

Grants Orientation

A High-Level Overview of Grant Basics for Community Stakeholders



A little bit about us...

✓ A small department

Serve the Divisions/Departments/Elected Officials of the Sullivan County Government.

At any given time, we are tracking progress of 25-100 active grants.

The mission of the Department of Grants Administration (DGA) is to: Facilitate access to funding for Division/Department needs of the Sullivan County

- Facilitate access to funding for Division/Department needs of the Sullivan County Government
- Improve administration of existing funding secured by the Sullivan County Government
- As time permits, we avail ourselves of the opportunity of providing resources to local community entities. While we do not write grants on behalf of outside entities, we do endeavor to connect stakeholders to resources.

The purpose of this workshop is to:

- Orient community stakeholders to Grants
- Point to available resources



What is your experience with grants?





What we will accomplish...

I. OVERVIEW OF GRANTS

II. COMPLIANCE AND GRANTS

III. BECOMING GRANT READY

IV.TOOLS AND RESOURCES



Part I: Overview of Grants

In this section, we will discuss...

- Types of Grants
- The Grant Cycle
- A standard Grant "Workflow"



TYPES OF GRANTS

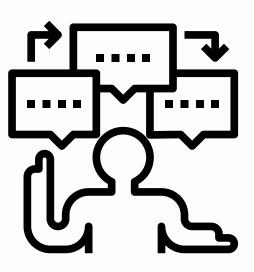
- 1) <u>DISCRETIONARY</u> (Competitive) Federal, State, or Private, application, award, and contract process.
- 2) ALLOCATIONS (Non-Competitive) Non-competitive awards, usually based on demographic data.



Planning Vs. Implementation Funding Opportunities

A **planning grant** helps an individual or organization transform an idea into concrete plans, earliest phase of a large-scale project, may involve:

- Conducting surveys and research
- Creating a business or program plan
- Developing financial projections
- Identifying and establishing partnership

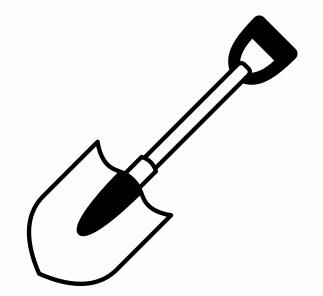


If you can name the problem, have a general idea of what you'd like to accomplish, but don't know how to get there or don't have a detailed scope or project laid out yet, then you may want to look for a Planning Grant or a Technical Assistance Grant.



An **implementation grant** (sometimes called a construction grant) supports "shovel-ready" projects.

- You should apply for an implementation grant if you have:
- A thorough implementation plan for your project
- Researched financial projections and a line-item budget
- Expected program outcomes you're aiming for
- A process to measure results
- Strong partnerships
- Staff dedicated to monthly or quarterly grant reporting





THE GRANT CYCLE

Pre-Award Phase



Award Phase



Post-Award Phase

- "What's the problem?"
- "What are the needs?"
- Plan Project
- Locate Funding Opportunity
- Complete Application

- Award or Declination
- Contract/Award Agreement

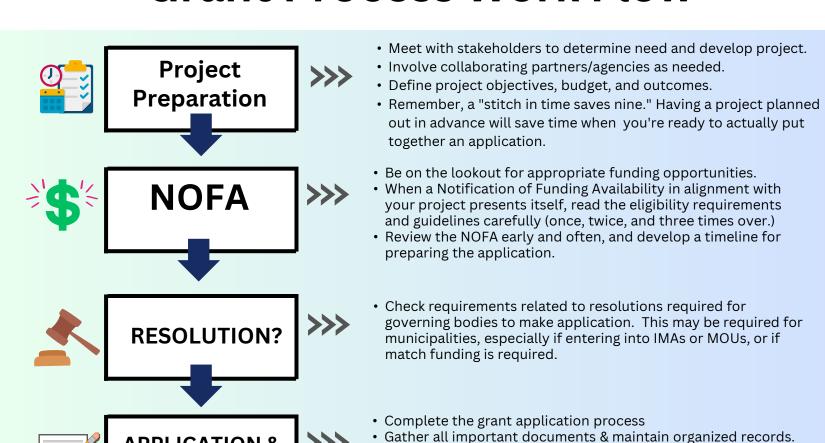
- Project & Grant Management
- Implement Workplan/Project
- Reporting
- Claiming/Draw Down
- Close-Out



