

 A Grants Office Publication

FUNDED

NOVEMBER 2019 | VOLUME 9 | ISSUE 4

2020 BUDGET Q&A: GO AHEAD AND TAKE GRANTS FOR GRANTED

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for Health Professional Education Grants

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ON THE COVER

In this issue, we tackle the federal budget uncertainty in the context of the grant programming. If you are interested in trying to plan for grant solicitations or simply anxious about the absence of a federal budget, this Q&A addresses your most pressing questions.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

DEAR READERS,

As we begin to develop plans for 2020 grantseeking, it helps to have a sense of how the landscape of funding may be changing – and what will be staying the same – in the coming year. This issue of FUNDED attempts to provide some guidance at a high level, as well as at a tactical level.

Looking at the big picture, Chris LaPage provides us with answers to some common questions related to the 2020 funding year. Some of the answers are short (one is one word) and some are longer, but the entire article is well worth reading.

Elizabeth Evans begins the tactical portion of the Issue, with some suggestions on how to fund the emerging phenomenon of eSports at the secondary and postsecondary levels. It's certainly a topic that is coming across our helpdesk more and more often, and getting the funding you need may mean taking stock of all the funding assets you have available from the local community to the federal government levels. Sticking with crossover topics, Ashley Schultz then follows up with specific recommendations on winning School Violence Prevention Program grants, based on her recent experience developing proposals and watching which of those proposals was funded and why.

We have four special grantscasts in November, providing forecasts of funding specific to K-12 education, local governments, higher education, and healthcare (see page 30). We'll also be taking a few moments during each session to introduce our new Annual Grants Support Program, aimed at empowering institutions and communities across the country with access to relevant, actionable grants intelligence and support. You won't want to miss these events!

Be sure to check out the other timely and informative 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



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STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE GRANTS

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

SUMMARY

The State Justice Institute Grant program was established by federal law in 1984 to improve the quality of justice in State courts, facilitate better coordination between State and Federal courts, and foster innovative, efficient solutions to common issues faced by all courts. To fulfill this mission, SJI awards grants that benefit the nation's judicial system and the public it serves.

Types of Grants Available:

- **Project Grants:** Intended to support innovative education and training, demonstration, and technical assistance projects that can improve the administration of justice in State courts locally or nationwide.
- **Technical Assistance Grants:** Designed to provide State and local courts with funding to obtain expert assistance to diagnose a problem, develop a response to that problem, and initiate implementation of any needed changes.
- **Curriculum Adaptation and Training (CAT) Grants:** Intended to enable courts and regional or national court associations to modify and adapt model curricula, course modules, or conference programs to meet States' or local jurisdictions' educational needs and conduct judicial branch education and training programs, led by either expert or in-house personnel, designed to prepare judges and court personnel for innovations, reforms, and/or new technologies recently adopted by grantee courts.
- **Partner Grants:** Partner Grants are intended to allow SJI and federal, state, or local agencies or foundations, trusts, or other private entities to combine financial resources in pursuit of common interests.
- **Strategic Initiatives Grants:** Provide SJI the flexibility to address national court issues as they occur, and develop solutions to those problems.

- **Education Support Program (ESP):** Provides tuition assistance for state court judges and court managers.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility varies based on program area:

- **Project Grants:** State and local courts are eligible.
- **Technical Assistance Grants:** State and local courts are eligible.
- **Curriculum Adaptation and Training Grants:** Training providers may be state or local agencies, foundations, trusts, private entities, institutions of higher education, and/or nonprofit organizations.
- **Partner Grants:** State and local courts are eligible.
- **Strategic Initiatives Grants:** SJI will approach potential applicants.
- **Education Support Program (ESP):** Only full-time judges of state or local trial and appellate courts; full-time professional state or local court personnel with management responsibilities; and supervisory and management probation officials in judicial branch probation offices are eligible.

DEADLINE

Applications to most programs are due February 1, May 1, August 1, or November 1, annually. Strategic Initiatives Grants and Partner Grants do not have a set deadline.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.sji.gov/grants.php>



STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE GRANTS

FUNDED PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will: 1) help implement state court-based pilot programs that focus on reducing trauma and promoting safe and timely placement of children, including the use of trauma assessment instruments for young children (particularly below the age of 5), and trauma services to help provide support to children as they navigate the court and foster care systems; 2) utilize Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) methodologies in identifying at risk and/or traumatized children who are court involved and connect them and their families to services; 3) promote evidence-based prevention, identification, and treatment for children and their parents related to Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and Substance-Exposed Infants; 4) identify best practices, pilot, and evaluate outcomes for early intervention court strategies to assist parents with substance abuse issues who are at risk of losing their children; and 5) examine existing and possible future court programs to enhance the recovery efforts of parents, while enabling their children to be safely maintained with them in the home.

FUNDED ORGANIZATION

National Judicial Opioid Task Force/
Children & Families Workgroup

PROJECT TITLE

State Courts Response to Opioids and Impact on Children

AMOUNT FUNDED

\$590,981

FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION

http://www.sji.gov/wp/wp-content/uploads/SJI-Grant-Awards-FY-05-18_with-Award-Numbers.pdf

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE

<https://www.ncsc.org/opioidsandcourts>



Tis the Season...

FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION GRANTS

By Chris LaPage

Along with the changing colors of the leaves, Autumn brings with it the release of several health professional education grants. These grants, offered through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), are meant to overcome health professional shortages in urban, rural and medically underserved areas. These grants are usually led by an appropriate institution of higher education (IHE) in partnership with healthcare facilities that serve as clinical rotation sites for students. The following is a primer on what funding opportunities we are expecting to open soon as well as a few tips for developing a competitive proposal.

THE SLATE – NURSING

- **Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention Grants (NEPQR)** – These grants tend to focus on moving students and currently practicing nurses up to the registered nurse (RN) level, and preferably into Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. The solicitation is typically released in the Autumn and is due in February or March.
- **Advanced Nursing Education Workforce Program (ANEW)** – These grants support academic clinical partnerships to educate and graduate advanced practicing nurses, such as primary care Nurse Practitioners (NP), clinical nurse specialists (CNS) and nurse midwives (NM). The solicitation is typically released in the Autumn with a late December or early January application deadline.
- **Nursing Workforce Diversity (NWD)** – The overall purpose of the NWD program is to increase nursing education opportunities for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, including ethnic and racial minorities who are underrepresented among registered nurses. This program also includes a trainee component as a portion of the funding must be used for student financial support. The NWD program typically opens in the early Autumn with applications being due in November or December.

THE SLATE – PHYSICIANS & PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

- **Primary Care Training & Enhancement (PCTE)** – The PCTE Program aims to strengthen the primary care physician and physician assistant workforce by supporting enhanced training for future and current primary care clinicians, teachers, and educators and to promote primary care practice in underserved areas. PCTE solicitations are typically released in early Autumn and due towards the end of the calendar year.

TIP #1: PUT A PRIMARY FOCUS ON PRIMARY CARE

An area or community may face a variety of health professional shortages, whether it be access to primary care providers or certain types of specialists. However, HRSA defines health professional shortage areas (HPSAs) across three medical disciplines: primary care, mental health and dentistry. The aforementioned programs we anticipate opening this Autumn specifically target primary care. Since primary care providers are paid less than specialists on a per-visit basis, fewer and fewer students are practicing medicine in a primary care setting. Thus, it is crucial that the clinical rotation sites you document in the application are in primary care settings.

TIP #2: MAY NEED A SECONDARY FOCUS ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

While all these grant programs will be centered on primary care, there is a caveat. Some of these grant opportunities may come out with a secondary emphasis on behavioral health. More likely, there may be priority around integrating primary and behavioral health services. For instance, the PCTE program that was released last year focused on innovative training programs that integrate behavioral health into primary care settings. We saw a similar focus in the NEPQR program two years ago. Considering the government-wide emphasis on combating the opioid epidemic, we are likely to see this trend continue.

