

5. Identify an Appropriate Funding Source

Now that you have started to form:

- a more refined project idea;
- a wider awareness of the ecosystem of existing projects in your field;
- a sense of the national, local, or institutional demand for your project;
- and a clearer sense of the resources at your disposal

... the next step is to find an appropriate funding source. Below you will find some suggestions as to where to begin the search for funding. As you look for possible funders, below are some guidelines for the process:

1. Check federal, state, and local grant-making agencies, and local foundations for possibility of grants.
 - a) Federal agencies list all of their available grants on <http://grants.gov>. If you apply for a federal grant, you will need to set up an account. It is best to set this up in advance rather than at the last minute.
 - b) States also have opportunities for grants, such as state humanities councils. IMLS currently provides funding to states for library initiatives. Those funding amounts and their past uses can be found at http://www.ims.gov/programs/use_of_funds_by_state.aspx.
 - c) Private foundations are also possible areas to look. The following sites may prove useful:
 - The Foundation Center: <http://foundationcenter.org/>
 - A Directory of State and Local Foundations: http://foundationcenter.org/getstarted/topical/sl_dir.html
 - The Council on Foundations Community Foundations List: <http://www.cof.org/whoweserve/community/resources/index.cfm?navItemNumber=15626#locator>
 - d) The USDA offers a valuable *Guide to Funding Resources*, which includes links to potential government and private funding groups, as well as grant-writing resources: <http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/fundguide.html#privatefunding>.
2. Check your institution's eligibility for a potential grants before beginning the application process. Eligibility requirements and restrictions are often found in grant guidelines.
3. Review the types of projects this program funds, and consider how your project fits with the agency or foundation's mission and strategic goals.
4. Review a potential grant program's deadlines and requirements (including proposal requirements and format for submission).
5. Identify funding levels/maxes, and keep them close at hand as you develop your budget.

In this packet, you will find some examples of grant programs from IMLS, NEH, and NEA, along with links to their grant guidelines.