your "Order of operations" -

NOFA – Notice of Funding Availability **NOFO**-Notice of Funding Opportunity **RFA**-Request for Applications **RFP**-Request for Proposals **IMA**-Intermunicipal Agreements **MOU**-Memorandum of Understanding

Grant Process Work Flow





Be mindful of procurement requirements and do until you have a fully executed award



APPLICATION &

SUBMISSION

- Obtain fully executed award agreement/contract
- · Maintain copies of award notice and fully executed agreement/contract.
- Make sure all necessary approvals are obtained.





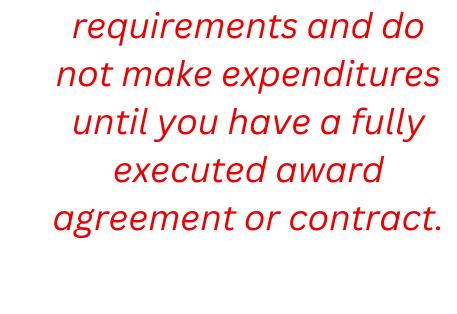
- Draw down funds per grant guidelines and regulations.
- Maintain all documentation as required by funding

• Follow up on subsequent communication from the funding

agency, as additional action may be required.

- Complete reporting.
- Watch for any amendments to budget and/or terms.
- Complete close-out when term has ended and all funds are drawn down.







Part II: Compliance and Grants

In this section, we will discuss...

- The importance of being informed
- A high-level overview of Grant Management & Regulations
- Internal Controls
- What is meant by "Fraud, Waste and Abuse"





The importance of being informed...

- There is no such thing as "free money."
- · Grants can be labor intensive and require attention to detail.
- They often involve legal requirements to which grantees must adhere.
- Program Guidelines are your friend.





Who needs to read what?

Being "pretty sure" isn't good enough in the grant world. Go straight to the horse's mouth to obtain information about your program.

Read the NOFO 8 the Contract!

Who should be familiar with the program guidelines (NOFO, NOFA, RFA, RFP)?

Anyone involved in:

- Preparing an application
- Developing a workplan
- Implementing a grant

Who should be familiar with the fully executed Contract?

Anyone involved in:

- Implementing the workplan
- Submitting reports
- Submitting claims



Mark it up and flag important sections.



A Word on Grant Management

With grant management, the goal is to achieve ongoing compliance with all requirements using an approach that has strong internal controls.

Finance is the cornerstone of grants management!

Grant Management Best Practices:

- Follow proper procurement protocols.
- Keep tidy bookkeeping.
- Do what you said you were going to do on application.
- Spend the money in the way in which you proposed.
- Make sure you have the systems and policies in place for financial and program data reporting.
- Track funding and program outcomes/data.
- When in doubt or having a challenge-contact the funding agency asap.









Keeping things on the "up and up."

With grant management, the goal is to achieve ongoing compliance with all requirements using an approach that has strong internal controls.

- Finance is the cornerstone of grants management!
- Whenever you're dealing with money in any context, it's common sense to be careful and methodical. But...
- When money belongs to the public by way of municipal funds, to investors by way of small business operations, or to a non-profit organization, it's even *more crucial* to engage tight internal controls in order to protect all stakeholders.
- Failure to take thorough care can lead to trouble.





Examples of Strong Internal Controls

Important for all grants, but crucial for government-funded programs.

