

“Show Me The Money!”

Resources for Grant Seekers

If you work in a nonprofit enterprise, you know that searching for grants can be a full time job. You don't even have to work for a nonprofit. Students, artists, researchers and other individual grant seekers look for funding to support their education or projects. As time-consuming as the process may be, the payoff can be well worth the hard work. However, finding the grant is only one part of the effort.

Once it is decided that the grant is a good match for a project, a proposal must be written. If the proposal succeeds in being funded, someone has to make it happen. Whew! It's a lot of work and time invested.

That's where the Bartholomew County Public Library can be of assistance. The library has partnered with the Foundation Center of New York to host the Cooperating Collection; a collection of materials that will prove to be an invaluable resource to grant seekers.

When you look at the BCPL website under the *Online Databases*, you will see the heading *Grants/Foundation*. Click on that and it will take you to a page titled *Grants*. Here you'll see three topic headings: *Foundation Directory Online Professional*, *Foundation Grants to Individuals Online* and *GrantSpace*. The first two are available only through the Library. *GrantSpace* can be accessed anywhere there is an internet connection.

The Cooperating Collection gives patrons immediate, on-site access to *Foundation Directory Online Professional*; which is updated weekly with four comprehensive databases – *Grantmakers*, *Companies*, *Grants* and *990s*. A 990 is the IRS form which allows the public to evaluate nonprofits and how they operate. The directory provides a wealth of fundraising information crucial to the development of successful grant proposals. The fully searchable database includes detailed profiles of over 91,000 active US foundations and corporate givers, as well as an extensive file of recent grants by the nation's top funders. Also included are print directories, proposal writing guides and online training.

Because the majority of foundations do not give grants to individuals or to for-profit organizations, the library also offers the *Foundation Grants to Individuals Online* database. This resource includes approximately 6,000 foundations and public charities that offer grants to students, artists, researchers and other individual grant seekers.

The Foundation Center's newest offering is called *Grantspace*, an online learning community for the social sector that provides free access to the most comprehensive set of information and resources available to anyone seeking grants on behalf of nonprofit organizations or individuals. Here you can find information about boards, corporate giving, developing proposals, foundations, fundraising, voluntarism and much more.

The Cooperating Collection also offers an extensive collection of books in the reference area including:

- *After the Grant: The Nonprofit's Guide to Good Stewardship* (2010)
- *Board Member's Book* (2003)
- *The Foundation Center's Guide to Proposal Writing*, 6th ed. (2011)

- The Foundation Directory (2011)
- The Foundation Directory, Part 2 (2011)
- The Foundation Directory Supplement (2011)
- Foundation Fundamentals (2008)
- Foundation Grants to Individuals (2011)
- Foundation Growth and Giving Estimates (2011)
- Foundations and Public Policy (2009)
- The Grantseeker's Guide to Winning Proposals (2008)
- Guía para escribir propuestas (2008)
- Guide to Funding for International and Foreign Programs (2010)
- International Grantmaking IV (2008)
- National Directory of Corporate Giving (2011)
- Securing Your Organization's Future (2001)
- Social Justice Grantmaking II (2009)
- The 21st Century Nonprofit: Managing in the Age of Governance (2009)

The Foundation Directory Online Professional also offers *Eye on FDO*, the official blog of *Foundation Directory Online*, as well as a newsletter designed exclusively for FDO subscribers. *FDO News* is your source for the latest major developments and more.

The Foundation Center Cooperating Collection is located in the Bartholomew County Public Library Reference Area. It can be used by any member of the public seeking information on foundations and/or grants. The databases for funding research are accessible only through computers in the library. Most of the Foundation Center print material cannot be checked out, but patrons may photocopy and print materials for a small per-page fee. The library also has a good selection of grant resource books that can be checked out. Patrons conduct their own research, but library staff can assist them in getting started. Grant seekers who want a comprehensive introduction to available resources can call Michele Bottorff at the Bartholomew County Public Library at 812-379-1265 for an appointment.

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