

Stephanie Gerding's Winning Library Grants

Grant Sources

Corporate Funders

Some corporations have national giving programs, and/or local community grants. Some give funds locally every month. Go to the websites of a few corporations that serve your community to look for grants. Find links to "Community", "Community Involvement," or "Giving." Examples: [Target](#), [Dollar General](#), [Walmart](#), [Best Buy](#).

Government Funders

Federal Agency websites. Find grant opportunities on the following websites.

- [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#)
- [National Endowment for the Arts](#)
- [National Endowment for the Humanities](#)
- [National Library of Medicine](#)
- [US Department of Education](#)
- [HUD Community Development Block Grant Program](#)

[Grants.gov](#) is the site for all federal grants. Under the tab Search Grants, use the Basic Search with the keywords for your project. Limit by selecting Eligibility based on whether your organization is considered a government agency, a tribal organization, or a nonprofit, for example. Limit by Category under Arts, Humanities, Education (or whichever best matches your grant project or library/museum emphasis).

State Agency websites.

- [Your State Humanities Council](#)
- [Your State Arts Council](#)
- [Your State Department of Education](#)
- [Your State Library](#)

Local [City/County Government](#) Contact your local departments of arts, business, community development, environment, historical preservation, education, youth, technology, and archives.

Grant Giving Foundations

1. **Candid's Foundation Center *Visualizing Funding for Libraries Data Tool* at libraries.foundationcenter.org.** Explore funding data using the features. Using the Advanced Search, change Show Grants by: to *Foundation*, and check off applicable subject areas through Browse all Subjects. Filter by recent grant years to find current opportunities.
2. **[GuideStar](https://www.guidestar.org) by Candid (<https://www.guidestar.org>) to search for foundations.** Click on the Search tab to do an advanced search. Or use Candid's free database, [FDO Quick Start](#), to research funders. You'll have to sign up for a free account. Find out who is giving grants in your subject area and geographic area. Look at grant recipients to find potential partners.
3. **Search published grant announcements at Candid's Philanthropy News Digest.** Go to <http://philanthropynewsdigest.org/rfps> and search for RFPs for funding library projects, or a project like yours. You can search by Subject or Keywords in the Search RFP box or use the pull-down menu from the top of the screen, RFPs, to browse by Subject.

4. Use The Grantsmanship Center www.tgci.com/funding-sources to find out about foundations, community foundations, and corporate giving programs. Look up the top 40 foundations in your state and follow a few links to search for a good match for your project.

Local Nongovernmental Funding Sources

Local research may require personal communication such as phone calls, networking, relationship building, and marketing your project idea. Here are some places to begin local research.

Local Clubs and Organizations may have a service or civic focus and provide support for local projects and programs, such as the Lions Club, Rotary, The Association of Junior Leagues, Kiwanis, Civitan, and the Elks. These opportunities often are not widely marketed so networking and communication skills are useful.

Local Businesses

Local community foundations and Chambers of Commerce may have information about businesses in your area that fund local projects. Look at local business websites for information about their community giving. Sources to check out that have given grants to libraries/museums include: Banks, Grocery and Drugstores, Insurance companies, Restaurants, Technology stores, and Utility Companies.

Library Associations

Many grants and awards for library projects and personnel are offered through state, regional, and special library associations, including divisions, special interest groups, and chapters. Museums can partner with libraries to be eligible for these opportunities.

- Public Library Association Awards and Grants: www.ala.org/pla/awards
- American Association of School Librarians www.ala.org/aasl/awards
- Your state library association www.ala.org/groups/affiliates/chapters/state/stateregional
- American Library Association Awards and Scholarships: www.ala.org/ala/awardsgrants

The Library Grants Blog

Go to librarygrants.blogspot.com, which is a site that I maintain. Look at the available grant opportunities for your library project. Search my whole blog because some deadlines are recurring.

Print Resources

- *Winning Grants: A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians*, by Stephanie Gerding and Pamela H. MacKellar (ALA Editions).
- *Annual Register of Grant Support* (Information Today, annual), a print directory that lists grants from both government and private sources.

Self-paced course coming soon! Group discounts available. Email for details: stephaniegerding@gmail.com