

From word problem to processes and solutions – The basics of grant writing

Kathleen is an educator. She has found some great tools and resources that will help her students and enhance their learning experience. These items will cost \$X. How can Kathleen solve for \$X?

1. Overcome your resistance.

One of the best ways for me to get motivated is to hear about how others succeeded. So here are just a few examples.

1. My first externally funded grant – for research, \$2,500, support from someone at my institution, helped me make a plan, reviewed my proposal, and assisted with the submission.
2. Internal funding – Just in Time Grant to help with classroom tech purchase. Under \$500. 1-page application identifying problem, solution, and total costs.
3. Kindergarten teacher – Secured funding for fit ball stools from the PTA. Incorporated the “bounce” into classroom activities.
4. My school district is supported by a nonprofit that holds an annual fundraiser. <https://gisdedfoundation.org> \$1,000 max.

2. What do you need?

- a. Identify your need, develop a plan to address the need, and achieve and measure results.
- b. Be specific and explain it so that anyone can understand.

3. Conduct a search.

- i. Online searches
- ii. Pre-application announcements
- iii. Association List Serves

4. Check for fit.

- i. Review eligibility and requirements, selection criteria, etc.
- ii. What are the funding priorities of the grant maker?
- iii. What is the organization’s history for grantmaking?
- iv. Are there geographic boundaries to be considered?
- v. What is the size of the average grant awarded?
- vi. What is the application process and requirements?
- vii. What is the deadline?

5. Get ready to draft.

- a. Review sample proposals, if possible.
- b. Who is your audience? Remember you want to connect with them so write your proposal with them in mind.
- c. What are the expectations for this grant? Why does it matter?
- d. Why are you an ideal person to carry this out?
- e. Can you clearly communicate your problem and solution?
- f. On what criteria will your proposal or application be assessed?
 - i. The USDA offers the following as common criteria:

1. Quality of the project design
2. Quality of project evaluation
3. Need for the project
4. Significance
5. Quality of the management plan
6. Quality of the project personnel
7. Adequacy of resources

6. Prepare your application or proposal.

- a. Check the specific requirements.
- b. The Purdue Online Writing Lab the following as common materials:
 1. Cover letter
 2. Executive summary
 3. Problem statements/need description
 4. Work schedule
 5. Budget
 6. Qualifications
 7. Conclusions
 8. Appendices
- c. ***Requirements for smaller grants are often fewer than the above list.*** Don't get over-whelmed by looking at the universe of things they could require, just the ones that are necessary to complete your application/proposal.
- d. Be clear, concise, and persuasive.

7. Submit your application or proposal.

- a. Prepare for success. If you are awarded the grant, are you ready to execute the project?
- b. Remember, if at first you don't succeed, try again. If you are not awarded funding, accept opportunities for feedback. Comments from the reviewing committee, if offered, can provide valuable insights into the decision and help you make improvements or identify a different funder.
- c. Lather, rinse, repeat. More precisely, review the feedback, repeat the process, and try again.

Preliminary Sources

The Foundation Directory

\$219.99/month, but....

Public and university libraries may have subscriptions and have community access/benefits.

Ask at your local library, a local university library, or even your alma mater.

Grant Writing 101: Information and Tips for Preparing and Submitting an Application

Debbie Kalnasy and Bryan Williams

Department of Education

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs/grantwrite101.pdf>

Grant Writing 101: Start with the Basics

Grant Writer Team Blog

<http://www.grantwriterteam.com/blog/grant-writing/grant-writing-basics/>

How to Write a Grant

Planning and Writing a Grant Proposal: The Basics, The Writing Center, University of Wisconsin – Madison

<https://writing.wisc.edu/handbook/assignments/grants-2/>

Introduction to Grant Writing

Purdue Online Writing Lab, Purdue University

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/subject_specific_writing/professional_technical_writing/grant_writing/index.html

Textbooks, etc.

Henson, Kenneth, Successful Grant Writing for School Leaders:10 Easy Steps, (2011), Allyn & Bacon. (ISBN: 9780137072729)

A Starter List of Lists of Grants and Possible Sources

Inspiration for Instruction

<http://www.inspirationforinstruction.org/classroom-grants.html>

Instrumental

<https://www.instrumentl.com/browse-grants/texas/grants-for-k-12-schools>

The Crazy Coupon Lady

<https://thekrazycouponlady.com/tips/money/grants-for-teachers>

Teach.com

<https://teach.com/what/teachers-change-lives/grants-for-teachers/>

Texas Grant Watch

<https://texas.grantwatch.com/cat/42/teachers-grants.html>

Transforming Education Through Technology

<https://thejournal.com/articles/resources/upcoming-grants-and-events.aspx>

Examples:

Toshiba STEM Project-Based Learning Grants for Teachers Grades 6-12

3 categories.

K-5 < \$1,000

6-12 < \$5,000

6-12 > \$5,000

NEA Foundation Learning & Leadership Grants

Award: \$2,000 or \$5,000 (\$1,500 - \$5,000 on another listing)

Association of American Educators Foundation Classroom Grant

Award: \$500

USDA Rural Development

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-programs/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants>

Waterford

<https://www.waterford.org/education/educational-grants/>

We Are Teachers

<https://www.weareteachers.com/education-grants/>

Examples:

Ezra Jack Keats Foundation \$500 or less

Casey's Cash for Classrooms \$3,000 - 50,000

National Girls Collaborative Projects \$1,000

American Chemistry Society (Multiple, varied)

Philanthropic Organizations

Chapters of the Junior League

Community Foundations

Lions Clubs

Parent Teacher Associations (At your school, for your district, etc.)

Rotary Clubs

School Foundations