A GRANTS OFFICE PUBLICATION

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Preparing for State and Digital Equity Capacity Grants

Also: Funding for school safety, the healthcare workforce, and clean energy projects; the current state of the BEAD Program, funding for Body-worn Cameras, and COVID relief funding for schools; a look at Mexico's R&D Tax Credit; and more!

In This Issue

Letter From the Editor

Opportunities abound in this issue of ***FUNDED***, from the enigmatic technologies of AI and internet connectivity to the training of hands-on healthcare professionals and more.

Fresh off a presentation at the National Sheriffs Association Conference in Oklahoma City, Shannon Day starts us off with a retrospective on body-worn camera funding for law enforcement, along with some thoughts on the future of funding for this increasingly relevant technology. Keeping with the topic of security, Sam Rawdon has penned a short guide to developing a school safety plan, not just a great idea but a requirement for several school safety-related grant programs.

Many schools that have been relying on ESSER funding for any of their COVID and post-COVID-related needs are looking for new sources of funding to continue successful programs, and Christina Fernandez has some sources and tips for branching out to keep the education funding flowing in.

Our cover article by Meghan Jacobsen offers highlights and takeaways from the much-anticipated State Digital Equity Capacity Grants, providing funding for a range of internet capacity and expansion needs across the US. And broadband infrastructure across the country continues to grind forward under the BEAD program, as Joseph Phelan reports in his update this issue. Not to be outdone in covering technology funding, Dr. Liz Shay provides some timely and instructive guidance on grantseeking for AI-enabled projects.

And these are accompanied by a slew of other interesting articles as well, including Dr. Marc Smithers' guidance for everyone on the time frames that are normally involved with planning and executing a grantseeking strategy, Amber Walker providing an overview of funding to train rural healthcare workers, and Amanda Day curating a whole basket of grant programs aimed at increasing access to clean energy around the country.

If you're interested in funding opportunities outside the US, Karina Valeretto has also contributed an interesting article on funding for research through Mexico's R&D Tax Credit program.

Be sure to check out the more topic-intensive Grantscasts our team will be presenting on or review 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 have enjoyed bringing it to you!

Sincerely,

Michael Paddock
Editor and Publisher,
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Body-worn Cameras: Ten Years On

Shannon M. Day, Senior Grants Development Consultant (Public Safety)

Although the concept of recording law enforcement interactions is not new – police departments began using cumbersome vehicle- and helmet-mounted cameras in the 1960s (Seaskate, Inc., 1998) – the use of body-worn cameras in the United States took off after the 2014 shooting of Michael Brown by a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, sparked national outrage and renewed scrutiny of police-citizen interactions. The lack of video evidence from the incident fueled public demands for greater transparency and accountability. This moment proved to be a tipping point for Body-worn Cameras (BWC), which led to the U.S. Department of Justice's creation of the Body-worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program (BWC PIP).

The following year, grants totaling $23.2 million were awarded to expand BWC use and explore their impact. This financial support and ongoing public pressure led to a surge in BWC programs nationwide. Major cities like Washington D.C., New York, and Los Angeles initiated pilot programs, and by 2016, nearly half of all municipal law enforcement agencies had acquired body-worn cameras.

The rapid adoption of body-worn cameras was followed by research and debate. Studies have produced mixed results on the effectiveness of BWCs in reducing use-of-force incidents or citizen complaints. While some studies show a decrease (Alex Sutherland, 2017), others indicate minimal impact (Hutchinson, 2023).

One of the key challenges lies in policy and implementation. A department can purchase the best cameras available, but what is the point if officers do not turn them on? Effective programs require clear guidelines on activation, data storage, and public access to footage. Debates continue to swirl around balancing transparency with officer privacy and ensuring footage is used for legitimate purposes. Additionally, the high cost of storage, data management, and officer training can be a burden for smaller departments. The BWC PIP grant and its sister, the Small, Rural, and Tribal Body-worn Camera (SRTBWC) Program, can help mitigate some of these costs.

Learn more about the Body-worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program (BWC PIP) and the Small, Rural, and Tribal Body-worn Camera Program (SRTBWC).

Body-worn cameras remain a significant tool in modern policing. When used correctly, they offer potential benefits for officers and the public. For officers, BWC footage can serve as evidence in court and provide a clearer picture of events during critical incidents. For the public, BWCs can enhance transparency and trust in law enforcement.

As the technology continues to evolve, so too will the way it is used, and, if BWC PIP continues to evolve as it has over the past few years, it should keep pace with this evolution, expanding to include:

- **Standardization of policies and procedures:** A national standard for law enforcement agencies to emulate.
- **Public access to footage:** Balancing transparency with officer privacy and victim protection remains challenging. Finding the right balance through clear policies on footage release is crucial.
- **Data storage and management:** The vast amount of data generated by BWCs necessitates efficient storage and management systems. Cost-effective solutions are needed to ensure long-term accessibility of footage.
- **Community engagement:** Building trust with the communities they serve is essential for law enforcement. Proactive engagement with community members can help address concerns and ensure that BWC programs are implemented fairly.
- **Expansion:** To include corrections, campus and school police, park and transportation police, and other law enforcement and security personnel in addition to municipal law enforcement agencies.

While body-worn cameras represent a significant development in modern policing, we are still learning ten years on. While the impact of BWCs continues to be evaluated, they offer a valuable tool for promoting transparency and accountability and potentially improving police-citizen interactions. As technology and policies evolve, BWCs have the potential to become a cornerstone of building trust and fostering a safer future for communities across the United States.

Elements of an Effective School Safety Plan

Sam Rawdon, Grants Development Associate (K-12 Education)

As a result of the rising number of violent incidents at K-12 schools over the last decade, schools have dedicated significant time and resources to developing ways to keep their students, faculty, and staff safe. There are a couple of different approaches education institutions take while creating and implementing an overarching school safety plan. Some institutions have focused on providing staff and students with training on what to do in the event of an incident, while others have begun developing systems for reporting suspicious or threatening behaviors before an incident happens. At the end of the day, the question all institutions must answer is - what components should a school-wide plan include to keep everyone inside (and outside) our schools safe? While there is no one-size-fits-all plan that will work for all, there are many different elements to include in your comprehensive plan, based on the needs of your institution.

The first element is to **create a team of staff members** dedicated to contributing to any school safety efforts. These individuals will manage and implement any safety and security policies, programs, directions, and training efforts within the school. The most common types of teams should include members from a designated safety and security department and school mental health professionals, such as school counselors or school psychologists. While not required, it is recommended that team members are certified and trained in handling emergencies.

The second element is the **implementation of a reporting system**. This system will empower those within the school's community to effectively recognize any alarming behaviors demonstrated by students or staff before an unfortunate incident occurs. Mass notification apps and/or anonymous tip lines are some of the most adopted reporting systems at schools. Anyone, not just faculty or staff, can easily and anonymously report any alarming behaviors to authorities, especially students, allowing all to play an active role in keeping their community safe.

The third element is **developing and implementing an Emergency Operations Plan**, or EOP (also commonly known as an action plan, a response plan, an emergency response plan, or a crisis plan.) The purpose of an EOP is to address any threats and hazards to a school before, during, and after an incident has occurred. Schools usually collaborate with their local governments or municipalities and community members to develop their EOP, which is largely dependent on the specific safety needs of a school (determined by conducting a site risk or threat assessment). All emergencies, from natural disasters, hazardous materials incidents, active shooters, and viral outbreaks, can be included in an EOP.

The fourth element is **training**. Everyone in your school community should receive appropriate training, from students and faculty, through administration. Regular training will acclimate everyone to the adopted emergency protocols and procedures and will provide ample opportunities to assign specific roles and responsibilities when an incident occurs. Training can be conducted through presentations, seminars, informal discussions, or more interactive means, for example through checklists, flip cards, or instructional games for students. Regardless of how they are conducted, the training should always be age-appropriate.

