for planning – including the current or previous competition’s application instructions – can be easily accessed through links or downloads off of a central grant opportunity landing page!

- **Alaska** – Grants Team landing page that further links to grant opportunity announcements
- **California** – Funding website that links previous, current, and projected opportunities
- **Colorado** – Competitive Grants website that links to previous and current opportunities
- **Connecticut** – Request for Proposals website that link to previous and current fiscal year opportunities
- **Idaho** – Grant Opportunities website that links to previous and current opportunities
- **Illinois** – Funding Opportunities landing page that further links to grant opportunity announcements
- **Iowa** – IowaGrants website that links to opportunities from all state agencies, not just education
- **Kentucky** – Competitive Grants website that link to current opportunities
- **Maryland** – Grants Administration & Resource Development landing page that links to grant opportunity announcements
- **Massachusetts** – Grants Notifications and Alerts landing page that further links to previous and current opportunities
- **Michigan** – Grants landing page that further links to grant opportunity announcements
- **Minnesota** – Grants Management Directory that further links to previous and current opportunities
- **Mississippi** – Requests for, Bids Proposals, Applications, Qualifications for Contracts and Grants website that link to current grant opportunities
- **Nevada** – Grant landing page that further links to current opportunities
- **New Hampshire** – Request for Proposals website that links to current opportunities
- **New Jersey** – Grant Opportunities landing page that further links to previous and current opportunities
- **New Mexico** – Request for Proposal, Information, Application website that links to current opportunities
- **New York** – Funding Opportunities landing page that further links to previous and current opportunities
- **Pennsylvania** – School Grants landing page that further links to previous and current opportunities
- **Rhode Island** – Funding Sources landing page which further links to information on federal grants, state aid, and other ad hoc opportunities
- **South Carolina** – Grants landing page that further links to previous and current opportunities, as well as a current opportunities announcement page
- **Texas** – Grant Opportunities Directory that further links to previous and current opportunities
- **Utah** – Utah Grants portal log-in
- **Wisconsin** – Competitive Grant Inventory forecast, although applicants will be directed to the WISEgrants portal to apply
- **Wyoming** – Grant Programs landing page that further links to previous and current opportunities

FUNDED August 2019
PRETTY GOOD.
These SEAs offer their own grant programs with moderate frequency, but they’re not doing everything they could to make information easily accessible. For one thing, even though the SEA has a central grants information repository site, some of the relevant proposal development information may be hidden behind a log-in wall. If you’re fortunate enough to be one of the folks at your LEA with the password, that’s great! For those who don’t have log-in information though, this creates an immediate barrier and can discourage grant-seeking efforts (or at the very least, slow momentum). Don’t have access to the portal? Ask your colleagues to see who already has the required credentials, and/or contact your SEA about getting an account set up. While you work on getting access to the information behind the log-in wall, try searching the SEA website for your grant program’s name. Most SEAs will have individual corresponding program pages or press releases with high-level summary information that you can use for planning purposes in the meantime. An alternative reason that these SEAs might be viewed as not doing everything within their power to make grant seeking as easy as possible is that they might not always post every grant opportunity offered on their centralized grants webpage. Again, searching the SEA website is key in these instances. Doing so will ensure that you don’t miss out on any grants that slipped through the cracks and weren’t listed on the announcement page.

• **Alabama** – e-GAP portal log-in
• **Arizona** – Grants Management Enterprise portal log-in
• **Delaware** – eGrants portal log-in
• **Maine** – Grants Application and Reimbursement website
• **Ohio** – Grants landing page that further links to current grant opportunities
• **Oregon** – Grants and Funding Resources landing page
• **South Dakota** – Grants Management System portal log-in
• **Vermont** – Grants Management System log-in page
• **Virginia** – OMEGA landing page
• **Washington** – iGrants portal log-in

ADEQUATE EFFORT.
These SEAs do offer competitive grant programs beyond just the federal pass-through opportunities, but not very often. Further, they don’t have a central clearinghouse where all available grant opportunities are listed. Instead you’ll need to dig through their websites and go to each program’s individual page. This is fine if you already know the name of the grant program for which you’d like information, but if you just want to take a general survey of what is available or see if there are any new one-off grant opportunities – you’ve got your work cut out for you. There is enough leg work involved with preparing a proposal once you’ve selected a grant, needing to first “deep-google” the SEA website to find an opportunity just adds another challenge.