TIP #3: MEETING THE FUNDING PREFERENCE IS CRUCIAL TO SUCCESS

All of these grant opportunities have a funding preference built into the program to address health professional shortages in rural, underserved or public health settings. There are two primary methods for meeting the funding preference, depending on the program:

- **Clinical Training Site Locations:** This method requires you to document the site name and locations. The applicant must cross-reference each site with HRSA data to determine whether it is considered a rural or underserved setting. You must also provide documentation that the site is a state or local public health department [accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board](#) to meet the

public health preference. Unfortunately, you won't receive extra consideration for meeting multiple criteria (rural, underserved, public health). In order to receive any funding preference, you will need to fill out a specified attachment as well as note you are seeking it in the project abstract.

Check if the clinical training site is rural through [HRSA's Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer](#).

Check if the clinical training site qualifies as underserved by using [HRSA's Health Professional Shortage Area \(HPSA\) Tool](#) to determine if it is in a primary care geographical HPSA.

- **Post-Graduation Placement Data:** This method requires that the applicant provide data on where your past graduates (over a specified time period) end up practicing. In other words, HRSA is looking for the percentage of graduates that have moved on to practice in rural, underserved or public health settings. HRSA reviewers will rank all the applicants seeking the preference based on the placement data and grant the preference to a certain percentage of applicants (e.g. top 40%). This method can pose a problem for institutions that do not have adequate systems or protocols to track such information. However, every effort should be made to meet the funding preference as it is critical to your chances of being successful with these programs.

FINAL TIP: CHECK OUT THE ABSTRACTS OF PAST WINNERS

This tip applies to any grant program where there is an established funding history. HRSA provides a [database of past winners](#), which includes abstracts and even a project contact in some cases. You can leverage these abstracts to see what others have done. Remember that HRSA is looking to fund innovative projects, so knowing what others are doing is a key component of your due diligence. When a funded project contact is available, you may be able to reach out to past winners for advice and counsel as you develop your application. These are very competitive grants, so it is in your best interest to take all these tips into consideration if you want to be successful.



AVOIDING GRANT SCAMMERS

By Elizabeth Evans

“Great news! You’ve won a grant... you just need to send us your information and some money first.” That statement sounds rather ludicrous to those of us who are veteran grant professionals. After all, why would you need to pay someone who wants to gift you funding for a program or initiative? For folks new to grant seeking and the non-profit sector though, they might not realize that this type of statement should raise an immediate red flag. Especially when they don’t even remember applying to the supposed funder in the first place!

Scammers are clever. They’ll contact you repeatedly and lie... whatever it takes to get your money. Some scammers have even gone so far as to pose as legitimate grants consulting firms or grant makers. Such an instance was recently brought to our attention, wherein a non-profit therapy horse organization had been contacted by a scammer. This scammer informed the organization that they had been awarded a \$10,000 grant, but that they would first need to send in \$1,000 by money order via Western Union to cover processing and legal fees associated with the supposed award. After several exchanges by text message, fortunately, the woman from the non-profit realized something was off and asked for the supposed funder’s physical address and phone number. The address provided was that of Grants Office LLC. Upon googling our offices, the woman found a different number than the one the scammer had provided and decided to call it. **BOY ARE WE GLAD SHE DID!** We were able to confirm that her hunch was correct, and she had been contacted by someone looking to trick her into giving them money.

Sadly, many unwitting citizens as well as organizations are not as fortunate and end up losing their hard-earned funds as a result. It’s for this reason, that we want to dedicate a few pages out of this issue to offer a few simple reminders and tips related to grants and grant scammers.

LEGITIMATE GRANTS HAVE A FORMAL APPLICATION PROCESS FOR WHICH YOU MUST APPLY.

Whether it’s through an online submission portal or mailing in your proposal packet – grants require applicants to fill out forms and draft narratives around both their needs and plans to address challenges faced. A legitimate grant funder will never tell you that an application was not required or that you won an award via a raffle or some other means. If you don’t recall doing any work to proverbially “toss your hat into the ring” for funding, it is definitely a scam.



LEGITIMATE GRANTS HAVE ALLOWABLE AND UNALLOWABLE EXPENSES.

Grants are awarded for specific reasons – whether it's for research on links between genetics and cancer, pilot testing an innovative approach to early literacy, or mitigating congestion in high traffic areas through use of smart city analytics technology. Government-funded (state, federal, local) grants are subject to specific federal regulations around the use of funds. Private foundation grantmakers have more flexibility, but most will still set clear guidelines around what sorts of budget line items they expect awarded dollars to go towards. Scammers will try to hook you by telling you that you've been awarded unrestricted funds to use however you see fit.

LEGITIMATE GRANT FUNDERS USE TRADITIONAL MEANS OF PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION.

Like all other professional entities, State, Federal, and Foundation grant makers will communicate with you via email, phone, or posted mail. While there are many wonderful platforms that now connect the public to various agencies and organizations, formal business is still conducted via traditional channels. This means that the grant maker will likely notify you of award by both email and mail. If they telephone you, you are well within your right to ask for email or mail confirmation of whatever you discuss. Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and other social media platforms are usually reserved for informal communication, such as congratulating an awardee, thanking a funder, impromptu project updates to stakeholders, or PR photo opportunities. Texting, Snap Chat, Instagram, WhatsApp, etc. are not professional means of communication for organizations. Anyone who tries to move official, professional conversations to these, or other social media platforms, likely does not have your best interest at heart.

LEGITIMATE GRANT FUNDERS HAVE A PAPER TRAIL.

State and federal grants are part of the public record and information related to them is subject under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). As such, you'll be hard pressed to find a legitimate state or federal grant program that isn't google-able. Head to the supposed agency or department's website and poke around a bit. Make sure the information they're telling you matches with what you see online. Most major corporate or nationally-focused private foundations also maintain websites which can easily be located online. But what about when you can't find their website? There are countless small "mom and pop" family foundations all across the country that don't have a web presence and instead advertise available funds in local news media, community bulletins, or through word of mouth. Regardless of whether or not the foundation has their own website, they are still required to register with the IRS to maintain their tax-exempt, grantmaker status. This means that their tax files (e.g. 990s and 990PFs) are part of the public record and can be found on the IRS website or through other clearinghouse services such as GuideStar.org or FoundationCenter.org. If you can't locate the supposed funder's paper trail you should probably cut off contact immediately.

Check out the [White House's Office of Management and Budget Circulars](#) for information on how federal funds can and cannot be used.

LEGITIMATE GRANT FUNDERS DON'T EXPECT YOU TO PAY THEM MONEY.

Grantmakers accomplish their missions through providing funding to other organizations who align with their values and priorities. Once you've been awarded a grant, that funding is yours to use as described in your proposal. It's for this reason that most grant funders, whether government or foundation-based, don't allow for pre-award expenses to be reimbursed using grant dollars. This often includes compensation for the writer who pulled together the application! Because grant funders want to see you use their money towards project success, to suggest that they expect you to also pay them after they have selected to give you money is a complete and utter contradiction with the reason for making grants in the first place.

In all our years working as a grant professional, our team has only once encountered an exception to the "legitimate grant funders don't expect you to pay them money" rule. During funder prospecting research for a client we found a local foundation who required applicants to pay a submission fee in order to apply. The fee was less than \$15 and was justified by the funder as necessary to help them cover the costs associated with the application submission and processing software they used. As a small foundation, they realized that the expense of the grants management software was biting into their ability to make awards. However, this software was also necessary to help them manage the large number of requests that they receive. Therefore, the funder's solution was to pass the burden of cost, partially, along to applicants. This funder took the annual cost for the software, subtracted what they were able to comfortably cover out of their administrative allowances budget, and then divided the remaining amount by the average number of proposals they received each year. The resulting number is what they then decided to charge as part of the application fee. We won't make any assertions as to the ethics of this practice, but we do respect the funder's candor by providing a rationale, and want to note that they were also very forthright with interested applicants as to what to expect when applying (i.e. that there would be a fee for submission).