The fifth and final element is **conducting exercises and drills**. While an EOP is theoretical and written down, exercises and drills are essentially an EOP in practice. Drills not only ensure all parties are trained but they also provide an opportunity for a school's EOP to be assessed in a low-risk environment. Some schools may make these efforts more discussion-based, for example through workshops or tabletop exercises while others may take a more operational approach, for example through physical drills or full-scale exercises. Some schools may even do both. The primary mission of conducting exercises and drills is to prepare all parties and confirm the effectiveness of a school's EOP through practice. Some examples of exercises and drills can include conducting evacuation, lockdown, or shelter-in-place, and workshops on accounting for people and reunification efforts.

Many State Education Agencies (SEAs) have resources to assist their districts in developing school safety plans, and some may even provide funding to provide this assistance. While no safety plan will be identical to each other, all should begin with the foundational elements discussed here and then be refined to address the specific school's needs.

A **designated team** identifies who will be responsible for managing the plan. A **reporting system** can allow authorities to recognize concerning behaviors in your school's community and empower community members to get involved in the safety of their schools. An **EOP** will provide guidelines for what to do before, during, and after an incident. **Training** can ensure that everyone in the school community is aware of the rules and their roles during an emergency. And lastly, **exercises and drills** will put theory into practice by ensuring an EOP is well thought out and effective.

With a functional and successful school safety plan in place, communities can feel safer and more secure sending their children to school.

The End of COVID Relief Funding for Schools – What's Next?

Christina Fernandez, Grants Development Consultant (K-12 Education)

As the obligation deadline for the final round of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) funding approaches, schools nationwide are bracing for a significant financial shift. With over $200 billion in COVID Relief Funding for public and charter school districts and over $5 billion for private schools, these funds have been instrumental in helping educational institutions navigate the pandemic's challenges. The last day to obligate these funds is September 30, 2024, meaning no new contracts can be initiated, and schools can no longer commit their funds to new projects. After this date, schools will have an additional 120 days, **OR** until January 28, 2025, to spend down or liquidate their allocations. There is also an option for an extension of up to 14 months beyond the120 days, though this extension will only be granted on a case-by-case basis by the Department. While this additional time is not guaranteed, it does offer some relief and flexibility for districts to support their ongoing recovery and operational needs. **Any unspent funds will revert to the federal government**, leaving schools to rely on their standard annual budgets and seek external funding sources.

Read on to learn: how schools have utilized COVID relief funds, about alternative funding sources, and how to plan for the future and prevent a "financial cliff."

THE UTILIZATION OF COVID RELIEF FUNDS

Schools have utilized ARP ESSER III funds in numerous ways to address the immediate and long-term impacts of the pandemic. One of the primary uses has been to cover staff salaries. With the sudden shift to and from remote learning, many districts needed to hire additional teachers and support staff to address learning loss through extended learning time opportunities for students. Districts also hired additional counselors to address mental health needs and support social and emotional learning curricula for students. Depending on the technical literacy of a district, technology-related training and support services for

students, teachers, and parents were expended to continue student learning in a remote/hybrid setting.

We also saw a significant investment in educational technology. Many schools became 1:1 by equipping students and teachers with laptops, tablets, and other necessary devices to continue instruction during the pandemic. Investments were also made to upgrade internet infrastructure, purchase mobile hotspots, and take additional cybersecurity measures to ensure safe and uninterrupted online learning environments. These purchases were critical in mitigating learning loss and ensuring all students had adequate access to the internet. Funding was also used to purchase instructional software programs to help students stay connected and access classroom materials remotely. These instructional software programs also allowed teachers to assess gaps in student learning and monitor their performance.

ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES

As ARP ESSER III funds end, schools will need to look for alternative funding sources to bridge the financial gap. Several options are available:

Bonds

Schools can issue bonds to raise funds for capital projects such as building improvements, technology upgrades, and other infrastructure needs. Bond measures often require voter approval but can provide significant financial support for large-scale projects.

Title Funding

Federal Title funds have always been integral to a school's budget. It is what schools relied on pre-pandemic and what they will continue to rely on post-pandemic. Title funds can be used in numerous ways, specifically when determining alternative ways to sustain ESSER-related purchases. As mentioned earlier, ESSER funding for most schools went towards teacher salaries and educational technology. Schools can allocate Title II Part A funds to provide teachers with training in educational technology. This includes workshops, courses, and certifications that empower educators to effectively utilize digital tools in their classrooms, providing an enhanced learning experience for their students.

Similarly, the most technologically forward of the Title programs is Title IV part A, which gives schools the flexibility to address a wide range of needs. This funding source can be creatively leveraged to enhance technology integration through initiatives like 1:1 Device programs for hybrid or distance learning. Also, subject to the special 15% rule, LEAs could purchase high-quality digital curriculum materials that align with their educational goals and standards. Schools should ensure they are maximizing these funds, as they are already in hand.

Competitive State and Federal Grants

State and federal funding sources are a great alternative to ESSER funds and are a way to support the future goals of your district. Competitive grants can support the development, implementation, and scaling of innovative education practices for several years depending on the grant opportunity. At the state level, funding options can vary significantly. Regularly checking your State Education Agency's website, as well as other relevant state departments like Labor or Commerce, is crucial for staying informed about new opportunities that might be tailored to your project needs. This proactive approach ensures you are always aware of the latest resources, grants, and programs available, enabling you to maximize support and funding for your initiatives.

In the federal space, there are several noteworthy programs that can provide considerable financial support. The cyclical nature of federal programs allows schools to anticipate their opening and plan accordingly. Key federal opportunities include the Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Program, which funds new and effective programs aimed at improving student outcomes. Additionally, the Full-Service Community Schools Program and the Teacher Quality Partnership Program offer funding to support comprehensive educational improvements and professional development for educators. All these programs offer substantial award amounts and cover similar costs to those of ESSER.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

To prevent future “financial cliffs,” schools should proactively plan around their technology lifecycle and grant timelines. Here are some steps to consider:

Technology Lifecycle Planning

Develop a comprehensive technology plan that outlines the expected lifespan of all devices and infrastructure needs. A few things to consider when developing a plan are assessing the specific needs of each grade level, including deployment for new devices and the capacity of your existing infrastructure. Additionally, your plan should include a schedule for regular updates and replacements, ensuring that technology remains current and functional. It is essential to develop a plan that is sustainable, so you will also want to include a disposal process that is responsible and in compliance with any local regulations.