- **1. Formal Written Policies & Procedures** for your organization related to general operational activities, such as who can approve spending, how is labor recorded, procurement procedures, internal processes, etc.
- **2.Monitoring** of procedures to ensure compliance, of expenditures to ensure they are eligible under the grant, of fiscal activity and documentation.
- **3.Reconciliation** of general ledger accounts, equipment purchases, inventory of items purchased with grant funding.
- **4.Safeguarded Assets** from loss, theft, or damage; safeguarding credit cards and other assets from unauthorized use, training for staff to ensure compliance with all regulatory guidelines and best practices.
- **5.Segregation of Duties** by way of keeping financial operations distinct and tidy, assigning fiscal functions to different people, so no one individual has too much responsibility/control.
- **6.Supervisory Review and Approval** whereby all spending is reviewed prior to the transaction, providing checks and balances for authorization.
- **7. Documentation** by way of keeping all itemized receipts and detailed invoices and/or employee time and effort records. Documentation should demonstrate that expenditures are allowable under the grant's guidelines.



A Word on Grant Regulations

An agency awarded funding via Federal, State or Private Foundation funding sources is expected to comply with the specific regulatory requirements that apply to the funding award.

Any agency awarded <u>federal</u> grant funding must comply with the <u>Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)</u> also known as "Uniform Guidance."

What is "The CFR?"

• A codification of the rules published in the Federal Register by the executive Departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

Where do you find it and how is it organized?

- The entire CFR is available at https://www.ecfr.gov/.
- It's divided into fifty (50) titles divided into Chapters by issuing federal agency.
- Each chapter is further subdivided into parts that cover specific regulatory areas.

Note: most regulatory guidelines are written into contract agreements, but if you're going for federal-based funding, it's important to know what the CFR is and what it contains.



Why it's important to be mindful of compliance and grants...

- Fraud, waste and abuse take away funding from a project, and increase the chance that a grant will be terminated prematurely.
- Misuse of funds, even if unintentional, can result in suspension of availability of current/future funding, an entity having to pay back some of the grant, and jeopardize the entity's ability to secure future grant awards.
- Everyone within an organization who deals with funding is responsible for helping combat fraud, waste and abuse.
- Developing strong internal controls is the best insurance to avoid fraud, waste and abuse.





Grant Fraud The use of grant funding for a purpose other than intended.

Examples include:

- Charging for costs which have not been incurred or are not attributable to a grant
- Failure to maintain accurate time and effort documentation
- Charging personal expenses as business expenses against a grant
- Charging for inflated labor costs or hours against a grant





Failure to receive a grant's full value due to poor planning/lack of controls leading to wasted resources.

Examples include:

- Poor financial or administrative management of grants
- Improper grant payments
- Buying overpriced office equipment from a favored vendor
- Buying unnecessary equipment for personal use or gain
- Lack of controls in the payment process





Grant Abuse

Behaving improperly or unreasonably or misusing one's position or authority.

Examples include:

- Writing technical specification or contract terms to favor a specific contractor
- Influencing government employees to award a grant or contract to a particular company, family member, or friend





ORGANIZATIONAL TIPS



- Maintain all documents related to a particular grant organized in one location, labeled appropriately with the grant title, term, and award amount.
- We recommend keeping hard copies AND digital copies of all documentation.
- Review the guidelines associated with the funding award, setup a workplan, make notations to help you stay on task.
- Use your calendar and set up internal reminders to meeting important deadlines.
- Be sure to copy important stakeholders on relevant documentation, as needed.
- Document, document! Maintain careful notations related to grant work, communications, and progress on work plans; keep and organize copies of expenses/receipts and time and effort records, as required by the funding agency.



KEEPING THOSE FILES IN CHECK

Grant records management is such a big deal we have dedicated 3 slides to it!



LABELING YOUR GRANT FILE

Labeling the grant file will help you maintain organization, access information easily, and assist others in locating information in your absence.