SO WHAT CAN YOU DO TO KEEP YOURSELF SAFE?

Be skeptical. There are little to no protections available for those who have fallen victim to a scammer. Those systems that are in place through state or federal agencies involve a long and complex process in which victims receive little support navigating. While it isn't fair to expect you to be 100% on guard against those interested in taking advantage of you or your organization (talk about exhausting!), the best thing you can do to minimize risk is to be aware of warning signs. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is! So, if you've been contacted about an unsolicited grant award, take down their information and tell them you'll call them back.

If you think you may have been a victim of a government grant scam, file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission online, or call toll-free, 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); TTY: 1-866-653-4261.

You can also report grant-related scam attempts to the Health and Human Services (HHS) Fraud Hotline at 1-800-447-8477.

Google, Bing, Yahoo – whatever your favorite search engine – type in the organization's name as provided to you (verbatim) and the name (first and last) of the person who contacted you. Make sure that the organization is real and named exactly as stated, and that this person shows up on an employee directory. If they don't have a publicly available employee directory, confirm that the number they are contacting you from matches with what you see on the legitimate organization's website, or that the email address is similar in format to other email addresses on the site.

Never provide your personal information to the funder. The funder will have requested whatever information from you they needed at the time of application. Occasionally they may need certain details clarified (e.g. lingering questions related to your proposed project budget, or a technical aspect of the project), but they should never come back and say they need your social security number or home address to finalize the award payments to your organization.

Interested in some additional reading? Check out the [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) learn grants blog for other posts related to how to avoid grant scammers.



2020 Budget Q&A:

GO AHEAD AND TAKE GRANTS FOR GRANTED

By Chris LaPage

As the warmth of summer turns to the chill of autumn, I can't help but feel like Bill Murray's character in the 1993 classic movie, *Groundhog Day*. It has nothing to do with the familiar change in seasons, but I can't help the feeling of déjà vu that creeps in at the start of every federal fiscal year. The 2020 federal fiscal year started on October 1 and once again we are operating under a continuing resolution instead of a budget. On September 27, 2019, President Trump signed a continuing resolution into law that keeps the government funded through November 21, 2019. Unfortunately, this leaves federal agencies with the uncertainty of not knowing their full 2020 budget, which can wreak havoc on their plans and timing for soliciting proposals for various grant programs. Naturally, this creates anxiety amongst grantseekers as they anxiously await to hear when, or even if, certain programs will be available in 2020.

Fortunately, federal agencies (as well as experienced grant professionals) can look to the recent past to navigate the situation. Take a deep breath and relax because the grants landscape is much more predictable than it seems, even in the absence of a federal budget. The following Q&A is intended to help grant-seekers "read the tea leaves" when it comes to grant programming in 2020.

WHAT IS A CONTINUING RESOLUTION AND HOW DOES IT IMPACT GRANT PROGRAMMING?

A continuing resolution funds the government at the previous year levels, prorated to the specified time period. In this case, government agencies are funded at 2019 levels through November 21, 2019. This creates several issues for federal grantmaking agencies and the release of grant programs, however. The first problem is that the prorated funding level may not even be enough for the agency to administer a previously established grant program, let alone fund any new projects. The more pressing issue is that once a federal budget is passed down the road, it may override the continuing resolution and retroactively cut or decrease funding for certain grant programs.

Considering the uncertainty of what funding will look like for 2020, the main impact grant seekers can expect is that federal grantmakers will delay the release of anticipated grant programs. The truth is that Congress has rarely passed a federal budget on time in the 21st Century, so agencies are used to operating under these conditions. Since agencies are typically doing future and current planning in the first and final quarters of a fiscal year, the bulk of grant programming is released during the second and third quarters (January through June). In that respect, one wouldn't even expect much of a delay as long as a full budget was passed by end of the first federal quarter (December 31).

In cases where there is no budget by the second quarter of the federal fiscal year, delays become more problematic. Agencies may begin releasing solicitations with language indicating that awards will be subject to appropriations – knowing that the anticipated money may not become available. This can have a chilling effect on grantseekers as proposals require a massive investment of time and resources to develop. When funding availability is less certain, applicants may be less willing to submit a proposal. However, federal agencies are more apt to hold off the solicitation all together rather than potentially waste everyone's time. On the plus side, these agencies are usually waiting to hit the ground running once the final budget is approved and signed into law.



SHOULD I LOOK TO THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET FOR GUIDANCE ON PLANNING MY GRANTSEEKING EFFORTS?

No!

NO... WHY NOT?

Perhaps that answer is too short and deserves some explanation. In the U.S. Constitution it is established that the "power of the purse" lies with Congress. Meaning, all appropriation bills must originate in the House of Representatives and pass both chambers of Congress before it goes to the President to be signed into law. Since the President must ultimately sign that document, his or her opinion is certainly a key piece of the puzzle (unless Congress has two-thirds majority votes to override a Presidential veto), but it isn't the end all be all. Just know that regardless of what is proposed in the President's Proposed Budget, it does not amount to much more than a recommendation to Congress.

At its core, the President's Budget is a political instrument that outlines the administration's funding priorities. The final budget that is ultimately signed into law seldom resembles the funding levels recommended by the administration. While it does provide some context for the priorities of the President, it is nothing more than an initial offer in a long negotiation. Since all bills must originate in the House, technically, you cannot even call it a starting point as the political leadership in that body gets to draft the initial legislation.

If we look at the history of Presidential Budgets, grantseekers should be relieved that in the grand scheme of federal appropriations the executive budget carries little weight. Over the years, Democratic and Republican presidents have called on the consolidation or outright elimination of many popular grant programs. The Trump administration has previously called for the elimination of programs like Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and 21st Century Community Learning Centers to name two. Time and time again, however, Congress stands as roadblock to these attempts.

HOW CAN WE BE SURE A DIVIDED CONGRESS WILL PROTECT GRANT PROGRAMS?

This is a very fair question in at time where we see little compromise in government between Democrats and Republicans. Certainly, when it comes to overall defense versus domestic spending, battle lines are generally drawn on party lines. The same is true of the fight over entitlement programs, such as Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security. However, the bulk of competitive grant programs that public sector and non-profit agencies target are not subject to these traditional Democrat-Republican fault lines.

Instead, there is another factor in play that unites the conservative Republican lawmaker from Oklahoma and the liberal Democrat from Massachusetts. I would term it the politics of representation. Representatives in the House are elected to represent their specific districts while Senators represent their entire state. The aforementioned CDBG program is a prime example of how the politics of representation surpass party alignment. These grants have survived since 1974 despite the frequent attempts made by several presidential administrations to eliminate the program. The reason is because small rural communities in Kansas rely on this funding stream just as much as New York City to deliver critical services to their respective residents.

Grant programs are a key vehicle to ensure that congressional representatives can deliver actual results, in the form of funding, to their local districts. Particularly since the elimination of earmarks, or pork barrel funding, that was popular in the past. Think of the potential photograph and publicity an elected representative gets when a local school district wins a federal grant to deliver a new, innovative after-school STEM education program in their district. Now imagine how his or her constituency and local press will react when that same representative is being accused of voting for a budget that eliminates these popular programs.

The politics of representation is one of the primary reasons the President's Budget provides so little value. If it was a Democrat-Republican issue at its core, grants would be at risk any time one party gains complete control of the Executive and Legislative branches of government. Yet, as many times as this has occurred in history, grant programming endures. In the case of CDBG, the program has survived for 3.5 decades.