Grant Timeline Management

Create a grants calendar that includes the name of the program, its application deadline, and the expected award date. This calendar should include opportunities that align best with your future project goals and objectives. A well-organized grants calendar can help you avoid gaps in your budget.. Refer to page 11 of this magazine to learn more about grant timelines

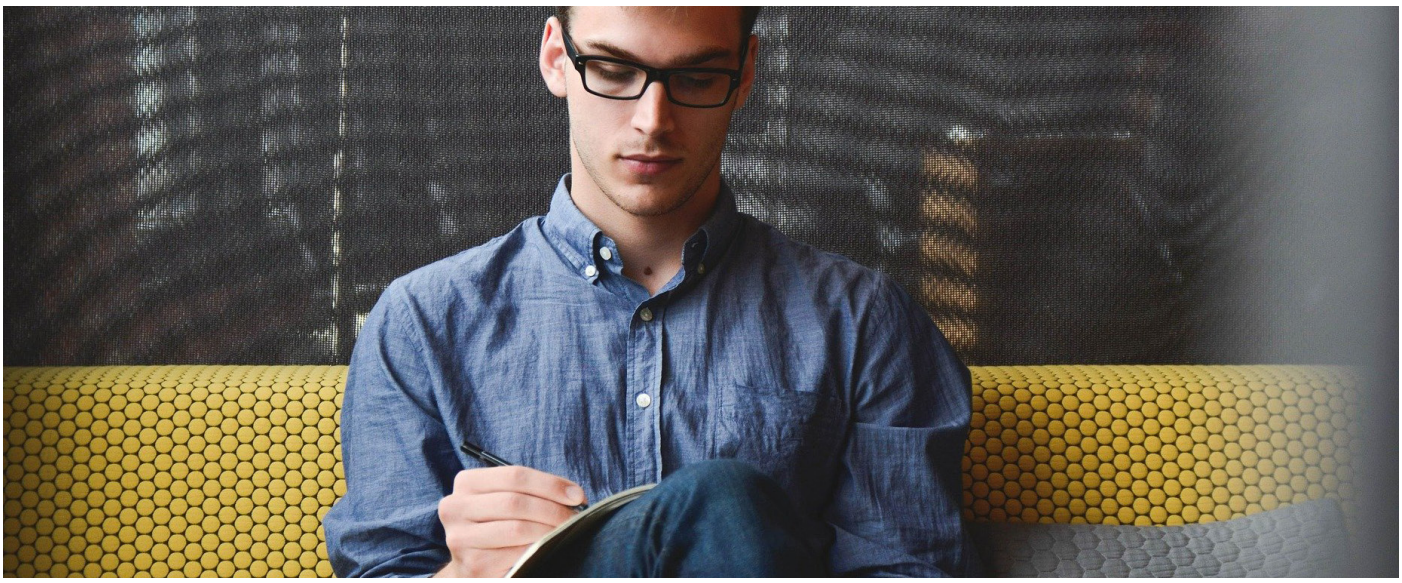
Building Reserve Funds

Establishing reserve funds for unexpected expenses can provide a financial cushion. While this may require initial sacrifices, it will pay off in the long run by providing stability during funding transitions.

The end of ESSER III funding undoubtedly poses challenges for schools, as they face the reality of budget cuts and financial uncertainty. However, with careful planning and the strategic use of alternative funding sources, schools can navigate this transition successfully.

Time Well Spent: Understanding Grant Timelines for Organizational Planning

Dr. Marc Smithers, Grants Development Associate (Higher Education)



Time is an important consideration for those working on grant proposals, particularly for those new to grantseeking.

How much time does it take to apply for a grant? When do grant application windows open and how long do we have before the deadline? When will we get the money that we have been awarded?

The unfortunate answer to each of these questions is: it depends. Timelines vary considerably from funder to funder, and particularly between the federal, state, and foundation levels of grantmaking. Though there are no hard and fast answers to these questions generally, there are some common timeframe characteristics for federal grants that you as a grantseeker should know to help you prepare a maximally competitive application and allow your organization to set realistic expectations for the federal grantseeking process.

WRITING A GRANT APPLICATION TAKES TIME

The first and perhaps most important aspect to remember is that grants take time. At their core, grants are a means by which funders invest in your organization and the grant application process is a way to demonstrate to the funder that your project is worthy of their investment. A rushed application often contains a poorly conceived project, misaligned goals, and/or unrealistic outcomes. Funders need to choose between hundreds or sometimes thousands of applications and can often quickly spot the difference between proposals crafted over time and those thrown together at the last minute. Give yourself ample time to develop a competitive project and craft a thorough proposal for federal opportunities. Estimates of time spent on federal proposals vary by department, with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) encouraging applicants to allow at least 40 hours for writing a grant application, and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) estimating the process to take at least 26 hours. To ensure you do not run out of time before the deadline, prepare to spend at least 40-60 hours preparing a federal grant application from start to finish.

GRANT APPLICATION WINDOWS ARE SHORT

While the time spent preparing a proposal can feel extensive, the window that a grant is open and accepting applications is comparatively short. The average time between the published announcement of available funding/application instructions for a federal grant opportunity, and the deadline for submission is about 45 days. This short window of time is why organizations should plan ahead, using the time before a grant is announced to begin developing a project plan, establishing partnerships, and crafting a realistic and easily justifiable budget for the initiative. The application window is enough time for an organization to draft and submit a proposal, but a maximally competitive grant application is one that an organization has been developing well before the application window has opened. Fortunately, the submission process and application content expectations for many federal programs do not change significantly from year to year, meaning that organizations can often use the previous year's application guidance to get a head start on crafting their project plan and submission materials. Ensuring your organization is grant-ready is a way for you to, as John F. Kennedy said, "use time as a tool, not as a couch."

REVIEWING AND AWARDING GRANT PROPOSALS TAKES TIME

Just as writing a proposal takes an investment of time, the process of reviewing and awarding proposals takes a considerable amount of time. Federal departments estimate different amounts of time for reviewing and awarding proposals. The National Science Foundation (NSF), for instance, takes about six months to complete its proposal review process and announce the selected proposals for support. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) works on a similar timeline, estimating that the review and award process takes between six and nine months. In general, expect that your awarded funds from federal grant programs will be made no sooner than six months after you apply.

In the 2023 cycle of the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Program from the USDA Office of Rural Development, the application and award timeline looked like this:

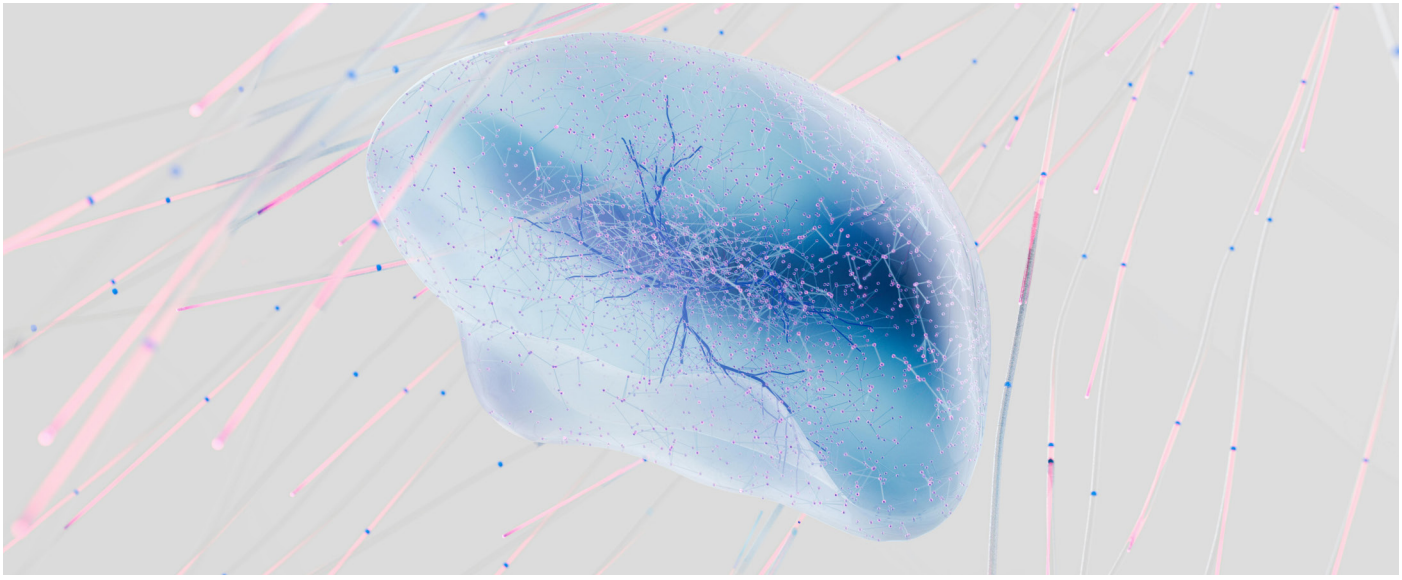
- The application window opened on December 1, 2022 and was open for 61 days, closing on January 30, 2023.
- The first awards were announced in late November 2023, nearly one year after the program began accepting applications.
- The DLT Program typically requires collaborations between host sites and multiple rural end user sites, calculating rurality and socioeconomic scoring for sites, and a 15% cost match for successful projects.

