

GRANT RESOURCE GUIDE

U.S. SENATOR CLAIRE MCCASKILL www.mccaskill.senate.gov

DEAR FRIENDS:

Missouri has always been a leader in providing essential programs and services to its citizens. I am dedicated to ensuring that we have the resources necessary to continue to meet this standard.

Many Missourians have asked me how businesses, non-profits, and communities can obtain funds to assist them in accomplishing their goals. Federal grants provide an excellent opportunity to secure funding for various projects, services, and programs. Federal grants are financial assistance awards available to many state, local, community, and non-profit organizations.

Those wishing to take advantage of federal grants will need to participate in the research and application process. I realize that this can be a difficult and often overwhelming process. My office has created the following guide as a way to help Missourians find and access the resources available.

This manual offers a comprehensive view into the federal grant process. It offers a step-by-step guide intended to simplify the process of researching and applying for federal grants. In addition to this guide, I recommend that you take advantage of many online resources, all of which can be found by visiting www.mccaskill.senate. gov/services/grants.cfm. Here you will find a central source for information on grants, including key federal funding sources.

I hope this guide is helpful. If you have any questions or encounter any problems with the information provided here, please do not hesitate to contact one of my offices. My staff would be happy to assist you and, to the extent possible, point you in the right direction to find the answers you need.

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How Our Office Can Help

Grants are an excellent way to obtain the funds needed to realize the missions of many state, local, community, and nonprofit organizations. Our office can help you by:

- Providing links to grant information and resources on our website: www.mccaskill.senate.gov. Select the tab Help for Missourians, then select the tab Grants and Federal Domestic Assistance.
- Writing a letter of support for your federal grant application.
 Once your federal grant application is complete, contact any of our offices for more information about obtaining a letter of support.
- Contacting the appropriate federal agency to determine if a particular grant is currently funded or soon to be funded.
- Contacting the appropriate federal agency to determine if the grant has been awarded.

5 Steps to Grant Search Success!

Although the grant research and application process can seem overwhelming at first, following these steps will help you navigate through the grant process:

1. Confirm your organization is eligible for a grant

There are many entities that are eligible to apply for government grants. To determine eligibility and to apply for a registration number, visit www.grants.gov.

2. Clearly identify your project objective

It is helpful to begin by identifying your project objective. Clearly-defined project objectives are critical to identifying the scope and parameters of your research.

3. Investigate government funding options

Federal, state, and local governments have a large number of resources available over a broad spectrum of areas. Federal grants are usually awarded through a competitive process based on a variety of factors including need, research or demonstration and the service provided.

Search Private Funding Sources

As a second option for grant funding you can look for private funding sources. These can either be private foundations, community foundations or public grant making charities.

Note: There is currently <u>no free searchable database</u> of all private funders online. Foundation grant information can be accessed through multiple sources online or at your local library.

5. Consider Corporate Support

As a third source of grant funding, consider contacting corporations. Corporate foundations often have private foundations (file status: 990-PF) or corporate giving programs (part of corporate structure).

Resources for corporate support can be found through multiple sources online.

Online Resources for Government Funding:

www.cfda.gov The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance gives you access to a database of all Federal grant programs available. It is recommended that you begin searching the database by using the keyword or program number. These searches will give you a thorough sense of grant options available.

Tips: Use broad search terms to maximize results. You cannot apply for grant assistance through this website.

2. <u>www.grants.gov</u> Grants.gov is another source to find and apply for federal government grants.

Tip: Register on this site to be eligible to apply for grants online. It can take three weeks after you register to receive your password and username.

- http://www.mo.gov/mo/pdf/MoCSAP.pdf Missouri Catalog of State Assistance Programs links you to state funding opportunities. It contains summaries of Missouri state grant programs and federal programs administered by Missouri state agencies.
- www.recovery.gov This is the website for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The site includes information about federal grant opportunities, awards and contracts as well as formula grant allocations resulting from the ARRA.