Your format should include:

- Funding Year (based on information in the program guidelines)
- Grant Title and Granting Agency/Organization
- Project/Program Title

For example:

2025 NYS DEC Household Hazardous Waste Program 2024 American Composers Forum Composition Grant Program



WHAT TO KEEP IN YOUR GRANT FILE

- Copy of Official Authorizing Resolution(s), if applicable
- Notice of Funding Opportunity and Program Guidelines
- Submitted Application/Supporting Documents (budget, letters of support, estimates, etc.)
- Fully Executed Memorandums of Understanding, if applicable
- Official Notification of Award/Declination
- Fully Executed Award Agreement/Contract(s)
- Project Account Code Information
- Fully Executed Amended Award Agreements/Contracts
- Additional Resolution(s)
- Monitoring and Compliance Documents
- Claims/Disbursement Requests







SAMPLE GRANT RECORDS DIGITAL FILE

	View ∨	
Name	Date modified	Type Siz
Resolutions & Authorizations	2/21/2025 12:30 PM	File folder
Reimbursements	2/21/2025 12:31 PM	File folder
Program Info & Guidelines	2/21/2025 12:29 PM	File folder
Invoices and Claims	2/21/2025 12:31 PM	File folder
Correspondence	2/21/2025 12:31 PM	File folder
Contract or Award Agreement	2/21/2025 12:30 PM	File folder
Award Notice	2/21/2025 12:30 PM	File folder
Application	2/21/2025 12:30 PM	File folder

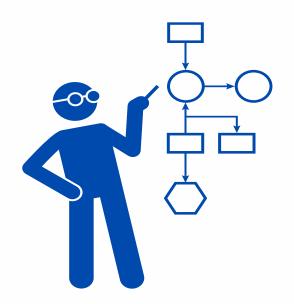


Part III: Becoming Grant Ready

In this section we will discuss...

- Organizational Structure
- Time Management Considerations
- Project Readiness
- Pro Tips





Organizational Structure Analysis

Funding agencies have eligibility requirements related to who they will fund: non-profits, municipalities, small businesses, and/or private citizens.

- Consider your organizational structure. How are you incorporated? Is your financial structure in place?
- Depending on how you are legally structured, are you required to have a governing body/board or CEO and board of directors?
- Do you have a team of individuals with some level of experience, with time to dedicate to grant-related work, including preparation of an application, implementation of a workplan, and financial management and reporting?





Time Management Considerations

- Gathering data, preparing an application, and managing a grant can be time consuming.
- Federal and State grants typically have more requirements and demand more time commitment, versus...
- Private charitable grants, which may also have requirements but are typically less strenuous than government-funded programs.
- Consider your staff and/or volunteer base: do they have additional hours in the week to attend to grant-related tasks?





SULLIVAN COUNTY GRANTS ADMINISTRATION 100 NORTH STREET, MONTICELLO, NY 12701

QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE SEEKING GRANTS

Grant writing requires you to provide details about your organization and "make a case" for why you need funding. You will also have to follow the funder's guidelines for administration and reporting. The time to make sure you have the resources to carry it out is before you make application.



Am I grant ready?

Before you begin the process, compile all of the important information and documents that will likely be required for the application process. Refer to our "Grant Readiness Checklist."



🗶 Is my organization eligible?

Read the grant eligibility description. If you're not sure if you're eligible to apply, contact the funding agency directly for clarification (unless they specify not to contact them.) If you are not eligible, consider partnering with another organization that is.



Does our work further the funder's mission?

While corporate and government funding agencies are a little more cut-and-dry, private and foundation grants often have a particular mission. Review their mission statement, history, and current priorities to determine if your work is a match for their vision.



Does our proposed project/program fit?

Does your program serve the funder's priority demographic? Will it address problems the funder identifies as important areas? Does the project utilize methods the funder clearly does not support? Does the funder prefer new or established programs? Does the funder provide the type of funding you need (operating expenses, capital, or program funding)? Does the funder expect you to be able to sustain your program after the funding period ends?



Do we have the internal resources to meet funding requirements?