GRANTS ARE WORTH YOUR TIME

As you consider the time needed for your organization to spend crafting a winning federal grant proposal and waiting to hear if you are awarded funds, remind yourself and your team that grants are a way you are investing in your organization. The work spent developing a compelling and innovative project, establishing or deepening collaborations with others, and seeking new opportunities will pay off. Hopefully, this investment results in an awarded proposal but even if you are not successful in your first application, the time spent planning in areas for strategic growth will benefit your organization, for future applications, and more broadly for your organization as a whole. Grants are worth investing in, both for the potential for additional streams of funding and for the ways it strengthens your organization for innovation and growth.

Incorporating Artificial Intelligence Tools into Grant-Fundable Projects

Dr. Liz Shay, Senior Grants Development Consultant



Artificial intelligence (AI) is a popular topic right now. AI tools have the potential to help organizations manage and analyze massive amounts of data to assist services and decision-making. The Stanford 2024 Artificial Intelligence Index notes that 55% of organizations now use AI in at least one business unit or function. The report also states that AI enables workers to complete tasks with higher quality and faster completion times. The Booz Allen Hamilton 2023 Velocity report found that two-thirds of federal technology leaders believe AI will largely impact how missions are executed over the next several years.

All these findings suggest that AI will be a critical component of public sector and non-profit operations. Many entities are already considering the implementation of AI tools. However, high costs can be a roadblock for organizations eager to pursue these types of projects. Grant funding is a potential approach to help public sector and non-profit organizations with AI tool initiatives.

GRANT-SEEKING FOR AI TOOLS

Grantmakers are typically interested in supporting comprehensive projects, rather than focusing on implementing a specific technology solution, such as an AI tool. When seeking funding, think about the problem the implementation of a specific AI technology of interest can solve. Grantmakers are mainly interested in mission-driven activities over back-office functions, so AI tools that will positively impact your organization's target population (students, residents, patients, etc.) are the most likely to be successful parts of a grant-funded project.

As you evaluate the potential problems that can be solved by implementing an AI tool, consider the larger context of your project. On the following page are some examples of grant-fundable projects that incorporate AI tools as part of a larger comprehensive project. Use these as inspiration to consider your own organization's mission-driven needs and goals and how AI tools can help with these initiatives.

EXAMPLES

1. Education

AI tools are available to analyze student data to find patterns in grades, behavioral incidents, and other factors. These tools could enable early intervention to help with student success and retention. This solution could be part of a larger comprehensive grant-fundable project that focuses on helping underrepresented student groups succeed in their education. The AI tool can help determine who would most benefit from intervention and the remainder of the project can provide those student support services (such as tutoring, career counseling, accommodations, etc. as appropriate) based on these identifications.

2. Research

Pattern finding is vital to scientific data analysis. AI tools can analyze large brain data sets to find patterns. This will allow research to identify brain regions that tend to fire together to particular types of stimuli. This AI-enabled pattern-finding can be part of a larger grant-fundable project that explores how different categories of viewed images relate to brain activity patterns to help researchers understand the function of various brain regions.

3. Public Safety

Like in other domains, public safety agencies have a large amount of data they can potentially utilize. AI tools can analyze multiple data sources to find areas of a community that are most likely to have crimes occur. This identification process can help agencies effectively deploy limited resources. A potential grant-fundable project would be one where one or more agencies develop integrated analysis systems that consider multiple data sources (such as shot spotters, cameras, traffic patterns, etc.) to determine where to deploy resources in a predictive policing design. Other aspects of the project would include training officers and leadership on appropriate ways to effectively utilize this data and where biases may exist that they should consider as they work.

4. Transportation

AI tools are available to analyze traffic across a variety of metrics (volume, locations, pedestrians, etc.). Understanding these patterns can help transportation organizations identify bottlenecks and areas at high risk for traffic-related accidents. These agencies could create a grant-fundable project that develops a smart transportation system that dynamically updates based on current traffic patterns and volume, as determined by an AI tool. The project can also include the implementation of signals, monitors, and other technology to enable the data collection and processing and the real-time updating of alternating lanes, communication systems, and other essential components to minimize potential traffic problems.

5. Healthcare

Pattern finding in patient imaging can help to identify abnormal findings. AI tools can assist with this diagnostic component, enabling early detection and better treatment plans. Hospitals and clinics can utilize these tools as part of larger grant-fundable projects incorporating patient imaging and processing (including AI tools) paired with doctor-designed interventions to improve patient care. This approach can be particularly powerful for supporting underserved communities where specialists are limited.

NEXT STEPS FOR PURSUING FUNDING FOR AI TOOLS

AI is a central topic in news and discourse so it can be tempting to incorporate AI tools into every part of your organization. Start instead by focusing on your organizational needs. Where are you currently facing challenges? Often AI tools can be most helpful in cases where you have copious amounts of data that are difficult to analyze manually. Consider if there are AI tools that could assist with this problem. Also consider the broader landscape of the mission-driven activities you are working on and how the AI tool can help your organization serve your target population (students, residents, patients, etc.). Grantmakers are interested in supporting these mission-driven initiatives that can work towards solving challenges, and AI tools can be part of those larger comprehensive projects. Focus on the grants that support this larger social driver, and then you can implement grant-fundable projects that include AI tools and other organizational activities.

AI tools are currently popular and can be powerful aids to understanding your organization's data better. Think about the larger context you are working within and the goals of your organization when considering which AI tools to implement and how they fit into a larger grant-fundable context.

Program Snapshot

Higher Education Act (HEA) Title III and V Grant Programs

SUMMARY

The Higher Education Act (HEA) grants include several programs under Titles III and V that support improvements in educational quality, management, and financial stability at institutes of higher education. Eligibility is determined on an annual basis, limited to institutions that enroll large proportions of minority and financially disadvantaged students with low per-student expenditures.

Title III funding includes:

- Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Program (ANNH)
- American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCU)
- Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions Program (AANAPISI)
- Hispanic-Serving Institutions STEM and Articulation Program (HSI STEM)
- Native American Serving Nontribal Institutions Program (NASNTI)
- Predominantly Black Institutions Program (PBI)
- Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP)
- Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program (SHBCU)

Title V funding includes:

- Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program (DHSI)
- Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans Program (PPOHA)

ELIGIBILITY

Institutes of higher education with large proportions of minority and financially disadvantaged students with low per-student expenditures. Fiscal year 2024 eligibility can be found here: https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/idues/2024eligibilitymatrix.xlsx

DEADLINE

Eligibility is determined early each calendar year. Deadlines for funding vary by program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/idues/eligibility.html

Full analysis and additional resources available HERE.

The Global Grant Funding Landscape, 2023-2025

This expert analysis, prepared by the global Grants Office team, aims to provide business, government, and institutional leaders with a broad understanding of the global grant funding outlook for the years ahead.

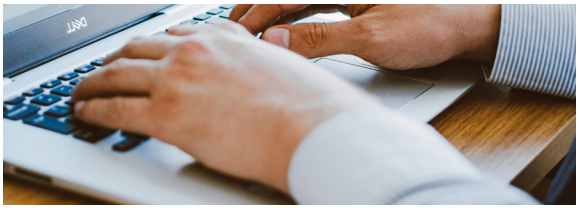
INSIGHTS TO BE GAINED:

- How much grant funding is available around the world?
- What countries have the most money available?
- What organizations are receiving and spending these grant dollars?
- What is the source of these grant dollars in each country?
- How much funding is available through short-term stimulus packages and how much will continue beyond 2025?