• **Florida**
• **Georgia** – Special shout out to Georgia’s Governor’s Office of Student Achievement. While the SEA website could be a bit more grant seeker friendly, the [Governor’s Office’s website](#) is great! Not only does it sponsor grant opportunities, but it also houses this information all in one easy-to-navigate place!
• **Indiana**
• **Kansas**
• **Missouri**
• **North Carolina**
• **Tennessee**
AMPLE ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT.
This list of SEAs is admittedly a hodge-podge. We couldn’t lump them in with those SEAs that don’t offer any grants beyond federal pass-through opportunities. However, it would also be misleading to characterize them as “pretty good” or “adequate” based upon the criteria we set for those categories. Read on to see our explanation for why each of these has been listed as “Ample Room for Improvement” and then judge how they should rank for yourself.

• Arkansas – While they technically keep a running list of grant opportunities on their communications website, new competitive funding opportunities from this SEA are so infrequent that it could be more than a year or two until you see something pop up.
• Louisiana – Funding landing page that further links to grant opportunity announcements (the information here isn’t frequently updated and new opportunities are very few and far between.)
• North Dakota – There is no centralized clearing house for grant opportunities, although occasionally some might be posted to this link. That said, a website redesign has been set for roll out in August 2019, so perhaps we’ll see something more useful after the new website goes live.
• Oklahoma Grants and Nominations website that links to previous and current opportunities (the information here isn’t frequently updated and new opportunities are very few and far between.)

GET READY FOR DISAPPOINTMENT.
We’ve scoured these SEA websites, so you don’t have to waste your time for naught. Some have grants portals, others do not. As far as we can tell, however, each of these SEAs only offer pass-through grant opportunities like 21st Century Community Learning Centers (Title IV, Part B) and Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act funding, or funding from other similar federally provided, re-granting buckets (e.g. the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). Over the last year and a half, we’ve been monitoring SEA websites in anticipation of this article, none of these states have hosted their own unique competitive grant competitions.

• Hawaii
• Montana – E-Grants portal log-in
• Nebraska – Grants Management System portal log-in
• West Virginia

Do you disagree with our methodology? Let us know what factors you think are most important when determining grant seeker friendliness. Our categories are based solely on our staff’s preferences when navigating each SEA’s website. Grant announcements that are provided to Local Education Agencies through email listserv Community Learning Centers (Title IV, Part B) and Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act funding, or funding from other similar federally provided, re-granting buckets (e.g. the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). Over the last year and a half, we’ve been monitoring SEA websites in anticipation of this article, none of these states have hosted their own unique competitive grant competitions.

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• West Virginia

Not pleased with where you state shows up on this list? We understand! Trust us, we’re also bummed that state-funded competitive K-12 grants either aren’t available or, if they are, the information isn’t easily accessible! As the old saying goes though, the squeaky wheel gets the grease. Go out there and be squeaky with your SEA; let them know you expect better from their website. Afterall, they’re more interested in hearing from you – the boots on the ground in the schools – than us!
HUMANITIES CONNECTIONS
PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

SUMMARY
The Humanities Connections grant program seeks to expand the role of the humanities in undergraduate education at two- and four-year institutions. Grants will support innovative curricular approaches that foster productive partnerships among humanities faculty and their counterparts in the social and natural sciences and in pre-service or professional programs (such as business, engineering, health sciences, law, computer science, and other technology-driven fields). Humanities Connections projects have four core features:

• integration of the subject matter, perspectives, and goals of two or more disciplines (with a minimum of one in and one outside of the humanities);

• collaboration between faculty from two or more separate departments or schools at one or more institutions;

• experiential learning as an intrinsic part of the curricular plan; and

• long-term institutional support for the proposed curriculum innovation(s).

Planning Grants (up to twelve months) support the interdisciplinary collaboration of faculty from two or more separate departments or schools (a minimum of one in and one outside of the humanities), with the goal of designing a new, coherent curricular program or initiative. The grant gives the institution(s) the opportunity to create a firm foundation for implementing the program.

Implementation grants (up to three years) support the interdisciplinary collaboration of faculty from two or more separate departments or schools (a minimum of one in and one outside of the humanities), with the implementation of a sustainable curricular program or initiative as the outcome. Implementation grant proposals must show unambiguous evidence of preceding planning work and present a defined rationale with clear intellectual and logistical objectives that are supported by institutional commitment. The grant gives applicants the opportunity to build on faculty/administrative or institutional partnerships and to develop and refine the project’s intellectual content, design, and scope.