WHAT CAN WE EXPECT AND WHY?

It only takes two words to summarize what grant seekers can expect for 2020: status quo. First, the continuing resolution essentially keeps funding levels the same as the previous year, over the specified time period. On top of that, the politics of representation make it very difficult to eliminate established grant funding streams. The last several years have seen consistent funding levels across all agencies and grant programs. If anything, there has actually been a low to moderate increase in funding levels. Therefore, you can generally expect that if an annual grant program was available in 2019, then it will be there this year as well.

In addition to the politics of representation, the fact that we are in a Presidential election year is another cue to expect little change from 2019. The average person pays much more attention to elections when the Presidential race is on the ticket. Nobody wants to be on the campaign trail defending controversial votes they made resulting in the elimination of popular grant programs. In fact, all parties are motivated to stay on message with their direction for the country and will be seeking a non-controversial final budget that is wrapped up as soon as possible. The last Presidential election cycle, for example, brought about a major two-year budget compromise between President Obama and Speaker Boehner. Elected officials are more than aware that the public will not tolerate a government shutdown, which is the result of a failure to pass a federal budget. Should a shutdown occur in an election year - that once "shoe in" win for re-election could quickly turn to a guaranteed loss. For that reason alone, politicians everywhere are much more willing to essentially carbon copy the 2019 budget if only to avoid the risk of shutdown.

In the end, the only uncertainty lies in what will be seen for new grant programs. Unfortunately, there is no fortune teller that can predict what we might see in that arena. However, understanding the traditional politics at play and recent history, you can expect continued compromise in certain areas. If we are to see new programming, it will likely be in the area of prevention, treatment and recovery efforts to combat the opioid epidemic. Another area of potential compromise is in the area of school safety and improvement of mental health services for students. But you can rest assured, the grant programs you care most about; they aren't going anywhere.



RURAL SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE AND STALKING PROGRAM

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

SUMMARY

The primary purpose of the Rural Program is to enhance the safety of rural victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking and support projects uniquely designed to address and prevent these crimes in rural areas. The Rural Program welcomes applications that propose innovative solutions to achieving this goal and encourages collaboration among criminal justice agencies, victim services providers, social services agencies, health professionals, and other community organizations to overcome the problems of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking and ensure that victim safety is paramount while providing services to victims. The Rural Program also recognizes the richness of diversity in rural communities and areas across the country, and encourages applicants to implement innovative approaches, through capacity-building and partnerships, to address the critical needs of victims in a manner that affirms a victim's culture, effectively addresses language and communication barriers, and ensures accessible services for all victims.

In FY20, we anticipate OVW to support the following:

- Reduce violent crime against women and promote victim safety.
- Increase the response to victims of human trafficking.
- Include substance abuse professionals in a coordinated community response to VAWA crimes and increase victim access to substance abuse services.
- Increase efforts to combat stalking

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include states; Indian tribes; territories; local governments; and non-profit entities, including tribal nonprofit organizations. Grant recipients that received new or supplemental/continuation funding for 36 months in FY 2017 or FY 2018 are NOT eligible to apply.

DEADLINE

The previous deadline to apply was February 14, 2019. A new solicitation is expected to be released in December.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/1120906/download>



RURAL SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE AND STALKING PROGRAM

FUNDED PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Family Crisis Center promotes and provides safety to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault while engaging the community. The Family Crisis Center is a public non-profit agency incorporated in February of 1987. We began as an effort to bring services closer to our local communities. We provide information and education to Madison, Fremont, Jefferson, and Clark County residents to reduce the number of incidents of domestic violence and sexual assault. We currently have a comprehensive information and referral network of community resources for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. We operate under a Board of Directors with diverse backgrounds, education, and skills. They meet once a month to guide and oversee the staff.

Program services include a 24-hour crisis line, shelter, crisis intervention services, immediate on-scene intervention with Law Enforcement, referral to emergency medical services, and legal advocacy. We also provide weekly women's support groups, weekly children's support group, women's individual counseling, a batterer's treatment program, community education and public awareness, and a community food bank and thrift store. The Family Crisis Center serves a large rural area in southeast Idaho of approximately 4,500 square miles. Total population for this area is approximately sixty thousand people. The population is widely scattered and mostly rural and includes a minority subculture composed of Hispanic farm and warehouse workers. Thirteen percent of the population is below the poverty level.

FUNDED ORGANIZATION

Family Crisis Center, Inc.

AMOUNT FUNDED

\$750,000

FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION

<https://www.justice.gov/ovw/awards/fy-2018-ovw-grant-awards-program#Rural>

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE

<https://familycrisiscenter.wixsite.com/familycrisiscenter>

FUNDING YOUR ESPORTS INITIATIVE:

Challenges & Solutions

By Elizabeth Evans

Esports, a form of competition using video games, features either individuals or teams vying towards some predetermined goal (which changes depending upon the game) in a tournament setting. With more and more televised events and streaming services making competitions publicly accessible, the world of Esports has seen an incredible boost in popularity over the last decade. It has moved out of a niche corner of geekdom and into the mainstream consciousness.

Proponents of Esports tout the activity as a means for players to learn essential noncognitive skills (e.g. teamwork and management of emotions) as well as valuable technical skills related to future employment in broadcasting, production, and even management. It is therefore no wonder that educational organizations are starting to take notice! By participating in Esports, students are no longer pigeon-holed into the life of a professional gamer; instead they are on the pathway towards a burgeoning career field!

As more and more school districts and institutions of higher education gain interest in the possibilities of Esports though, many wonder how they will be able to finance the often expensive equipment needed for start-up and eventual tournament success in these new arenas. Following we'll look at some of the biggest challenges to finding external fund for your Esports initiative, as well as offer guidance on potential solutions.

THE CHALLENGE WITH FUNDING

While educational institutions are eager and willing to innovate and incorporate Esports into their current portfolio of offerings – be it through after school clubs or actual competitive teams –, most grant funders tend to be a bit wearier of the Esports concept. The reasons for this are varied and largely depend upon the individual funder.

State and federal opportunities for K-12 education institutions are usually tied to measurable student learning outcomes. In most instances these learning outcomes are based upon some state standard for basic education, an apprenticeship or career and technical education credentialing benchmark, or prerequisite towards future post-secondary success. This is largely because the public grant funds are only made available through legislation which dictates that monies be used towards specific, proven K-12 learning activities. While being able to accomplish a record number of “player-kills” or “capture the flag” instances within an Esports environment is impressive, these feats don't necessarily translate to established knowledge-driven learning outcomes. Therefore, positioning an Esports initiative to a state or federal grant is often exceedingly difficult.





At the higher education level, the outlook is much the same. Education and research activities have long been established as the primary and secondary role of higher education institutions. Unfortunately, competitive sports programs are considered a tertiary function (at best). Federal regulations prevent publicly sourced funding that a college or university receives from being used towards activities that do not further their educational or research mission. Therefore, many institutions expect that their tertiary departments – like Residence Life and Athletics – be self-supporting rather than draw from general institution funds. Through ticket sales and individual boosters or donors sporting departments can thrive, but if you check the ledgers you will find that they are siloed off from any state or federal grant funding the institution may receive.

An added challenge with state and federal funding opportunities is that the current landscape sees almost no grant support dedicated to competition-oriented activities. There are a few public funding agencies that occasionally give dispensation for applicants to “test out” competition-based learning activities as an innovative means for increased student engagement (particularly for underrepresented groups), but these offerings are rare. Funding is even more scarce when you consider that competition opportunities must still be tied to specific student learning outcomes or workforce readiness initiatives. Examples where this has been done successfully include state-funded competitions for K-12 robotics teams, or federally funded “hack-a-thons” for computer science and cybersecurity undergraduates. In each case the lines between competition activities and student demonstration of mastery over key professional competencies are clear and observable (i.e. “student was able to solder connecting circuits on the robot’s motherboard”, “student was able to circumvent firewall and open an encrypted file within the time limit”).