Grants Office needs writers!

Do you have experience grantwriting for education institutions, state and local government municipalities, healthcare providers, or non-profit organizations?

Grants Office is a full-service provider of strategic grants development services. Our approach is based on collaboration and open communication among team members. Our grant writers work directly with clients to help develop all elements of their project, and coordinate submission of a high-quality, competitive, technology-friendly proposal.



WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW WRITERS, JOIN THE TEAM TODAY!

Email info@grantsoffice.com (SUBJECT: APPLICATION: Grant Writer) with:

- Your CV
- A listing of the agencies for which you have submitted grants
- A listing of the grant programs for which you have been a proposal reviewer, if any
- 2 writing samples (preferably narratives from successfully funded projects

Boosting Innovation: Mexico's Tax Credit Promotes R&D Investment

Karina Valeretto, Senior Grants Development Consultant (Latin America)

Research and development (R&D) is a major driver for economic growth and countries are increasingly recognizing this fact. To further boost R&D activities, tax incentive schemes have become widely adopted globally. While many nations share a similar definition of qualifying R&D activities, the specifics of how companies can monetize these benefits vary significantly.

In 2017, Mexico reintroduced its R&D tax credit to incentivize businesses to boost their investment in research and innovation. This tax credit offers a 30% rate on eligible R&D expenditures that exceed their average R&D expenses incurred over the previous three fiscal years. An important aspect of this scheme is the ability to carry forward unused credits for up to 10 years. A ceiling of MXN 50 million applies to the value of R&D expenses that can be claimed.

In 2023, Mexico demonstrated its commitment to fostering technological innovation by allocating MXN 389.56 million in fiscal stimulus for research and development, as authorized by the Interinstitutional Committee during its Ordinary Session on September 21, 2023. As noted in the chart below, this commitment returned funding to pre-COVID-19 levels.

Year	Allocation (MXN)
2017	$658.35 million
2018	$331.03 million
2019	$406.28 million
2020	$105.25 million
2021	$144.27 million
2022	$379.69 million
2023	$389.56 million

Source: MX Secretary of Finance and Public Credits.

While funding levels have not returned to their historic highs during the program's infancy in 2017 – which was largely intended to set a strong foundation and spur significant investments in innovation – the program's return to earlier funding levels indicates a strategic emphasis on recovery and growth through innovation.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the R&D tax credit program, a Mexican enterprise must have been actively engaged in research and development (R&D) activities for a minimum of three years. The enterprise will need to provide several key documents to demonstrate their eligibility - including proof of legal status, tax identification, and records of R&D expenditures.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Eligible expenses for the R&D tax credit encompass a wide range of costs directly related to the R&D project. These expenses include hiring external researchers who provide expertise crucial to the project, conducting fieldwork essential for research, training personnel in new techniques, and equipment necessary for the R&D activities.

REGISTRATION AND CLAIM PROCESS

To apply for the R&D tax credit, an enterprise must be authorized as a recipient of the support provided by the National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT). This involves submitting the project application through the online system on the CONACYT page CONAHCYT System and completing the necessary forms with information about the R&D investment project.

It is essential to stay informed about the registration deadlines for the CONACYT System. For instance, this year, the deadline for registration was April 30. For more details, visit the CONACYT.

CONCLUSION

In recent years, Mexican companies have leveraged major federal tax incentives, which has supported their own growth but also the country's broader economic and technological advancement. By navigating the eligibility and claim processes effectively, businesses can significantly enhance their innovation capabilities, reinforcing Mexico's position as a hub for research and technological progress.

Funded Project Highlight (Honduras)

Transforming Hearts: Expanding Pediatric Cardiac Care in Honduras

Hospital María, Especialidades Pediátricas (HMEP), a public hospital managed by the non-profit foundation Fundación Amigos del Hospital María (FAHM), is the only institution in Honduras with specialized pediatric cardiology services for the country's 4.1 million children. Since 2014, HMEP has provided complex pediatric care, bringing highly specialized medical interventions to Honduras that previously required families to travel abroad or rely on short-term visiting medical teams. Today, families can access care across eleven medical specialties at HMEP, including Cardiology, Neurology, Nephrology, Endocrinology, and Reconstructive Surgery.

THE CHALLENGES

The "Unidad de Corazón," or Heart Unit, exemplifies HMEP's dedication to addressing complex cardiac conditions in children. The Heart Unit employs the only pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon fully dedicated to this field in Honduras and completes 160 cardiac surgeries and 50 cardiac catheterizations annually. Despite these efforts, the demand for complex cardiac care remains high, with a significant number of children on the waiting list for intervention and many new diagnoses each year.

To address this urgent need, the Heart Unit required more than USD 3 million in funding to implement a three-phased plan to expand and increase capacity to provide more lifesaving surgeries to children.

HMEP's team sought strategic support in identifying funding sources, crafting effective grant proposals, and developing comprehensive fundraising strategies to secure the resources necessary for expanding these services.

THE OUTCOMES

With the support of the World Pediatrics (WP), FAHM contracted Grants Office to help structure and write the **Pediatric Cardiology Improvement Program called "Little Hearts"**. This involved the creation of template documents that the WP and FAHM teams could modify for individual funding opportunities. The work ended with training on effective fundraising strategies and a thorough review of potential funding opportunities across LATAM and the globe that could support their project.

To date, HMEP's project **secured an additional USD 1 million in funding** from the Honduras Ministry of Health. This crucial investment will expand the Heart Unit's capacity for **Phase 1** and **Phase 2**, significantly reducing wait times for critical cardiac care. By investing in this expansion, HMEP aims to save more lives and improve health outcomes for children with cardiac conditions in Honduras.

THE FUTURE

Moving forward, FAHM's goal is to present the Little Hearts program to additional potential funders to secure the necessary financial and technical support for Hospital Maria in phase 3 and beyond. The hospital relies on support from a local NGO called **Fundación Maria**, which is responsible for fundraising for the hospital. In collaboration with Grants Office, the hospital aims to achieve sustainability and reduce its dependence on external funding, allowing it to independently continue its mission of saving children's lives.

"I am very pleased to have worked with Grants Office. They were hired for an investment proposal and to identify potential funding opportunities. Grants Office's staff understood our needs and did a great job in bringing all things together into a well-structured, high-quality, and great-impact project proposal."

-Patricia Barjum, Director of Fundación María.

To learn more about Hospital María, Especialidades Pediátricas (HMEP), and to support their mission, please visit their website at: https://hospitalmaria.org/donaciones/. To learn more about how Grants Office can help your nonprofit organization with its foundation-seeking efforts, contact us at grantwriting@grantsoffice.com.

Preparing for State Digital Equity Capacity Grants: What You Need to Know

Meghan Jacobsen, Grants Development Associate (State and Local Government)

Access to high-speed internet has become a necessary part of everyday life. For example, education, employment (job duties and hiring), banking, and even some healthcare, are now done online. However, there are still many communities and individuals who lack access to high-speed internet. As a result, the federal government has prioritized increasing access across the country by allocating $1.44 billion for the Digital Equity Capacity program. At this stage, all states have finalized their digital equity plans and the program has opened for all states and territories to apply for funding. As this is a pass-through program, states apply for funding and then will sub-award the funds they receive from the federal government through their own grant programs. It has been a long road thus far but we anticipate some states will begin to open their own grant programs in the fall or winter of 2024, allowing local organizations to apply for these funds.