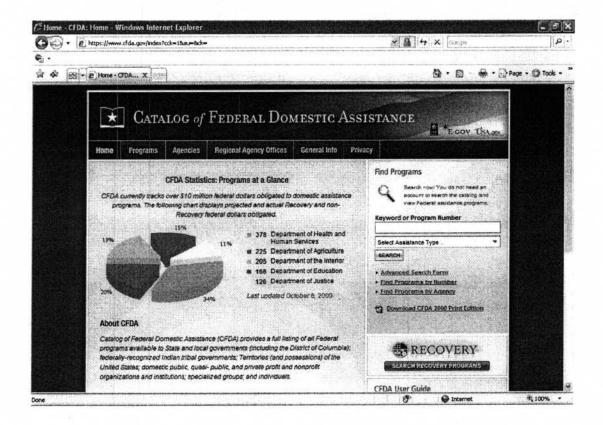
Sample Grant Research Project

There is no question that the grant process, particularly the research, can be overwhelming. In order to help, a sample grant research project has been included below. It clearly and simply lists the steps taken to identify which grants would be the best grant for you.

Scenario: [Project objective] You are a not-for-profit organization seeking federal funding to establish an after-school program designed to prevent youth from participating in drugs, gangs, and violence by providing fun, educational alternatives such as sports, music, art, and cooking classes.

1. Go to CFDA website.

 Take a look at the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Homepage: www.cfda.gov

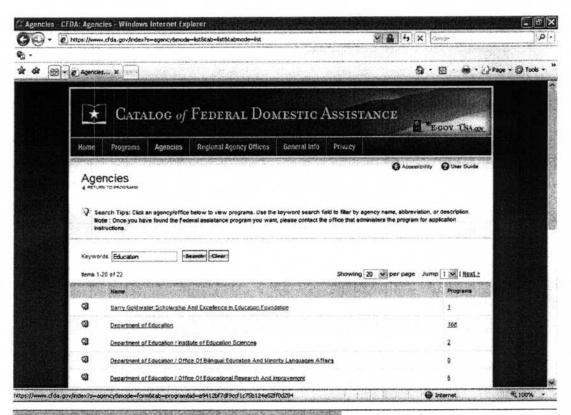


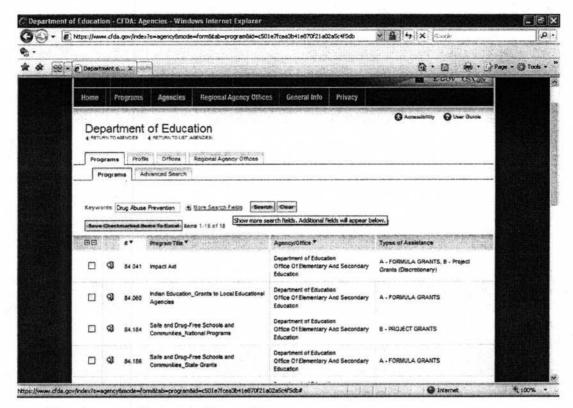
2. Perform a Search.

- There are a number of options under which you can search, including: Keyword, Program Number, or by Agency.
- Browsing by Agency is a good first step towards refining your search to applicable programs. If you choose not to first narrow your search by agency, a keyword search may yield considerable results that are outside your intended range.

Tip: If you are unsure which agency to choose, you may simply browse a list of participating granting agencies in order to determine which agency would be most appropriate.

- In this specific example, a search was performed for "Drug Abuse Prevention" programs offered by the agency Department of Education. Be sure to check under any related categories using relevant keywords.
- Scroll through the results to find which grant programs best suit your needs and click on the program name / number to find out more information.