Esports faces a compounding challenge in grant funding due to its very name. Esports is often categorized as a competitive sport but lacks any cardio physical activity. This means that those state and federal K-12 grantmakers who are open to funding student sporting teams (due to the health benefits from participating in physical sports) will not see the desired student wellness gains from their investment. Esports are similarly blocked from private funding opportunities such as those from former professional sports players with established foundations, sporting teams and associations, or retailers who support youth sporting endeavors – all of which are restricted to physical sporting activities.

Lastly, and perhaps the biggest challenge is that grant funders - be they public or private, dedicated to K-12 or higher education - are often slow to change and hesitant of investing their funds in efforts they see as a potential flash-in-the-pan, or fad. Grant funders are motivated by projects or programs that can create long-term change and sustained improvement. They want to make awards to organizations who have plans to be responsible stewards of their investment and who are confident the proposed initiative will deliver the desired results. With minimal longitudinal research available on the impact of Esports for student success, funders are hesitant to consider such a proposal.

All of that said, all hope is not lost for getting funding support for your school’s Esports initiative. Following we have a number of suggestions for your consideration.

GRANT SEEKING WITH LOCAL FOUNDATIONS

A few years ago, when game companies were initially trying to establish competitive Esports in the public mindset, we did see the occasional technology business, corporate-funded grant competition specifically for Esports at educational institutions. Sadly, those days and the bulk of such opportunities have passed. Electronic Arts, for example, no longer offers free product giveaways or support for team startup costs. At this point, the demand has been established and schools have demonstrated that they are willing to pay to play. So, what options does this leave schools looking to start an Esports program?

Start in your own backyard! Grant professionals know that when it comes to funder prospecting, the lowest hanging fruit are those grant makers in your own community. The reasons for this are many, but chiefly it is because the funder likely already has heard of your school and may even have some personal connection. Target local or regionally based funders interested in supporting education institutions or projects. Those with a particular emphasis on STEM are ideal.

While you are certainly welcome to come out of the gate swinging with a request for funding your competitive Esports team, focusing too much on the competition/gaming aspect may not be the best approach for the reasons mentioned earlier. Instead frame your request for the necessary line items – equipment, supplies, staff training, etc. – as essential for helping you reach specific education-oriented, or skills-based goals for students. Connecting participation in an after school Esports club as the means to an end for students learning about game design and development, for example, will resonate much more than wanting to put your school on the map for winning various Esports league titles. Given that foundations afford more flexibility in how their awarded monies can be spent (compared to state and federal grants) they are also more likely to be accepting of Esports as a means for facilitating general STEM education goals rather than state specific standards or workforce credentialing benchmarks.

Just remember, when working with local foundations do not presume that the funder has any knowledge about Esports. Locally focused foundation funders often ask family members, friends, or volunteers to help them read

through proposals. These reviewers come from all walks of life and may not be familiar with cutting edge education or technology solutions. Be prepared to start from square one, particularly if the proposal review team is comprised of luddites unaware of the Esports movement. You may need to do some significant relationship building with the funder prior to submission to know that they won't disregard your request immediately because they didn't understand it.

CONSIDER SPONSORSHIP

While not a traditional grant opportunity, many of the same skills one might use towards pursuing a foundation funding opportunity can also be employed towards seeking sponsorship for your team. Unlike grants, sponsorship is provided by businesses who often don't have an established grantmaking arm but still want to invest in their community through various donations. In exchange, the business often receives some kind of recognition, be it through having their name and logo on the team's jersey, website, or other printed materials.

Begin with knowing exactly what it is you are asking for a potential sponsor to support. Depending on the business you could be requesting a monetary or in-kind donation. For instance, a local embroidery or screen-printing shop might be willing to provide your team's shirts. A local technology vendor could offer computers, graphics cards, or miscellaneous accessories. Your local grocer may just offer to cut a check for an agreed upon expense.

Also be prepared to tell your potential sponsor what you plan to offer in return; free advertising or other publicity is a common option. If a local restaurant is sponsoring your team, you might offer to ensure that the team always goes to their establishment for a post-competition meal (which students pay for individually). Whereas if a local credit union is sponsoring your team, you could instead offer to establish a checking account for team related expenses or have students establish savings accounts to deposit any individual competition winnings.

Remember to thank sponsors in the same way you would thank and recognize any grantmaker. Send thank you notes, holiday cards, and updates on the team's progress throughout the year. Simple outreach efforts build the relationship between your Esports program and its sponsors, hopefully turning them into a habitual source of funds.



FUNDRAISE FROM INDIVIDUAL DONORS

If your institution is in a particularly rural area, your options may be somewhat limited for established foundations or company sponsorships. In these instances, the only option left is to fundraise for the team's needs. While grant-seeking and courting sponsorships share a certain skillset with individual donor development, this practice is admittedly outside of the Grants Office wheelhouse. Whether its setting up a page on DonorsChoose.org, hosting a bake sale, or sending out an end of the year appeals letter to community members – there are a number of ways to solicit individual donations from your community. Be creative and cast a wide net to increase your odds of meeting your funding goals.

FOR THE FUTURE?

Esports is still relatively in its nascency in the eyes of grant funders. Grant funding for student robotics competitions, by comparison, tends to be much more readily available. This wasn't always the case though. Established, consistent funding opportunities specifically for FIRST Robotics Competitions has only come about in the last 10 years. Despite FIRST competitions dating back for nearly 30 years, it took time for the field to establish and coalesce around some standard practices. Once that happened, grant funders began to feel more confident that the program to which they were investing (by granting funds to a team) wasn't for naught.

Therefore, remember – while dedicated grant opportunities for Esports teams don't appear to be prevalent now, this may not always be the case. The grant funding landscape, while slow to change, is still ever evolving. In a few years we may see the scales tip in favor of Esports with more private funders (and maybe even a couple public funders) being willing to invest in such projects on a larger scale. It just takes time.

Grants Office has only been able to locate one instance of competitive, federal grant funding used towards an Esports initiative. In December of 2018, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania won an Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST) Grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for their "Culturally Relevant Computing Activities and Career Readiness for At-Risk Youth" proposal. Through May 2021, the awarded Primary Investigators will research the potential of culturally relevant computing practices via an Esports living-learning community at the University in effort to advance needed computational and data analytic competencies towards students' STEM career readiness.

For more information about this project, see:

https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1849849&HistoricalAwards=false

The challenge for those who wish to emulate this grant seeking success is that they will have to find a new, innovative contribution to the knowledge base that isn't identical to East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania's project. Being an NSF grant, ITEST is focused primarily on research efforts and addressing gaps in what is known about effective STEM education practice. Applicants who propose replicative studies will not be successful.



NURSING WORKFORCE DIVERSITY (NWD) PROGRAM

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

SUMMARY

The overall purpose of the NWD program is to increase nursing education opportunities for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, including ethnic and racial minorities who are underrepresented among registered nurses. Training programs must develop the competencies and skills needed for intercultural understanding and expand cultural fluency, recognizing that bringing people of diverse backgrounds and experiences together facilitates innovative and strategic practices that enhance the health of all people. Accordingly, nursing training programs must be committed to developing a nursing workforce that is more reflective of the communities needing to be served.