A Digital Equity Capacity Grant will benefit individuals and communities by providing funding for expanding internet access; providing access to devices and training on digital literacy; and other developments to bridge the digital divide and make technology more inclusive. So, what organizations will benefit from this program? Organizations that are implementing projects that align with their state's digital equity plan including libraries, workforce development centers, nonprofit organizations, and local governmental agencies, to name a few.

KEY COMPONENTS OF A PROPOSED DIGITAL EQUITY GRANT PROGRAM:

1. Infrastructure Expansion

Grants may fund projects that will deploy broadband infrastructure in underserved areas, ensuring that all residents have access to high-speed internet. This includes building new networks, upgrading existing infrastructure, or implementing solutions such as satellite internet or mobile hotspots.

2. Device Provision

Grants may also cover the cost of providing devices such as laptops, tablets, or smartphones to individuals who cannot afford them. The program will also fund devices for community facilities such as libraries and workforce development centers that will grant access to these devices to the public.

For more background information on funding for digital equity projects, read our recent article "Get Involved with Digital Equity Projects"

3. Digital Literacy Training

Grants can support initiatives to provide training in digital literacy, teaching individuals how to use technology effectively and safely. These programs empower people to navigate the digital world with confidence, unlocking new opportunities for learning, work, and communication.

4. Community Engagement

Digital Equity Grant Programs should prioritize community involvement, soliciting input from residents to identify needs and develop strategies for addressing them. Through partnerships between government, nonprofits, businesses, and residents, these programs ensure that solutions are sustainable and apply to the needs of the community.

IMPACT AND BENEFITS

1. Communities and Individuals

This program will enable communities to participate and thrive in the 21st-century world. It will enable students to gain access to necessary educational resources and remote learning opportunities, provide job seekers with access to online training materials and job searches, and facilitate better access for all to healthcare professionals and social services.

2. Community Organizations

This program will enable vital community organizations and facilities to provide devices and internet services to those who would otherwise have no access. This program will also enable these organizations to better implement their programs in areas such as training and education through high-speed internet and the latest devices.

PREPARING FOR THE DIGITAL EQUITY CAPACITY PROGRAM

If your organization could benefit from the Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program, staying informed is important. Consider signing up for email alerts from your state's administering agency for the latest updates on the program. You can also find the latest information on the NTIA website: https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/digital-equity-act-programs.

While waiting for the opening of your state's grant program, focus your organization on addressing some key milestones of grant-readiness. This may include forming an internal grants team, developing projects that align with this grant's objectives, and ensuring your SAM.gov and Grants.gov registrations are current. Since many grants are only available for a limited period each year—typically 45-60 days—early preparation will enable a smoother application process.

Want more guidance on getting 'grant ready'? Read out recent articles, "Beat the Rush – Planning for Grants and the Benefits of having 'canned' projects" and "Tips for Building Competitive Grant Applications".

Program Snapshot

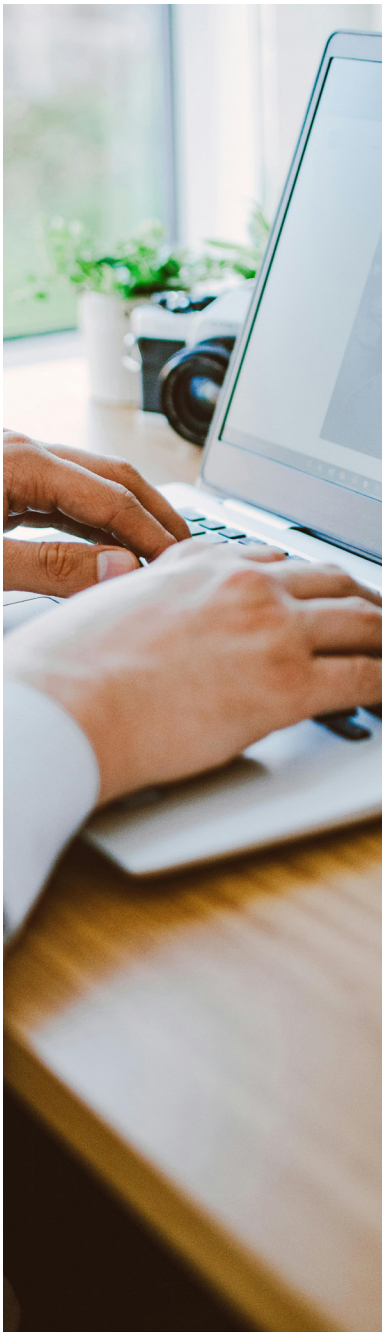
Digital Equity Capacity Grant

SUMMARY

The Digital Equity Capacity grant supports the achievement of digital equity, support digital inclusion activities, and build capacity for efforts by States relating to the adoption of broadband by residents of those States. Subgrants will be made in support of the State's Digital Equity Plan and digital inclusion activities in the State generally.

This program is intended for the creation of community-centric solutions as outlined in the state's digital equity plan. It provides resources to community organizations to help scale digital literacy programs. These programs give people the skills they need to effectively use the internet. Funds will support projects that promote meaningful adoption and use of high-speed internet service. Projects should aim to help the following groups:

- Low-income households
- Aging populations
- Incarcerated individuals
- Veterans
- People with disabilities
- People with language barriers
- Racial and ethnic minorities
- Rural inhabitants



ELIGIBILITY

Tribal governments, local governments, non-profit organizations

DEADLINE

Applications from states were due on May 28, 2024. Subgrant programs TBA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/funding-programs/Digital_Equity_Capacity_Grant_Program

Healthcare Workforce Shortages: A Focus on Rural America

Amber Walker, Grants Development Associate (Healthcare)

An estimated 60 million people, nearly 1 in 5 Americans, live in a rural area. Following the Covid-19 pandemic, these rural areas are seeing increasing shortages in the healthcare workforce. To alleviate the burden healthcare workforce shortages have on rural communities and the hospital systems that serve them, governments and private associations have prioritized financial interventions and incentives.

Learn more:

"Healthcare Workforce Shortages and the Role of Grant Funding"

"How Grant Funding is Responding to the Healthcare Worker Shortage by Diversifying the Workforce"

One example is the work of the **Health Resources Service Administration (HRSA)** to develop grants that directly benefit medical providers and beyond. The **Delta Region Rural Health Workforce Training Program** developed a holistic strategy for rural hospitals to recruit and retain talent in support positions that include but are not limited to administrative, medical coding and billing, supply chain, materials management, and clinical documentation.

Federal and private organizations, such as the **American Medical Association**, provide a variety of incentives directly to individual providers and medical students to study, train, and work in rural areas. These incentives are commonly stipends for travel, scholarships for coursework, or loan forgiveness in exchange for years of service.

Another strategy to bring health services to rural communities is the advancement of telehealth. Several programs at the federal level support connecting rural healthcare providers with urban providers to access a provider talent pool who are unable to physically relocate to a rural space. The **Healthcare Connect Fund** provides financial support to rural entities or entities that are part of a majority rural consortium by funding the purchase of broadband services, networks, and other equipment that facilitates telehealth services.

If your organization is a rural entity interested in workforce retention or training, or you are an individual interested in working in a rural area, the funding programs mentioned throughout this article are a great starting point. These programs are just a small fraction of a grant landscape that has centered on the rural healthcare workforce.

There are many resources dedicated to alleviating the strain of workforce shortages in rural communities. For an in-depth view of the state of rural healthcare in America, the following website can be a helpful resource:

https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/health-care-workforce#workforce

Program Snapshot

Teaching Health Center Graduate Education Program

SUMMARY

The purpose of the THCGME Program is to support the training of residents in primary care residency training programs in community-based ambulatory patient care centers. Programs will prepare residents to provide high-quality care, particularly in rural and underserved communities, and develop competencies to serve these diverse populations and communities.

