

General Guide to Government Funding Assistance

Government funding comes in many different forms. Below discusses several of the more common forms, but is far from exclusive.

- **Individual benefits:** Individual benefits are often called “entitlements,” and include Social Security benefits, Medicare, VA benefits, etc. For more information or assistance with individual benefits, please contact the Pennsylvania 7th Congressional District Office at 610-892-8623 or by mail at 600 N. Jackson Street, Suite 203, Media, PA 19063 or visit (<http://www.govbenefits.gov/govbenefits.en.portal>).
- **Appropriations:** Often referred to as “earmarks,” appropriations are usually large projects that are specifically placed in appropriations bills. Forms to apply for an appropriation are available beginning in mid-December by contacting the District Office at 610-892-8623 or by mail at 600 N. Jackson Street, Suite 203, Media, PA 19063. The forms must be completed and returned to the District Office by the designated end of March deadline. Appropriations are approved once the appropriation bill containing it passes both houses and is signed by the President. This can happen as early as late fall, but in the last several decades, the process has often extended to the end of the year, and in some cases into the beginning of the next year. It should also be noted that recent actions by Congress have dramatically cut funds available for appropriations, favoring the competitive grant process.
- **Grants:** As the amount of money going to appropriations has decreased, more money has been funneled into the competitive grant process. Federal grant dollars are designated for federal grants, but also large block grants are given to states and local governments to administer. So, even though a grant may come from a Pennsylvania department, quite often the source of the funding is a federal block grant. Along with government grant money, hundreds of foundations and individuals offer grant opportunities and these should not be overlooked.
- **Procurement:** Whether you are a small company or a large company, there are often government procurement opportunities available to you. Toward the end of each year, the District hosts a government procurement summit. This event brings together government procurement officials, large government contractors, and area businesses to provide educational and networking opportunities, facilitating regional access to federal procurement dollars. If you are interested in attending, please contact the District Office at 610-892-8623 or by mail at 600 N. Jackson Street, Suite 203, Media, PA 19063 to ensure you are on are notification list for this event. In the meantime, you can visit http://www.usa.gov/Business/Business_Gateway.shtml to learn more about the federal government procurement process. And if you are a small business, you can contact the Small Business Development Center at Widener University (<http://www.widenersbdc.org/>) at 1450 Edgmont Avenue, Suite 120, Chester, PA 19013, (610) 619-8490 for assistance.

Grant Basics

1. **Need and plan.** Determine your need and formulate a plan for implementation.
2. **Find opportunity.** Search or browse the federal, state, & private catalogs for potential grant opportunities that fit that need. This may require some creative thinking.
3. **Contact grant technician.** Once you have identified potential funding sources, it is often recommended that you contact the grant technician at the granting source to discuss the application process and how best to present your grant request to maximize the chances of award selection.
4. **Check regularly.** Check the sites weekly for new grant postings.
5. **Write proposal.** Learn how to write grant proposals.

How Congressman Sestak can be of Further Assistance

- Match up local groups working toward the same goals
- Bring the project to the attention of my Community & Economic Development Advisory Committees
- Direct the applicant to grant writing aid sources
- Review grant applications
- Write letters of support
- Follow-up with grant sources on the status of the grant

Federal Grant Sources

www.Grants.gov

A Federal Grants web site that allows organizations to electronically find and apply for current competitive grant opportunities from ALL Federal agencies. Grant seekers can check on notices of funding availability posted in the last seven days; sign up to receive e-mail notification of future grant opportunities; and apply for Federal grants online through a unified process. For full Federal program descriptions, see CFDA below.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

(<http://12.46.245.173/cfda/cfda.html>)

The Catalog (CFDA), issued annually and updated continuously on the Web, describes some 1600 Federal grants and non-financial assistance programs. Grant-seekers can identify programs that might support their projects and can learn the program's objectives, requirements, application procedures and contacts. For current notices of funding availability, see Grants.gov. A hard copy of the catalog can be obtained through the Government Printing Office (<http://bookstore.gpo.gov/> or 1-866-512-1800) or by visiting a Federal Depository Library. Some local Federal Depository Libraries include: Norristown Public Library, Ursinus College Myrin Library, Swarthmore College McCabe Library, Villanova University Law School Library, and West Chester University Francis Harvey Green Library. A complete list can be found at (<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/libraries.html>).