For this program, successful applicants must be well positioned to implement institutional and community partnership models, approaches, and/or strategies that incorporate the social determinants into the design, implementation, and evaluation of student retention programs. Highly competitive applicants will demonstrate an organizational commitment to diversity, particularly within the field of nursing, document historical challenges with retaining students from disadvantaged backgrounds, present an analysis of the root causes behind those challenges (to include social determinants), and highlight discrete actions (e.g., hired staff, established internal programs and external partnerships) both planned and in progress as part of an evidence-based strategy to increase the retention of students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include:

- Accredited schools of nursing;
- Nursing centers;
- Academic health centers;
- State or local governments;
- Other private or public entities determined appropriate by the Secretary;
- Faith-based organizations;
- Community-based organizations; and
- Tribes and Tribal Organizations

DEADLINE

The previous deadline to apply was November 18, 2016. After the current slate of awarded projects have ended and pending Congressional action on the FY2020 budget, the next deadline is expected to fall in late 2019.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://bhw.hrsa.gov/fundingopportunities/?id=71a65b17-a6c8-45cf-a944-99b0d256fcef>



NURSING WORKFORCE DIVERSITY (NWD) PROGRAM FUNDED PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The goal of the WIN initiative (Workforce Inclusion in Nursing at Phillips School of Nursing at Mount Sinai Beth Israel-PSON) is to increase the enrollment, retention, and graduation of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, including ethnic and racial minorities, in the Accelerated Associate of Applied Science with a major in Nursing (AAS) program at PSON. Graduates of the fifteen-month program—the only accelerated associate nursing degree program in the country—are eligible for the NCLEX-RN licensure examination and offered direct entry into PSON's accelerated RN-BSN program. The WIN initiative's target populations reflect the demographics of the five boroughs of New York City (NYC) and are underrepresented in the nursing workforce nationally, as well as regionally: (1) Latinos; (2) blacks; (3) individuals who are economically disadvantaged; and (4) individuals who are economically disadvantaged, populations that frequently overlap.

To operationalize our purpose, support underrepresented students in nursing in NYC throughout the entire educational pipeline from recruitment to graduation, and systematize our approach to increasing and fostering diversity at PSON, we will enhance and/or implement five-evidence based strategies: (1) Academic and peer support; (2) Mentoring; (3) Institutional and community partnerships; (4) Student Support; and (5) Holistic Review. New PSON initiatives related to these strategies include an immersive pre-entry program (Summer Boot Camp); a career nurse mentoring program; a Career Development and Readiness program; and development of recruitment partnerships with NYC high schools. Enhancements to existing programs include increased levels of peer tutoring and expansion of our partnership with Mount Sinai's Office of Diversity and Inclusion, among others. Direct student support will consist of tuition scholarships and monthly stipends. Implementation of a full-fledged holistic review admissions process will drive PSON's approach to diversity and inclusion, from broadening admissions criteria to training and professional development for faculty.

FUNDED ORGANIZATION

Beth Israel Medical Center

PROJECT TITLE

WIN-Workforce Inclusion in Nursing at Phillips School of Nursing at Mount Sinai Beth Israel

AMOUNT FUNDED

\$245,096

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE

<https://www.mountsinai.org/locations/beth-israel>



GRANT FUNDING FOR RURAL PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVES

By Ashley Schultz

Modern TV crime dramas create vivid scenes of life inside a police station. Each episode shows groups of investigators in the corner offices of skyscrapers, actively reviewing crisp video footage, receiving lab results, and evaluating large quantities of data at near instantaneous speeds. In the end, all of these resources align to catch the bad guy – even with spare time to allow for commercial breaks.

In reality, nearly 95% of all law enforcement agencies in the US have less than 100 full-time officers on staff (Reaves 2015). Three quarters serve communities of less than 10,000 residents. These small, usually rural, jurisdictions face the same crime problems as their counterparts in urban locations, but they must do so with lower budgets, less staff, and insufficient equipment (Weisheit et al. 1994).

One such discrepancy between rural and urban law enforcement agencies can be viewed in the number of personnel hired to investigate a single type of crime. In 2013, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) found that departments employing more than 100 officers were three times more likely to pay for staff assigned to domestic violence cases (81%) than their smaller counterparts (28%) (Reaves 2015). The same pattern holds true for other specialty units – including personnel to investigate child abuse (90% vs. 39%), human trafficking (42% vs. 11%), cybercrime (76% vs. 39%), and victim assistance (62% vs. 21%). These differences do not suggest that crime occurs in rural areas less often, but instead illustrate that larger departments have greater personnel and budgetary capacity to operate these dedicated units.

The imbalance of rural and urban forces are not unknown to federal decision-makers. According to a recent listening tour completed by the US Department of Justice and National Police Foundation, rural law enforcement agencies reiterated several challenges that need to be addressed, including (1) a lack of staffing; (2) a lack of budget to purchase equipment; and (3) a lack of time and/or expertise in applying to grant funding (Elkins 2019). The Department of Justice plans to continue these listening sessions in order to develop a final report for law makers in the future, but little is known about the anticipated outcomes or changes to be generated by that document.

In the meantime, what concrete steps can small law enforcement agencies take to secure extra funding for their public safety initiatives? The Grants Office team has assembled a few starting points below. Agencies may seek to pursue one or a combination of these activities as they ramp up operations in their jurisdictions.

Despite the imagery projected by popular TV crime dramas, the Department of Justice reports a vast majority of law enforcement agencies in the US are small, understaffed, and underfunded.

Elkins, Faye. Concerns of Rural Law Enforcement: What We Heard from the Field. COPS Office Dispatch, September 2019. https://cops.usdoj.gov/html/dispatch/09-2019/rural_le.html#1

Reaves, Brian, Ph.D. Local Police Departments, 2013: Personnel, Policies, and Practices. US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. May 2015. <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/lpd13ppp.pdf>

Weisheit, Ralph, Ph.D., David N. Falcone, Ph.D., and L. Edward Wells, Ph.D. Rural Crime and Rural Policing. US Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice. September 1994. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/rcrp.pdf>



1. APPLY TO FEDERAL GRANTS DESIGNATED FOR RURAL AGENCIES.

Federal funders solicit a number of grant opportunities specifically for rural entities each year. These programs allow small public safety organizations to capitalize on hefty grant award sizes (often in the hundreds of thousands of dollars) without facing steep competition from agencies with four to five times their capacity. Below is a short list of rural-friendly grants from 2019. Rural agencies should keep an eye out for new or updated programs as Congress solidifies the Federal Fiscal Year 2020 budget in the coming months.

Southwest Border Rural Law Enforcement Initiative (SWBI)

This program supports rural law enforcement agencies in preventing crime unique to the southwest border region - including human trafficking, sexual assaults, drug trafficking, and other forms of violent crime. Reviewers are particularly interested in projects that will improve communication and collaboration among federal, state, local, and tribal agencies.

- Community Size: Jurisdictions of fewer than 100,000 residents. Priority consideration given to projects located within 25 miles of the US–Mexico border.
- Funding Available: Ten awards of up to \$200,000 each.
- Last Due: July 2, 2019

Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking Program

This program supports criminal justice agencies, victim services providers, social services agencies, health professionals, and other community organizations to overcome the problems of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in rural areas. Reviewers are particularly interested in collaborative efforts to (1) reduce violent crime against women; (2) promote victim safety; and (3) improve response to survivors of human trafficking.

- Community Size: Jurisdictions located within a rural census tract who are not part of an organized metropolitan statistical area. Confirm your project's address at: <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/1119056/download>
- Funding Available: Fifty awards of up to \$500,000 each.
- Last Due: February 14, 2019

Additional challenges noted by rural law enforcement agencies on a 2019 listening tour include (1) increases in crime related to opioids and methamphetamines; (2) difficulties in recruitment; and (3) lack of staff for joint efforts, such as highway drug interdiction teams.

Rural Responses to the Opioid Epidemic

This program supports collaborative efforts to prevent and reduce overdose deaths associated with opioids. Project activities promote partnerships between law enforcement agencies, courts, probation, corrections, as well as fire, emergency medical services, and hospitals. Reviewers are particularly interested in efforts to understand patterns and characteristics of problem drug use in rural communities.