Does the grant have a cash or in-kind matching requirement? Reporting requirements are quite extensive and are time *and* labor intensive; will you have the staff to meet these requirements? What about additional staffing, technological, supply, or equipment needs not covered by the grant? Will you need to meet a minimum number of program recipients/participants? Does the project have to be completed in a certain time frame?



Is the grant the right size?

Look at the funding history and see if the funding practices align with your actual need. If the grant is a small amount, will it be worth the resources expended to apply and administer it?



Can we make the deadline?

Some grants have a very quick turn-around time. Will you need to develop a new program initiative and will you have the time and resources to do so? Will pursuing the grant burn out your staff or partnering organizations?



Do we have a good chance of winning?

Take the time to learn about what organizations have been funded in the past, and get a sense of how your project/program compares with funded initiatives.



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GRANT READINESS CHECKLIST

Is your organization interested in applying for grant funding? Before you begin, make sure you are "grant ready" by gathering important information and documents you will need on hand. Depending on the nature of your organization and project, and the funding agency (government vs. private) and type of grant for which you are applying, not all of the following may be necessary. However, it is a helpful exercise to compile as much information as possible so you are well-prepared to apply for funding when the opportunity arises.

Organizational Information

- History (Narrative)
- Year Established
- Articles of Incorporation & By-Laws
- EIN Number
- Address, Phone, Web Address
- Mission/Values Statement
- Service Area/Target Population
- Current Program/Services Description

Governance

- Organizational Structure/Chart
- Board of Directors (affiliations and contact info)
- Strategic Plan/Business Plan
- Executive Director/CEO Bio

Tax Documentation

- Tax exemption status letter
- IRS Form 990
- W-9

Technical Requirements

- Required for federal grants
- UEI (Unique Entity Identifier or SAM, formerly DUNS number)
- SAM Registration
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Financial Information

- Annual Operating Budget
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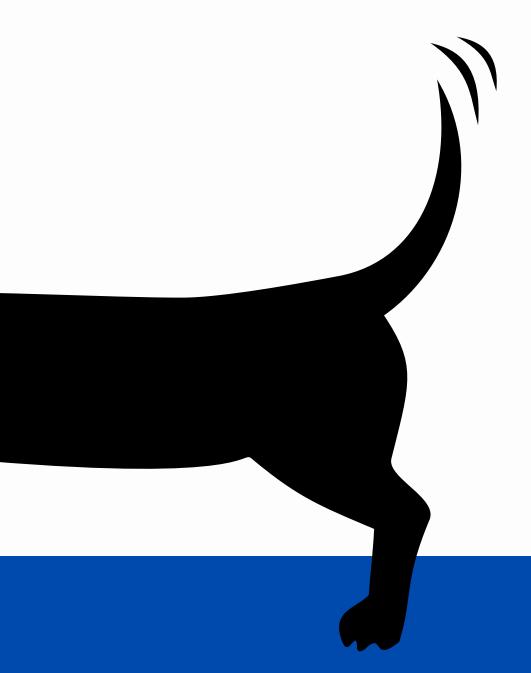
Other Documentation that Might be Required:

- Annual Report
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- Policies and Procedures
- History of Grants/Funding Received or Denied
- News Articles/Photographs/Video Clips/Media
- Staff Information (Number of FT and PT Staff/Bios/Qualifications/Resumes)
- Cost Estimates and Vendor Information (equipment)
- Other Registrations (ex. State & Local Licenses and Registrations)

For information about the grant process and a glossary of grant terminology, visit: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/learn-grants.html



Project Readiness



Don't let the tail wag the dog!

"The first rule in grantseeking is that you don't write a grant request without first completing a comprehensive planning process that involves the grant applicant or organization's key stakeholders."

~Dr. Beverly A. Browning, author of *Grant Writing for Dummies*













Effective Project Planning answers the...





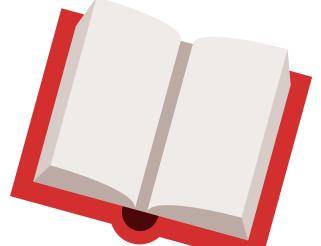
Project Planning Involves...