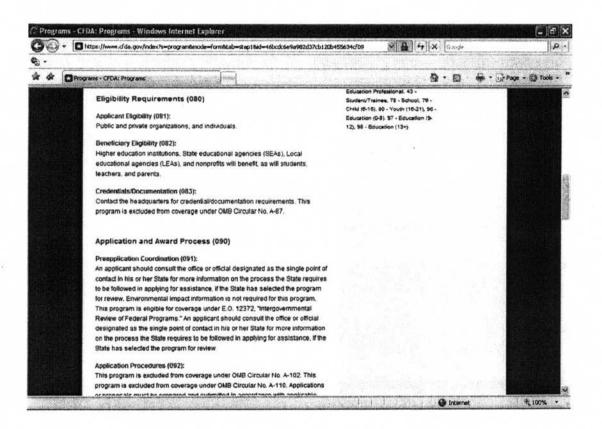
3. Evaluate Search Results.

 Scroll through the results to find which grant programs best suit your needs and click on the program name / number to find out more information.



4. Evaluate Grant Requirements.

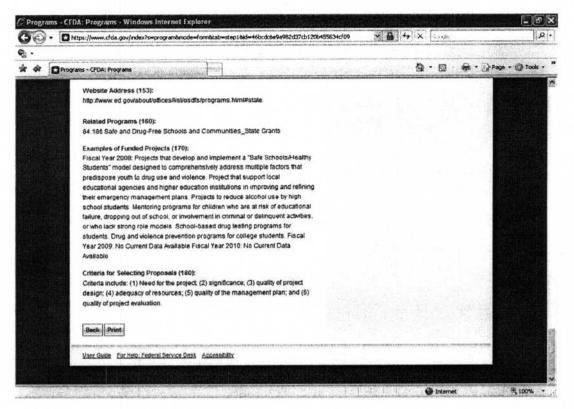
- Once you are on the grant program description page, look over the objectives, uses, restrictions, and eligibility to determine if the program is applicable and suited to your organization's purpose.
- If you have specific questions, contact the appropriate agency or contact our office for assistance.



5. Check Currently Funded Programs.

 Once you have the grant description page pulled up, scroll to the "Examples of Funded Projects" section to review funded programs to compare them to yours. This will give you some idea about whether or not your program may qualify for funding.

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6. Keep Track of Relevant Grant Programs.

 As you find relevant programs, note them for ease of returning to them for more information.

Apply.

- Please review the guidelines to ensure you are prepared to meet the specific grant requirements.
- Never wait until the last minute.
- Understand systems may go down. Save applications on an external hard drive or CD.
- Keep hard copies of everything for your personal records.

8. Contact Our Office.

- In many cases our office will be able to write a letter of support for your grant application.
- Contact one of our Missouri offices for assistance.

Grant Checklist for Constituents

- 1. Prior to beginning grant research...
- · Confirm your organization is eligible for a grant
- · Clearly identify your project objective
- 2. When beginning grant research, go online to...
- Register to apply online through www.grants.gov
- · Investigate government funding options
- Search private funding sources
- Consider corporate support
- 3. Before submitting the grant application...
 - · Verify grant application deadline
 - Proofread application
- Verify grant application requirements are satisfied
- 4. Once grant application is submitted...
 - Keep a hard copy for your records
- Request letters of support for your grant application

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Office Locations

Cape Girardeau

555 Independence, Room 1600 Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63703

> Tel: 573-651-0964 Fax: 573-334-4278

Columbia

915 East Ash Street Columbia, Mo 65201

Tel: 573-442-7130 Fax: 573-442-7140

Kansas City

4141 Pennsylvania, Suite 101 Kansas City, MO 64111 Tel: 816-421-1639

Fax: 816-421-2562

Springfield

324 Park Central West, Suite 101 Springfield, MO 65806 Tel: 417-868-8745

Fax: 417-831-1349

Saint Louis

5850 A Delmar Boulevard St. Louis, MO 63112 Tel: 314-367-1364

Fax: 314-361-8649

Washington, D.C.

Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 717 Washington, DC 20510

Tel: 202-224-6154 Fax: 202-228-6326

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