- Community Size: Jurisdictions located within a rural census tract who are not part of an organized metropolitan statistical area.
- Funding Available: Eight awards of up to \$750,000 each.
- Last Due: July 26, 2019

Community Facilities Grant and Loan Program

This program supports essential community facilities in rural areas. Funding may be dedicated to the construction and/or improvement of local amenities offered by public safety, healthcare, and other municipal service entities. While most construction projects are limited to loan funding, small one-time purchases for law enforcement equipment are often covered with grant funding.

- Community Size: Low-income communities with fewer than 20,000 residents. Communities with fewer than 5,000 residents are given highest priority.
- Funding Available: Individual award amounts vary based on project scope, median household income, and population. Funding is distributed as a combination of loans and grants.
- Last Due: Varies by State. Contact your Rural Development State Office for more information: <http://bit.ly/35eITS1>

2. APPLY TO STATE GRANTS.

Law enforcement organizations with minimal experience or staff capacity to apply for federal programs can make valuable gains with state funding sources instead. These programs often have shorter, less complex application requirements than federal grants (e.g. 5-page narrative rather than 20-pages). State grants also allow for more simple project concepts (e.g. only purchasing equipment) whereas their federal counterparts will look for robust activity lists with budget components for staff time, officer training, policy development, community outreach, etc. Last, but certainly not least, state grants often come equipped with a friendly program representative who is willing to walk first-time applicants through the grant-seeking process.

To get acquainted with state-level grants applicable to rural law enforcement agencies, departments should spend an afternoon reviewing their State's department of public safety and/or department of emergency management's webpages for grant information. They may also contact the appropriate State Administrator using the links below –

- Department of Justice State Administrators: <http://ojp.gov/saa/>
- Department of Homeland Security State Administrators: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/28689>

3. PARTNER WITH OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

Finally, rural law enforcement agencies should consider collaborating with other departments – including local public safety groups, emergency response teams, health agencies, K-12 school districts, higher education institutions, and other non-profit organizations – in order to take their initiatives to the next level. State and federal grant funders often place high value on proposals that involve partnerships. This is particularly true if they're able to identify greater organizational efficiency and/or reduced costs in the final project. Whether you're just starting to lay out the terms of a new partnership or have a great working relationship with another agency in the community, leveraging quality connections in a grant proposal will surely lead to more funded projects.

It's important to note, however, that grant partnerships will involve more decision-makers at the table. This often leads to more meetings and (potentially) greater time commitments for each group. Small agencies should consider all the possible

benefits and drawbacks to partnerships long before they invite others on board. If they do forge ahead with a grant partnership, the collaborative should identify a specific staff member who will oversee group operations. This person can set meeting agendas, send out email reminders, and ensure all agencies are adhering to set expectations.



To receive progress updates on the US Department of Justice rural department listening tour, law enforcement agencies are encouraged to email Tawana Elliott (Tawana.elliott@usdoj.gov).

Should your agency choose one or more of these grant funding routes, keep a look out for grant-training sessions. Most federal grant programs offer free webcasts for each solicitation. During these events, program managers review important application details and answer questions from the audience. A full list of webinars offered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance is available for replay at: <https://www.bja.gov/funding/webinars.html>. The Office of Justice Programs supplements these webinars with their own training module titled "Grants 101" (<https://ojp.gov/grants101>) which walks potential applicants through the entire grant-seeking process, including writing the application and receiving notifications from the USDOJ. Finally, most states offer free in-person training sessions with an abundance of detailed information on how to properly apply for their own programs.

No matter your agency size, consider assigning 1 to 2 staff members to view and/or attend these sessions. Those individuals can report back to the department in order to train the whole team on the application process – effectively saving time and resources while ensuring grant-seeking becomes a group effort!



Fixed surveillance was the most popularly funded school safety solution in the 2018 cycle of the SVPP grant program. It remains to be seen if this trend continues in the 2019 solicitations.

In Case You Missed It:

5 QUALITIES YOUR SVPP GRANT APPLICATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE

By Ashley Schultz and Elizabeth Evans

Less than one week after 200,000 students and teachers marched across Washington DC to protest gun violence in schools, Congress and President Trump signed into law the Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Act of 2018. This legislation included several provisions to improve school safety on K-12 campuses – including grant funds for districts to acquire the tools they need to recognize mental health crises, respond to violent attacks, mitigate risk exposure, and prevent future acts of violence.

In total, the STOP School Violence Act pledged \$75 million each year for the next decade across three brand new funding streams housed within the Department of Justice. The most popular of these new grants – the School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) – is specifically dedicated to providing schools with much-needed safety solutions, including fixed surveillance, panic alarms, and communications equipment.

Not surprisingly, demand for the pilot round of SVPP funding in Summer 2018 far exceeded the available supply of grant dollars. Only 45% of the 200+ submitted applications were funded, and competition for the 2019 grant cycle (applications due May 31st) is anticipated to be even more fierce. These steep odds have districts across the US asking – What is the Department of Justice looking for? How can we stand out from the pack? In searching for answers to these questions, it is beneficial to review previous awards. Noting commonalities among funded projects can offer otherwise hidden insights into the federal government’s mindset in determining which applicants are – and are not – awarded.

To that end, the Grants Office team has compiled a list of SVPP funded-applicant qualities. We understand that some of these project characteristics, such as location or size of student body, cannot be easily changed. But others, including the presence of partnerships, might just give your SVPP proposal a much-needed boost towards the top of the list for consideration!

Back in June 2019, Grants Office LLC team members – Elizabeth Evans and Ashley Schultz – were featured in the Campus Safety (CS) Magazine. CS Magazine serves campus police chiefs, security directors, IT personnel, emergency managers and executive administrators involved in the public safety and security of major hospitals, schools and universities in the United States. See the full text of their article below. Check out <http://www.campussafetymagazine.com/> to learn more!



- **Location of School(s)** – No preference. The final list of 2018 awardees represented a vast array of jurisdictions across the US - from Skagway Village in Alaska to the highly urban Broward County of Florida (site of the 2018 Parkland shooting). A total of 40% of awardees were located in rural jurisdictions. The remaining awards were distributed to suburban (33%), urban (24%) and statewide (3%) groups.
- **Type of Equipment Requested** – Some preference. The list of funded technology remained consistent between proposals. Nearly half of all applicants included fixed surveillance and related hardware. Other popularly funded items included access controls & doors (42%); panic alarms & communication technology (35%); and equipment to expedite notification of law enforcement (33%). Other allowable expenses (e.g. metal detectors, lighting, visitor management systems) were each present in less than 10% of proposals. These trends were consistent among rural, urban, and suburban applicants.
- **Type of School(s)** – Some preference. The vast majority of awardees dedicated their grant funding to public K-12 schools. Only a select few applicants, such as Macomb County, MI and Niagara County, NY, included charter and/or private schools in their proposal. In such cases, these counties proposed projects that would benefit both public and nonpublic institutions. Further missing from the list were institutions of higher education. According to the Department of Justice, SVPP funds are expressly intended to improve security at K–12 schools. Ben Hill County, GA did loop Wiregrass Georgia Technical College into their project for joint training and exercises, but again, a large portion of their award was dedicated to surveillance systems, bullet proof glass, and panic buttons for the area K-12 buildings.
- **Characteristics of School(s)** – Large preference. The legislation behind SVPP dictates that priority consideration should be given to applicants who (1) demonstrate high need for improved security; and (2) demonstrate high need for financial assistance. As a result, all successful applicants leveraged the characteristics of their student body and surrounding neighborhoods to their benefit. School districts highlighted recent incidents reported to law enforcement that involved physical attacks, firearms, sharp objects, distribution/use of illegal drugs, and vandalism. Many further supplemented this information by using common education demographic data points to answer questions like – (1) What percentage of public school students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch? and (2) Do any schools in the jurisdiction receive Title I, Part A program funding from the Department of Education?
- **Proposals involving a Partnership** – Large preference. The 2018 SVPP funding cycle awards will benefit more than three million students across 5,380 schools. Of the 91 funded projects, most applicants included multiple school buildings – or even multiple districts – in their proposal. The Department of Justice is expected to preserve that priority for partnerships in future cycles of the grant. In fact, the 2019 solicitation encourages applicants to “demonstrate a comprehensive approach to school safety” – which includes coordination between multiple schools, local law enforcement, and other first responders.