Federal Grant Sources

Federal Funds Express

(http://www.house.gov/ffr/resources_all.shtml)

This website lists recommended sources of information for researching grants, procurement, and other resources on the Internet.

Homeland Security and FEMA grants

(<http://www.dhs.gov/xopnbiz/grants/>)

A good source to explore for disaster recovery, equipment and resources for police forces, fire departments, ambulatory services, local governments, or transportation security. It should be noted that these grants tend to have early year deadlines. The Homeland Security Department of Pennsylvania contact can be found at (<http://www.dhs.gov/xgovt/grants/states/pennsylvania.shtml>).

Emergency Food and Shelter Program

(<http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/efs.shtml>)

Created in 1983 to supplement the work of local social service organizations within the United States, both private and governmental, to help people in need of emergency assistance.

USA.gov Government-to-Government

([http://www.usa.gov/government/government Gateway.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/government/government%20Gateway.shtml))

Thousands of grants and loans are made by the Federal government to State and local governments, as well as other public entities. This site provides one-stop access to grants management and Federal Assistance programs, in addition to resources about acquisition and procurement, financial management, and taxes.

USA.gov for Nonprofits and Businesses

(http://www.usa.gov/Business/Business_Gateway.shtml)

Links to Federal Department and Agency information and service for nonprofit organizations, including fundraising and outreach, grants, loans and other assistance, laws and regulations, management and operations, online services, registration and licensing, and tax information.

Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

(<http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/centers.html>)

The Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, and Labor operate a number of programs to serve Americans in need for which faith-based and community organizations may apply. Many are "formula grants" made available to States and local governments, which in turn award grants to grassroots and local organizations. For information, see "Consult Guidance to Faith-Based and Community Organizations on Partnering with the Federal Government" (http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/guidance_document_01-06.pdf) and "Federal Funds for Organizations That Help Those in Need" (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/grants-catalog-05-2006.pdf>).

Private & Corporate Funding Sources

The Foundation Center

(<http://www.foundationcenter.org/>) A gateway to information about private funding sources, the grant-seeking process, guidelines on writing a grant proposal, addresses of State libraries with grants reference collections, and links to other useful Internet Web sites. The Center maintains a comprehensive database on foundations; produces print, Web, and CD-ROM directories and guides; conducts research and publishes studies in the field; and offers a variety of training and educational seminars.

Grant Resources by State (Grantsmanship Center)

(<http://www.tgci.com/funding/state.asp?statename=Pennsylvania&statefile=pennsylvania&statecode=PA&stateurl=http://www.state.pa.us/>) Click on State map to find links to information about a state's foundations, community foundations, corporate giving programs and the State's home page.

Community Foundation Locator (Council on Foundations)

(<http://www.cof.org/locator/SearchResults.cfm?state=PA>) - Community foundations that have special interest in funding local and community projects.

CharityChannel

(<http://charitychannel.com/>) – “CharityChannel is a resource that connects you to your nonprofit colleagues across town, across the country, and around the world.”

Council on Foundations

(<http://www.cof.org/>)

Grants for Nonprofits

(<http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/2sgalpha.htm>)

Philanthropic Studies Library

Subject Links: (<http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/special/psl/index.html>)

Grant Writing Resources

CFDA's Developing and Writing Grant Proposals

(http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.GRANT_PROPOSAL_DYN.show)

Foundation Center's Proposal Writing Short Course

(<http://foundationcenter.org/getstarted/tutorials/shortcourse/index.html>)

Other Resources

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Consumer Alert

(<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/alt134.shtm>)

Ads claiming federal grants are available for home repairs, home business, and unpaid bills are often a scam. Most sources of grants don't give money to individuals for personal need (except in disaster situations). The FTC, the Nation's Consumer Protection Agency, also warns consumers to beware of paying "processing fees" for free information.

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars

(<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/index.html>)

OMB establishes government-wide grants management policies and guidelines through circulars and common rules. OMB Circulars are cited in Catalog program descriptions and may be printed out full text.