1) Completing a "Needs Assessment" (Identifying Priorities)

- A process by which your stakeholders identify the most pressing needs and solutions to address those needs.
- The process may involve data analysis, objective and subjective observations, surveys, or other metrics.
- A Needs Assessment may also involve identifying obstacles and challenges which must be overcome in order to address an issue.

2) Identifying Goals and Objectives (Proposing a Solution)

- Your Needs Assessment will help you develop appropriate Goals and Objectives.
- Goals refer to the broad, long-term outcomes you hope to achieve.
- Objectives are the specific, measurable actions you can take within a specific time frame to meet those goals.



In the end, you want to be able to "tell a story"...but it needs to be a compelling story based on data and facts with a coherent, sensible solution.



SMART Goals

Specific
Measurable
Achievable
Relevant
Time-bound





3 Grant Readiness Pro-Tips

Pro-Tip # 1: Map who is doing what...



- Project Planning
- Project Manager (Lead)
- Administrative Tasks
- Reporting
- Fiscal-related Tasks

Pro-Tip # 2: Use tools...



- Becoming Grant Ready Checklist
- Needs Assessment Worksheet
- Preparing a Winning Grant Proposal



- Coordinate with your organization's leadership to structure a team prepped for grants.
- · Make sure assignments make sense.

"What is this person's skill set?"

- o Fiscal experience?
- o Special expertise related to the workplan?
- o Detail oriented and organized?
- o Comfortable with technology?
- Does it make sense to engage a Grant Writer?

Pro-Tip # 3: Involve stakeholders in conversation...



- Stakeholders may include your organization's leadership, service base, board members, community partners, etc.
- Consult, ask questions



A majority of grant-related problems can be prevented as long as...

- Your team adheres to protocols, addresses organizational structure and knowledge gap issues.
- Project Manager takes ownership and has team support.
- Internal processes are followed.
- Everything stays REALLY organized.
- You contact your funding agency representative with questions.

And remember...

- Know your Reporting Requirements
- Submit claims properly!
- And <u>stay organized!</u>



Part IV: Tools and

In this section we will review...

- Resources to advance grant knowledge
- Resources available from the Sullivan County

Department of Grants Administration



RESOURCES

For Expanding Knowledge...

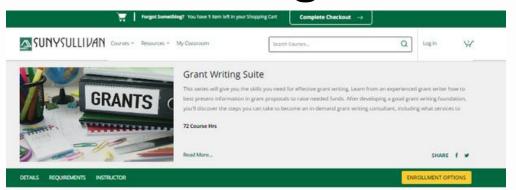
Grants.gov Learning Center



Your Local Library



SUNY Sullivan ed2go Grant Writing Course



Professional Organizations such as the Grant Professionals Association and the National Grant Management Association





Sullivan Count Grants Administration Webpage













How can we help?

a



Grants Administration

mall Business Resource Guide

Helpful Resources

Quick Links

Grant Readiness Tools

Special Announcements

Helpful Links

NEW: 2025 Discretionary Funding Application

Sullivan County 2025 Adopted Budget

Sign Up for Property Fraud Alerts

Make Your DMV Appointment

Calendar of County

Government Events

Watch Legislature Meetings

January/February 2025 County Manager's Newsletter

Sullivan County 2024 Strategic Plan

Sullivan County 2023 Annual Report

Freedom of Information Law (FOIL)



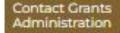
Grants Administration

Special Announcements

2025 Sullivan 180 Grants Now Available - https://sullivan180.org/grantsscholarships

Hudson Valley Animal Shelter Fund Grant - due January 31, 2025 https://cfosny.org/apply-for-a-grant/

USDA Rural Development Single Family Housing Repair Loans and Grantsprovides loans to very low income homeowners to repair, improve or
modernize their homes, or provides grants to the elderly, very low income
homeowners to remove health and safety hazards. To qualify you must be
the homeowner and occupy the house, be unable to obtain affordable
credit elsewhere, have a family income within the very low income limit,
and for grants – be 62 or older. For information visit
https://www.rdusda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housingprograms/single-family-housing-repair-loans-grants.