ELIGIBILITY
This program accepts applications from any U.S. two- or four-year college or university with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, including community colleges, four-year public and private colleges and universities, liberal arts colleges, research universities, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions.

DEADLINE
Applications are to be submitted by September 19, 2019. A similar deadline is anticipated annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
https://www.neh.gov/divisions/education
HUMANITIES CONNECTIONS

FUNDED PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The development of one revised and two new courses, with a mentor-supported learning opportunity for undergraduate business majors, on the theme of navigating uncertainty.

This proposal seeks to expand the role and impact of the humanities in the undergraduate business curriculum at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in three ways by: 1) creating two new and one substantially redesigned humanities seminars offered to business and humanities majors during their first two years of introductory college coursework, focused on the topic “Navigating Uncertainty”; 2) developing a project-based, mentor-supported co-curricular experiential learning opportunity for interdisciplinary teams of upper-level undergraduates where they will literally experience the process of navigating uncertainty; and 3) bringing cross-disciplinary faculty thought leadership to bear in exploring our theme in a visiting speaker series titled “Foreseeing the Future.”

Project fields: American Literature; Cultural History; Interdisciplinary Studies, General.

FUNDED ORGANIZATION
University of Wisconsin, Madison

PROJECT TITLE
Navigating Uncertainty: Connecting Humanities and Business Perspectives on Risk and Reward

AMOUNT FUNDED
$99,942

FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE
https://www.wisc.edu/

Funded August 2019
Where do I find grants to fund my healthcare project? This is, without a doubt, the question that I am asked more frequently than any other in my work as a grant funding consultant. And I always begin my answer the same way, “Everywhere!” Traditionally, government grantmaking agencies have only focused supporting projects directly within their strictly defined functional area. The ever-expanding field of healthcare, however, has forced many of these agencies to go beyond the confines of such thinking. Thus, the biggest mistake that novice grantseekers can make is limiting their funder prospecting research to only those federal or state authorities primarily responsible for healthcare regulations. To help you make sure that no stone is left unturned the next time you go grant-seeking, following the three primary sources for healthcare grants (federal, state and foundation funders) are explored.

FEDERAL HEALTHCARE FUNDING
The federal government awards more than $500 billion in grants each year. There is more money available at the federal level for health and human service projects than any other category of funding. Of the 26 federal grantmaking agencies, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the most obvious and the largest funder of healthcare-oriented projects. In 2019, HHS received $90.5 billion in discretionary funding, a $2.3 billion increase over 2018 funding levels. HHS releases grant programs that fund telemedicine services in rural and underserved areas, opioid treatment, prevention and recovery, health professional education, and research. HHS has grant programs that target age groups across the lifespan, from mothers and infants to the elderly and disabled. You search should start grant funding research with HHS and the various sub-agencies underneath their umbrella, including:

- **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)** HRSA aims to improve health outcomes and address health disparities through access to quality services, a skilled health workforce, and innovative, high-value programs. Healthcare projects that serve rural and underserved areas, uninsured and underinsured patients, HIV/AIDS populations, or focus on maternal and child health or health professional education are particularly of interest.

- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)** SAMHSA grants target public health efforts in order to advance the behavioral health of the nation and to improve the lives of individuals living with mental and substance use disorders, and their families. They administer funds for mental health services as well as substance abuse, prevention, treatment and recovery initiatives. Projects centered on the opioid epidemic have been especially high priority.

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** The CDC serves as the primary public health agency, developing and applying disease prevention and control, environmental health, and health promotion and health education activities designed to improve the health of the people of the United States. They administer grant programs that target public health preparedness as well as disease surveillance and monitoring.
Beyond the HHS, there is still potential to access additional funding for healthcare projects. There are a handful of other federal agencies that have taken an interest in supporting healthcare initiatives, especially as healthcare practice has expanded into a more wholistic, cross-sector response strategy. For instance, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has programs that aim to improve health services exclusively in rural areas, such as the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program, while the Department of Justice releases grants that support wraparound health services for individuals upon reentry into the community after incarceration. The Department of Labor occasionally offers workforce development and training grants that can be leveraged by healthcare entities for health professional education and training. The Department of Education has even hopped on the bandwagon, releasing solicitations earlier this year that focused on the mental health of students in the context of safe and healthy schools. In essence, to ensure that your organization capitalizes on all potentially relevant grant funding for its healthcare projects, a thorough search should include not just HHS but also several of the other 25 federal grantmaking agencies.

