

Government Grants - FAQs



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Can you guarantee that a grant proposal will be funded?

A: No. We are not aware of any legitimate grant writing firm that can make and keep such a guarantee. There is always a risk involved in pursuing grant funding – regardless of our previous award success.

Q: Can I pay for grant writing services out of the awarded grant?

A: It depends on the application guideline. On certain applications, it will inform you of the stipulations in order to be reimbursed for grant writer fees. But many times, a grantor will not allow grant money to be used to pay for services rendered prior to an award.

Q: Are there grants for starting a business?

A: Unfortunately, there are not many grants available for profit-making businesses. There are grant funds available for businesses that provide jobs, (and job training) for disadvantaged and/or disabled workers that are located in high poverty areas that need more jobs or that provide certain services in these areas (such as child care or after school program); or for businesses that partner with a non-profit organization in a joint effort to provide community-focused related programs and services. If you are planning to start a profit-making business that does not fit within these eligible grant categories, please visit our [Government Resources](#) site and learn more about the Small Business Administration process.

Q: How much time does it take to prepare a grant proposal?

A: The amount of time and work it takes to prepare a grant application is a direct function of the number of people on your project team. Most grants have four to six weeks between the time the application is released and when the proposal is due. For larger, more complex grant proposals, this may not be a long enough time. Planning well in advance of the application release date can give you a head start and alleviate some of the pressure. Please visit our [FREE Resources](#) page for tips and videos on how to prepare to apply for a grant.

Q: What type of grants are available?

A: Many Federal, state, foundation, and corporate grants are available. The primary source of grant funding by far is the Federal Government. Federal funding includes both federal entitlements or formula funds, and competitive grants. Be aware, that the most difficult task when writing a grant is the process of locating an application that fits your project. Please visit our [FREE Resources](#) page for tips and videos on where to look for Notice of Funding Opportunities as you prepare to apply for a grant.

Q: What does it take to win a grant?

A: Many grant applications are accompanied by scoring criteria or rubrics. Read them carefully, because they will provide specific guidelines for creating a winning proposal. In the absence of a scoring rubric, read through the grant guidelines and make a careful list of all the items you must answer. As you fill out the application, check off each item so your proposal is in full



compliance with the grant requirements. Aside from knowing the grantor's prerequisites to win a grant, you must have a well-crafted idea, excellent research, collaboration, innovation and need for your proposed project.

Q: What skills or education is needed to write a grant?

A: There are not any required skills or education needed to write a grant, but guidance from an "experienced grant writer" with documented success is always helpful. Just because someone took a class to receive a "certification" does not make them a grant writer. Grant writing "Subject Matter Experts" are developed over time and have a proven track record. Please visit our [FREE Resources](#) page to view the "Let's Get Started" video.

Q: If my grant is funded, when do I get the money?

A: You will not receive a check in the mail! Nearly all grant funding is now done through electronic deposit into a bank account. Many times, the grantor will prefer for the money to be deposited in a non-interest-bearing account. Should you earn interest on grant funds, the government will expect you to return the interest accrued back to the government. Depending on the award package, the money may only be sent as "reimbursement" after proof of expenditure is provided. Others may allow a monthly "draw-down" or quarterly, depending on the project. The important thing to remember is "**DOCUMENT, DOCUMENT, DOCUMENT!**" for future monitoring or audits.

Q: If matching funds are required, can the match be in-kind or does it have to be dollar-for-dollar?

A: Matching funds depend on the guidelines for the application. Many times, the "match" can be in-kind labor or donated property. Look for criteria in the application guidelines for clarification and be prepared to provide Letters of Support and or Memorandums of Understanding/Agreement (MOUs/MOAs) as these are necessary to prove the matches as required.

Q: If you start a project before grant dollars are in hand, can you "repay" yourself once the grant dollars are received?

A: Grant dollars can only be spent between the beginning date of the Award Letter and the end date. This timeframe is known as a "Period of Performance" and can consist of a one-year period or a multiple-year period.