Arthur J. Hussey Director

Jennifer Perito Grant Writer

Grants Administration Department

County Government Center 100 North Street, PO Box 5012 Monticello, NY 12701-5012

View Map

Phone: 845-807-0468 Email the Grants Administration Department







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PROJECT PLANNING NEEDS ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

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Think of this template as a very basic tool to help you brainstorm, identify key ideas, and to form a basis for a highly detailed grant proposal. 1. What is the problem? Who is affected, where, what is the issue, and why is it an issue?

2. What is the solution? You can frame your answer by describing your proposed project.

3. Do you have the data? Can you justify need, or is additional research required?

4. What is in the way? What are the obstacles preventing you from implementing the solution? (Obstacles can be related to capacity, financial resources, sustainability, lack of technical knowledge, etc.)

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etc.?

5. What information is lacking? What information do you need in order to fully flesh out a plan? What are species what information do you need in order to fully flesh out a plan? What are against the input of experts/model agencies.

Your "unanswered questions" related to your project that might require the input of experts/model agencies. 5. What information is lacking? What information do you need in order to fully flesh out a plan? What are your "unanswered questions" related to your project that might require the input of experts/model agencies etc.?



Preparing a Winning Crant Proposal







Locating Funding Sources

- Grants.gov (Federal Programs)
- NYS Statewide Financial System (State Programs)

 Note: Some Federal and State agencies allow you to sign up for newsletters/notifications.
- Community Foundations
- Regional Agencies

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- Ex. the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development CouncilGrant Clearinghouses
 - Ex. Foundation Directory (Candid), GrantStation, GrantWatch, Instrumentl, etc.
- Scout the internet for books, blogs, and other sources but confirm they're produced by credible sources.
- A list of clearinghouses and programs is available on our website under "Helpful Resources."

https://sullivanny.gov/Departments/grants

Note: Sullivan County provides information about resources on our website as a courtesy to the public and does not endorse one over the other, nor is the list provided exhaustive by way of available agencies. Fundseekers may engage in additional research and use their discretion in order to meet their particular needs.



Additional Considerations about Funding Sources...

Municipalities

More often than not, Federal and State funding programs tend to fund municipalities more often than other entities, although non-profits and businesses can be eligible for certain programs. There are some private charitable foundations that will also fund municipal/local government projects.

Government-based funding agencies will typically look to fund planning, capital or programming projects in alignment with their legislative goals and initiatives related to:

- Public Health & Well Being
- Infrastructure/Housing
- Environment
- Transportation
- Economic Development
- Public Safety

Non-Profits

Non-profits can often locate funding sources from private, charitable funding agencies. Private funders may fund a range of activities, usually in close alignment with their professed mission.

Broadly speaking, private funding may fund initiatives related to areas including:

- Health and Wellness
- Fine Arts/Performance Arts
- Human Rights Advocacy
- Economic Development
- Education
- Animal Welfare

Businesses

Federal and State agencies offer funding opportunities for business development, although they do tend to fund larger-scale operations that will result in a high level of job creation or business endeavors in alignment with specific regional initiatives, for example, funding certain types of industries. Some private charitable funders will also fund small businesses in alignment with their professed mission.

For the most part, funders will fund start up or expansion projects for:

- Capital
- Equipment
- Marketing

They <u>do not</u> typically fund expenses that would normally be considered "operational costs." Businesses may opt to seek out loans for their endeavors.



Your Next Steps?

- Gather together your stakeholders for conversation.
- Identify needs and priorities and proposed solutions.
- Take advantage of resources to enhance your grant knowledge.
- Start planning a project, along with a budget.
- Research funding opportunities.

*Keep in mind - if you determine your project may be eligible for Federal or State Funding, remember to adhere to procurement guidelines and do not draw down expenditures without a fully executed contract.



Thank you for participating!





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