HEALTHCARE FUNDING FROM YOUR STATE

Each of the federal grantmaking agencies typically has a counterpart at the state level. The amount and type of grant funding available varies greatly, though, as each state has their own priorities and appropriations process. While state grantmakers tend to offer smaller awards (on average) than their federal counterparts, they usually have less complicated application procedures and make quicker decisions on awards. In some instances, the state may be passing through funds made available to them from the federal government, while other grant programs originate from within their state appropriations and budget process. Unlike with federal grants, the geographic scope of the grant funded project is typically limited to the state or territory making the funds available. States are an excellent source of grants for projects that have a significant and clear local impact that addresses priority problems specifically within the state.

In some cases, your project may not align with federal priorities, but you may find such an emphasis in existing grant programming at the state level. For instance, projects that impact economic development for the region tend to be a priority for many states. To that end, state agencies that oversee business functions or economic development could be a potential funder for certain health sector projects. While healthcare entities may be reluctant to think of themselves as economic drivers, in many cases they are the largest and most stable employer in a given region. Healthcare organizations should leverage their ability to make an impact on jobs for a community and capitalize on these economic development grants. Even if there is not a large job growth component to the project, healthcare projects have a latent impact on the regional economy: a healthy workforce is a critical ingredient to economic and community development.

FOUNDATION FUNDING FOR HEALTHCARE

Foundation grants are an excellent source of funds for projects that have significant impact at the local and regional level. Between corporate, community, and private family foundations, more than $5 billion is granted each year by foundations for healthcare projects. Foundations are an excellent source of funding for projects that do not fit squarely within federal or state priorities or funding requirements. For instance, state and federal grant programs usually do not provide funding for institutionalized care, ambulatory, outpatient and home-based services. However, many foundations that focus on the elderly and disabled will fund projects in these areas because of their population-based priorities. These foundations include those with a national focus and give across the country, regional organizations that give in several target states, and local grantmakers that may limit their eligibility to a specific state, county, or municipality. In contrast to federal and state-grantmakers, foundations are best known for their quick decision-making when evaluating grant proposals.

The one slight drawback of foundation funding (specifically for local or regional foundations), however, is that relationship building may be required prior to submission of your grant proposal. Unlike state or federal funders who use a “blind, cattle call” approach, many foundations prefer to get to know their awardees personally before making a decision. That said, once you’ve established a relationship with the funder, they might be more willing to become a long-term partner for supporting your future projects! Especially if the foundation operates in your specific community and targets their support specifically for projects in your town, city, or village. When pursuing foundation grantmakers, don’t forget: while you start looking start locally, it is important to also search out funders beyond the walls of your own community. There may be a large, regional foundation that may funds in multiple states (including yours!) that you’re unaware of and have been missing. There are foundations that support projects in key geographic areas, such as the Great Lakes, Appalachia, the Delta Region, the Rocky Mountains and more.
APPRENTICESHIPS: CLOSING THE SKILLS GAP

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

SUMMARY
The purpose of this grant program is to promote apprenticeships as a significant workforce solution in filling current job vacancies and closing the skills gap between employer workforce needs and the skills of the current workforce. The overarching goals of this grant program are threefold:

• to accelerate the expansion of apprenticeships to industry sectors and occupations that have not traditionally deployed apprenticeships for building a skilled workforce, such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and health care;

• to promote the large-scale expansion of apprenticeships across the nation to a range of employers, including small and medium-sized employers; and

• to increase apprenticeship opportunities for all Americans.

This grant program supports the expansion of apprenticeships to industries that have not typically used the “learn as you earn” model to recruit new apprentices into the workforce, and to upskill those already employed in the industry to bolster the sector’s competitiveness. Given the funding source, the industries and occupations that can be targeted with this funding are those for which employers are using H-1B visas to hire foreign workers, such as information technology (IT) and IT-related industries, health care, and advanced manufacturing. The Department is particularly interested in expanding the apprenticeship model to cybersecurity and artificial intelligence (AI) professions. In addition, these grants seek to increase the level of apprenticeship activity among employers within these industry sectors that have not traditionally implemented apprenticeship programs, particularly among small- and medium-sized businesses.