ELIGIBILITY

A. An eligible entity is a current THCGME Program payment recipient that was awarded funding under HRSA-20-011 that:

- Operates an accredited primary care residency program. Specific examples of eligible outpatient settings include, but are not limited to:
- Federally qualified health centers, as defined in section 1905(l)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 1396d(l)(2)(B)]
- Community mental health centers, as defined in section 1861(ff)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 1395x(ff)(3)(B)]
- Rural health clinics, as defined in section 1861(aa)(2) of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)(2)]
- Health centers operated by the Indian Health Service, an Indian tribe or tribal organization, or an urban Indian organization (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act [25 U.S.C. 1603])
- A community-based entity receiving funds under Title X of the PHS Act

OR

- Has collaborated to form a GME consortium that operates an accredited primary care residency program
  - To satisfy accreditation, academic, and administrative responsibilities, a community-based ambulatory patient care center may form a GME consortium with stakeholders (e.g., academic health centers, universities, and/or medical schools) where the GME consortium serves as the institutional sponsor of an accredited primary care residency program. The relationship between the community-based ambulatory patient care center and the consortium must be legally binding, and the agreement establishing the relationship must describe the roles and responsibilities of each entity.

B. Eligible Primary Care Residency Programs. Only specific residency training programs are eligible. "Primary care residency program" (as defined in section 340H(j)(3) of the PHS Act [42 U.S.C. 256h(j)(3)]) refers to an approved graduate medical education residency training program in:

- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Internal Medicine-pediatrics
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Psychiatry
- General Dentistry
- Pediatric Dentistry
- Geriatrics

C. Accreditation/Institutional Sponsorship

- The eligible community-based ambulatory patient care setting, or GME consortium, must be accredited in one of the eligible primary care specialties and must be listed as the institutional sponsor by the relevant accrediting body and named on the program's relevant accreditation documentation.

DEADLINE

Applications were due to be submitted by 1/12/2024. A similar timeline is anticipated annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://bhw.hrsa.gov/funding/apply-grant/teaching-health-center-graduate-medical-education

Clean Energy: Grant Funding for Alternative Power Technologies

Amanda Day, Grants Development Consultant (State & Local Government)

Generally speaking, clean energy is regarded as more environmentally friendly when compared to traditional fossil fuel resources as it typically leads to lower levels of air and water pollution than combustible fuels like coal, natural gas, and petroleum oil. Renewable sources like wind, water, and sunlight generate power without emitting harmful carbon dioxide, a major contributor to climate change. This, in turn, mitigates various environmental and social issues such as droughts, wildfires, flooding, poverty, health risks, and species loss. And while renewable and nonrenewable energy sources require land for infrastructure, renewable energy systems often have a smaller footprint than traditional fossil fuels. For example, solar panels can be built on existing structures, and wind turbines are suitable for agricultural land without affecting crop placement.

Because cost can be a barrier to getting started in the clean energy sector, grants serve as crucial drivers of innovation and integration. These funding opportunities typically target a wide range of recipients, including businesses, educational institutions, municipalities, and non-governmental organizations. Typically sourced from governmental entities, non-profit organizations, or private foundations, these grants encourage the advancement and deployment of renewable energy technologies like solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal power. Various federal agencies, including the Department of Energy (DOE), the Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), have created grant programs to support renewable energy research, development, demonstration, and deployment efforts. These programs aim to stimulate innovation, increase renewable energy deployment, and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy. They include a wide range of initiatives, including the installation of solar panels, wind turbines, hydroelectric systems, and geothermal plants, as well as the research and development of innovative technologies for renewable energy production and storage. Additionally, these funds may be used to support educational programs, workforce training, and community initiatives related to renewable energies.

The Biden administration has a target for the United States to reduce economy-wide net greenhouse gas pollution by 50-52 percent from 2005 levels. The ultimate goal is for the U.S. to reach zero emissions economy-wide by 2050.

These grants spur economic growth by creating jobs in the renewable energy industry while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Investments in renewable energy technologies can contribute to building a more sustainable and resilient energy infrastructure for future generations.

The DOE offers various grant programs to support renewable energy research, development, and deployment. For example, the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Program provides $550 million for state, local, and Tribal governments to reduce fossil fuel emissions, reduce total energy use, and improve energy efficiency in the transportation sector, building sector, and other appropriate sectors. The State Energy Program (SEP) provides $60 million to states to increase energy efficiency; develop, and implement energy security; resiliency, and emergency preparedness plans; reduce energy costs and carbon emissions; and increase investments to expand the use of clean energy resources and infrastructure. Other programs include Solar & Wind Interconnection for Future Transmission (SWIFTR), Clean Energy Technology Deployment on Tribal Lands, and Small Innovative Projects in Solar (SIPS) Program, just to name a few.

The USDA also provides grant funds for renewable energy initiatives. The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP: Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans & Grants provides $1.1 billion in grants and guaranteed loans to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements. Renewable energies include wind, solar, renewable biomass (including anaerobic digesters), small hydroelectric, ocean, and geothermal. The Empowering Rural America (New ERA) program assists rural Americans in the transition to clean, affordable, and reliable energy. By reducing air and water pollution, New ERA funding improves health outcomes and lowers energy costs in rural communities. The New ERA program has been appropriated $9.7 billion through September 7, 2031, through grants and guaranteed loans. In addition, the USDA administers the Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) program. This program provides $1 billion to support clean, reliable, and affordable energy growth across America, specifically in communities that have previously been left out of the clean energy economy, including rural, disadvantaged, distressed, and tribal locales.

The EPA also invests in clean energy financing. Funded through the Inflation Reduction Act in 2022, the Solar for All program provides $7 billion to states, municipalities, Tribal governments, and eligible nonprofit recipients. Funds will provide residential distributed solar generation and energy storage, including rooftop residential and residential-serving community photovoltaic (PV) solar and storage. For projects that may implement hydropower, there are the WaterSMART Water & Energy Efficiency Grants. This program invests $15 million in projects that conserve and use water more efficiently; increase the production of hydropower and mitigate conflict risk in areas at an elevated risk of future water conflict. This program is available to western, drought-ridden states where water resources are threatened.

State-level programs alongside private and corporate foundations provide additional funding. State-sponsored renewable energy grants foster sustainable development and support applicants by reducing carbon emissions within local communities. These grants, often administered by state environmental agencies or energy offices, provide financial support to individuals, businesses, non-profits, and municipalities seeking to adopt renewable energy technologies.

In the evolving landscape of renewable energy funding, there is a clear trend towards increased prioritization and investment in sustainable solutions. Governments, corporations, and philanthropic organizations recognize the urgent need to invest in the transition to renewable sources to mitigate climate change and ensure energy security for the future. As a result, funding is likely to increase, encompassing several initiatives such as research and development, infrastructure projects, community-based renewable energy programs, and encouraging the adoption of clean technologies by state, local, and tribal entities. Collaborative efforts between the public and private sectors are expected to foster innovation and improvements in renewable energy deployment, creating a more resilient and sustainable energy future.

State-Funded Clean Energy Grant Examples		
Clean Energy Access Grant Account	California	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/clean-energy-access-grant-account/
Geothermal Energy Grant Program	Colorado	https://energyoffice.colorado.gov/geothermal-energy-grant
LBE Integrated Solar Grant Program	Massachusetts	https://www.mass.gov/info-details/lbe-integrated-solar-grant-program
Solar on Public Buildings Grant Program	Minnesota	Solar on Public Buildings Grant Program
Clean Energy Communities	New York	https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/cec
Community Renewable Energy Grant Program	Oregon	https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Incentives/Pages/CREP.aspx

Program Snapshot

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program

SUMMARY

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program is designed to assist states, local governments, and Tribes in implementing strategies to reduce energy use, to reduce fossil fuel emissions, and to improve energy efficiency.