If your district is applying for SVPP funding in 2019 or beyond, spend some time reflecting how your project could more closely align with these previously selected applicant trends. Dig up data on poverty and economic need in your community. Detail recent threats to student safety that took place on school grounds. Last, but certainly not least, consider growing your project to involve more districts and/or more first responders. The Department of Justice has already stated they will prioritize comprehensive projects in 2019. We can expect that preference to remain across all selections for the next decade of school safety grant recipients.



Additional K-12 school safety funding is available from a myriad of state governments – including Arizona, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Texas. For a full breakdown of funding by state, check out the August 2018 and November 2018 editions of FUNDED magazine at: <http://www.grantsoffice.com/funded>



Looking for more details on the 2019 cycle of the School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP)? The Grants Office team is actively analyzing the 103 award recipients announced in early October. We'll be updating you with those results in future issues of FUNDED. For a sneak peak, be sure to stop by Elizabeth and Ashley's presentation at the 2019 Grant Professionals Association (GPA) Annual Conference in Washington DC. They're presenting Thursday 11/7 at 11:00EST. See you there!

GRANTS EDUCATION CORNER

On a recent webcast, during the Q & A section, an attendee who was new to grant seeking had an excellent question that we wanted to share with our readership, particularly those who are also new to the idea of grant funding.

I see the words and acronyms "guidance", "solicitation", "RFP", "RFA", and "NOFO" used a lot and seemingly interchangeably; what do these things mean?

These terms are all ways of describing a grant funder's instructions for applicants interested in applying to the available funding opportunity. RFP and RFA are "Request for Proposals" and "Request for Applications," respectively. NOFO means "Notice of Funding Opportunity." Regardless of which term the funder uses, this document should hold everything you need to know about how to structure your proposal and submit it for consideration.

Typical information includes:

- questions they would like you to answer related to your need, project plan and timeline of activities, responsible personnel, organizational capacity to carry out the project, and plan for sustaining the initiative beyond the life of the grant
- allowable expenses for funding awarded through the grant and guidelines for drafting a budget
- the deadline by which all application materials must be received by the funder via their preferred submission method (postal mail, email, online portal)
- page, word, or character limits
- requirements for page margin sizes as well as preferred font size and type face
- acceptable file formats for online submission, or packaging instructions for mailed applications

GRANTS OFFICE ON THE ROAD



This November, we'll be at the Grant Professionals Association Annual Conference! Check out our sessions below. To learn more, visit <https://www.grantprofessionals.org/breakoutsessions>

Thursday, November 7, 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM: Grant Funding for Education and Public Safety Partnerships

Friday, November 8, 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM: The K-12 Federal Funding Landscape: Looking Ahead to 2020

Friday, November 8, 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM: 2019 Forecast: Finding and Securing Funding for Health Care Projects



RURAL HEALTH NETWORK DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROGRAM

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

SUMMARY

The purpose of the Network Planning program is to assist in the development of an integrated healthcare network, if the network participants do not have a history of formal collaborative efforts. Health care networks can be an effective strategy to help smaller rural health care providers and health care service organizations align resources and strategies, achieve economies of scale and efficiency, and address challenges more effectively as a group than as single providers.

The goals of the Network Planning program are to help rural providers better serve their communities given changes taking place in health care, as providers move from focusing on the volume of services to focusing on the value of services. This program will bring together key parts of a rural health care delivery system, particularly those entities that may not have collaborated in the past under a formal relationship, to establish and improve local capacity and coordination of care. The program will support one year of planning with the primary goal of helping networks create a foundation for their infrastructure and focusing member efforts to address important regional or local community health needs.

To appropriately address emerging community health needs and challenges, systemic efforts are key. This program will assist communities in establishing a rural health network of health care providers committed to forming relationships with each other and stakeholders. It is expected that the rural health networks will maintain the highest level of access to care, increase the use of health information technology, explore alternative health care delivery models and continue to achieve a high level of quality health care across the continuum of care from prevention and wellness to acute and long term care.

ELIGIBILITY

The applicant organization must be a rural nonprofit or rural public entity that represents a consortium/network of three or more health care providers. Federally-recognized tribal entities are eligible to apply as long as they are located in a rural area.

DEADLINE

Applications are to be submitted by November 29, 2019. A similar deadline is anticipated annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/programopportunities/fundingopportunities/?id=820ff0a2-594f-4944-81b4-54365531cab1>



RURAL HEALTH NETWORK DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROGRAM

FUNDED PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Kearny County Hospital (KCH) proposes to develop a rural behavioral health network to address the unmet behavioral health needs of the county, with a particular focus on prevention, identification and treatment of these needs among children and adolescents, ages birth to 18. Twelve members from the health, education and law enforcement sectors have committed to being part of a formative vertical network to 1) expand access to, coordinate and improve the quality of mental health services and 2) strengthen the rural health care system as a whole. We plan to use a collective impact approach to create a shared vision across the network, develop a shared measurement system, and build sustainable relationships among members to benefit the community throughout and beyond the grant period. Our planning activities will expand on our successful innovations in provider recruitment and value-based integrated care, as well as a strong commitment to community engagement.

This network development opportunity offers the opportunity to share expertise and resources across the key organizations serving children and adolescents, including our two school districts, the hospital, the regional mental health center, two substance abuse providers, two early education centers and the county sheriff's department. The grant will support 1.25 staff to gather the data, conduct the research and facilitate the planning activities that none of the members have the capacity to do independently. The network will complete an environmental scan and strategic plan within the first six months of the grant period. The second half of the year will focus on implementation planning for the priorities identified in the strategic

plan, and sustainability planning to keep the network moving forward. We envision expanding the reach of the network in subsequent years to address behavioral health for all ages, as well as increasing the geographic scope of services to neighboring counties. We also see this rural behavioral health network as a model for other communities facing ever-increasing and complex mental health and substance abuse needs.

FUNDED ORGANIZATION

Kearny County Hospital

PROJECT TITLE

Kearny County Rural Behavioral Health Network

AMOUNT FUNDED

\$100,000

FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION

<https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/data-explorer?paramGrantId=prevFY¶mFilterId=ORHP> (Grant# P10RH31840)

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE

<https://www.kearnycountyhospital.com/>

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UPCOMING WEBCASTS:

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Date & Time: Thursday, November 14th, 2pm ET
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2020 Local Government Funding Forecast: Relevant and Actionable Grants Intelligence

Date & Time: Monday, November 18th, 2pm ET
Register [HERE](#)

2020 K-12 Funding Forecast: Relevant and Actionable Grants Intelligence

Date & Time: Wednesday, November 20th, 2pm ET
Register [HERE](#)

Find more replays at:

<http://www.grantsoffice.info/webcasts.aspx>

2020 Higher Education Funding Forecast: Relevant and Actionable Grants Intelligence

Date & Time: Thursday, November 21st, 2pm ET
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2020 Healthcare Funding Forecast: Relevant and Actionable Grants Intelligence

Date & Time: Friday, November 22nd, 2pm ET
Register [HERE](#)

The Next Big Scientific Leap Awaits: Funding Compute Resources and Other Tools for Data Science Research Applications

Date & Time: Tuesday, December 10th, 2pm ET
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