ELIGIBILITY
Grants under this program will be awarded to an apprenticeship partnership of public and private sector entities. The lead applicant in the apprenticeship partnership can be: an institution of higher education (IHE) or an IHE representing a consortium of IHEs; or a state system of higher education, such as a community college system office or a single state higher educational board; or a nonprofit trade, industry or employer association; labor unions; labor-management organizations.

DEADLINE
Applications are to be submitted by September 24, 2019. A similar deadline is anticipated annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP GRANTS (NLG-L) FOR LIBRARIES

ELIGIBILITY
Eligible applicants must qualify as one of the following: A library or a parent organization, such as a school district, a municipality, a State agency, or an academic institution, that is responsible for the administration of a library; A private library or other special library; An academic or administrative unit; A digital library; A library agency that is an official agency of a State or other unit of government; A library consortium; or A library association that exists on a permanent basis.

DEADLINE
Preliminary proposals are to be submitted by September 27, 2019. Invited proposals are to be submitted by March 30, 2020. Similar deadlines are anticipated annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

SUMMARY
National Leadership Grants for Libraries (NLG-L) support projects that enhance the quality of library and archive services nationwide by advancing theory and practice. Successful proposals will generate results such as new tools, research findings, models, services, practices, or alliances that will be widely used, adapted, scaled, or replicated to extend the benefits of federal investment. This work may be achieved through proposals at various stages of maturity (exploring, piloting, enhancing, or scaling).

All applications must designate one of these categories:

• Lifelong Learning: IMLS is interested in proposals that will have a significant national impact on the capacity of libraries and archives to foster attitudes of discovery and cultivate critical thinking, innovation, communication, and collaboration.

• Community Catalysts: IMLS is interested in proposals that will have a significant national impact on the capacity of libraries and archives to serve as catalysts that contribute to the well-being of communities. In addition to directly providing programs and services, libraries and archives may also serve as intermediaries that strengthen the work of collaborators and community members by leveraging their expertise, relationships, networks, or infrastructures.

• National Digital Infrastructures and Initiatives: IMLS is interested in proposals that will have a significant national impact on the capacity of libraries and archives to provide access to digital content, collections, and services to a wide range of users.

GRANTS EDUCATION CORNER

FEDERAL AGENCIES THAT AWARD GRANTS

Did you know that the federal government has 26 grantmaking agencies? Each grant opportunity offered will vary based on that specific agency’s mission and functionality, but many offer funding options that may be of interest to applicants across sectors! To learn more about each of these agencies’ mission, vision, and highlighted grant funding priorities, visit the Learn Grants section of Grants.gov at https://www.grants.gov/learn-grants/grant-making-agencies.html.

• US Agency for International Development (USAID)
• Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)
• US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
• US Department of Commerce (DOC)
• US Department of Defense (DOD)
• US Department of Education (ED)
• US Department of Energy (DOE)
• US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
• US Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
• US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
• US Department of the Interior (DOI)
• US Department of Justice (DOJ)
• US Department of Labor (DOL)
• US Department of State (DOS)
• US Department of Transportation (DOT)
• US Department of the Treasury (TREAS)
• US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
• Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
• Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)
• National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
• National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)
• National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
• National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)
• National Science Foundation (NSF)
• Small Business Administration (SBA)
• Social Security Administration (SSA)
RECENT WEBCASTS:

Are you FirstNet Ready? Grants to Fund Devices, Connectivity, and Deployment
Sponsored by: Samsung
Download and Playback HERE

Driving K-12 Innovation: Technology, Funding, and Organizations
Sponsored by: Google, HP, and AMD
Download and Playback HERE

UPCOMING WEBCASTS:

The Mobile First Responder: Grant Funding for Devices on the Verizon Network
Date & Time: Tuesday, August 20th, 2pm ET
Sponsored by: Samsung
Register HERE

Avoid the Fire Drill: Prepare your 2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Proposal Now!
Date & Time: Thursday, September 19th, 2pm ET
Sponsored by: Samsung
Register HERE

Planning to Make the Most of K-12 Technology Funding in Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina
Date & Time: Tuesday, October 1st, 2pm ET
Sponsored by: HP and BridgeTek Solutions
Register HERE

Planning to Make the Most of K-12 Technology Funding in Florida, Georgia, and Tennessee
Date & Time: Wednesday, October 2nd, 2pm ET
Sponsored by: HP and Arey Jones Educational Solutions
Register HERE

Find more replays at: http://www.grantsoffice.info/webcasts.aspx