The EECBG Program assists eligible applicants in implementing strategies to:

- Reduce fossil fuel emissions in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and, to the maximum extent practicable, maximizes benefits for local and regional communities;
- Reduce the total energy use of the eligible entities; and
- Improve energy efficiency in the transportation sector, the building sector, and other appropriate sectors.
- Build a clean and equitable energy economy that prioritizes disadvantaged communities and promotes equity and inclusion in workforce opportunities and deployment activities, consistent with the Justice40 Initiative.

A total of $550 million is available for this program until funds are expended.

ELIGIBILITY

State, local and Tribal governments may apply for funding under the EECBG Program.

DEADLINE

Local governments must apply through October 31, 2024, while Tribes can apply through May 25, 2025.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://www.energy.gov/scep/energy-efficiency-and-conservation-block-grant-program

The BEAD Program: Where are we today?

Joseph Phelan, Grants Development Consultant (Broadband, Transportation and Utilities)

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) continues to approve final plans under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program. This process began in late 2021 when the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was signed into law. 56 states and territories have been allocated $42.45 billion to expand internet access through planning, infrastructure deployment, and adoption.

The process for each state to make use of these funds has included multiple rounds of draft plans, public comment periods, and public challenge efforts to get to where things stand right now.

As a precursor, BEAD volume I proposals included information about existing broadband funding offered by the state or territory, how the entity will handle the challenge process, and how they define community anchor institutions. Every state and territory has had their volume I proposals approved at time of writing.

BEAD volume II proposals explain how the entity will deploy their allocated funds for implementation.

Louisiana's broadband office, ConnectLA, was the first to receive approval to fully implement their BEAD implementation plan in December 2023. Since then, as of July 18, 2024, volume II plans have been approved for 20 more broadband office entities, which means we're inching closer and closer to deployment nationwide.

Entities that can begin implementing BEAD as of July 18, 2024: Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Washington, and West Virginia

With Louisiana claiming the honor of being the first state to have its volume II plan approved, it's appropriate to explain where that state is in their BEAD roll-out process, six months in.

Starting in early July, ConnectLA ran what was known as the "pre-qualification window", allowing any eligible prospective subgrantee within the state of Louisiana to register in their portal and begin compiling and uploading the various required documentation for the application pre-qualification process. Eligible subgrantees within Louisiana include institutions of higher learning, nonprofit organizations, cooperatives, public or private utilities, public utility districts, public-private partnerships, private companies, local governments, tribal organizations, and for-profit organizations.

ConnectLA's pre-qualification application specifically consists of nine sections:

1. **Administrative** (company information, authorized representative, and company unique entity identifier)
2. **Financial Capability** (audited statements, prior grant experience, ability to match funds, letter of credit, pro forma statement)
3. **Organizational Capability** (organizational chart, resumes of key personnel, capabilities in carrying out the grant)
4. **Technical Capability** (workforce, construction map, technology, proposed network)
5. **Certifications and Compliance** (Safeguarding Policy, reporting requirements, additional acknowledgment of program requirements)
6. **Federal Labor and Employment Laws** (certify various compliances with federal labor and employment laws)
7. **Risk Management** (Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management plans)
8. **Ownership** (relevant ownership forms)
9. **National Laws** (mention any potential environmental impacts)

Prospective applicants had to submit their information by July 14. After the pre-qualification window closed, ConnectLA began its review process, which is expected to last until August 14, 2024. At that point, any prospective organization that met the required criteria to participate in the program will be notified (beginning as early as Summer 2024 through to Fall and Winter 2024).

It is anticipated that other States and Territories will follow a similar approach to Louisiana, which means there's plenty to learn from how Louisiana's pre-qualification process. Once a State or Territory's volume II plans are approved by the NTIA, they will have up to one year to subaward to eligible applicants. Be sure to monitor your state or territory's broadband site for the most up-to-date information. Consider signing up for news alerts to learn even faster.

BEAD Initial Proposal Progress Dashboard: https://www.internetforall.gov/bead-initial-proposal-progress-dashboard

Upcoming Grantscasts

New events are added weekly. Visit https://www.grantsoffice.com/Grants-Intelligence/Grantcasts for the most updated information and to see our entire library of global Grantscasts.

Unlocking Sustainable Futures: Empowering Change through Grant Funding

A Grants Office Production (United States), Sponsored by Cisco

Date: August 14, 2024, at 2pm CET

About: Whether you are a university researcher, nonprofit environmental education organization, transportation agency, or public utilities provider, our expert speakers will guide you through the grant funding landscape and share tips and strategies to increase your chances of success. You'll also learn about the grant-seeking support services available through the Cisco Public Funding Office. You won't want to miss this opportunity to unlock the potential of sustainability grant funding and drive positive change within your organization and community.

Register HERE

SLCGP: Where We've Been, What We've Learned, What's Ahead

A Grants Office Production (United States), Sponsored by Fortinet

Date: September 25, 2024, at 2pm ET

About: The State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) was created with the passing of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to help applicants offset the cost of their cybersecurity initiatives. Join Grants Office and special guests from Fortinet as we discuss how states have allocated these funds over the last two years, where things are now, and what lies ahead as states plan for future funding cycles. Learn how you can secure your network, protect cloud-based data, and safeguard user devices with your state's available SLCGP grant funding.

Register HERE

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The Keys to Affordable Housing: Supporting the Canadian Housing Sector

A Grants Office Production (Canada)

About: If you are a housing developer, nonprofit organization, or municipal leader looking to secure funding for your housing projects in Canada, join Grants Office for an insightful webcast. We will delve into several funding options available to support the development and sustainability of housing initiatives across the country. We'll also go over federal and provincial programs including Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) initiatives, and provincial grants tailored to housing projects.

Access HERE

Modernizing the Healthcare System: Funding Cloud Strategies for Quality Healthcare Delivery

A Grants Office Production (United States), sponsored by Ingram Micro

About: Grants Office and special guests from Ingram Micro & Keystone Technologies navigate the healthcare funding landscape for cloud technologies and discover how leveraging cloud technologies, including electronic health records, can enhance healthcare delivery, streamline operations, and drive innovation. You will not want to miss this informative session.

Access HERE

Funding for Entrepreneurs Across Italy and Spain

A Grants Office Production (Europe)

About: Embark on a journey with our panel of seasoned experts from the Grants Office as they navigate through the premier funding avenues available to entrepreneurs across Europe, with a specific emphasis on the vibrant landscapes of Italy and Spain. Each panelist will illuminate the strategic priorities of local grantmakers, showcase exemplary application models, and impart invaluable insights on how to elevate your proposal's standing in these pivotal regions.

Access HERE

Funding Cybersecurity Solutions with State and Federal Grant Funds

A Grants Office Production (United States)

About: Grants Office and Check Point experts review the grants landscape, highlight specific funding opportunities, and provide tips for creating a competitive application for your organization. Don't wait until there is an attack. Now is the time to protect your organization from hackers, phishing, and ransomware. If you want to learn more about funding cybersecurity through grants and how Check Point cybersecurity solutions will help your organization stay secure, register today!

Access HERE

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Our team of grants experts in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Australia, are ready to support your global grant needs.

Nonmarket

Market

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Actionable information on the technology-friendly funding landscape

02 Strategy

Expert support for firm mobilization to capitalize on forthcoming funding

03 Timing

Actual and projected time frames for administration and disbursement of funds

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MARKET AND NONMARKET

BENEFITS OF GRANTS SUPPORT

04 Penetration

Customer-facing events and campaigns to generate new and expanded contacts

05 Targeting

Enhanced discovery of grant-ready customer business objectives

06 Sales

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