TAMMY DUCKWORTH
U.S. SENATOR FOR ILLINOIS

Grants Resource Guide

Washington, D.C. Office

524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-2854

Springfield Office

8 South Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 528-6124

Chicago Office

230 South Dearborn Street
Suite 3900
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 886-3506

Carbondale Office

441 East Willow Street
Carbondale, IL 62901
(618) 351-1551

Dear Illinois Grant Seekers,

Thank you for taking the time to further your research into federal grant opportunities. Whether you are an employee of a non-profit, a local government official or an individual with a great idea that you want to see implemented, I hope this guide can serve as an important step to help you find the funding you need.

The federal grants system represents an investment in the creative thinking of the American people, and they are one of the tools our government uses to invest in communities around the country. Every year, federal grants put tax dollars to work building a safer, smarter and more efficient America. As a taxpayer, your dollars help provide the military with the tools they need to defend our nation, invest in innovative medical research to further our understanding of deadly diseases, fund regional infrastructure projects to help businesses get goods to market and develop new models of community building.

Grants support models of innovative thinking that we can utilize and scale on a national level. If you have an idea to make a community more efficient, we want to hear it and, if you can prove the efficacy of that idea, hopefully the federal government can support your efforts.

Though the grants process at times can be complicated, this guide can help serve as a primer to navigating the landscape of federal grants. Inside, you will find information on the basics of registering your organization, identifying grant opportunities and starting the application process.

I want my office to serve as a resource for you. My staff can help you identify grants opportunities, provide input on your application, connect you with federal agencies, track your application and much more. I am also happy to submit letters of support for worthy grant applications. Please contact my Grants Specialist in my Chicago office to learn more about working with my office.

I wish you the best of luck!

Sincerely,

Tammy Duckworth

Tammy Duckworth
U.S. Senator

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Disclaimer

This guide, which provides information consolidated from several government sources, is offered by Senator Tammy Duckworth's office to Illinois residents as a reference on matters pertaining to federal grants. While this guide offers an overview of federal grant resources and processes, entities new to the grants process are encouraged to consult resources beyond this publication designed to provide assistance on best practices for grant-writing and technical assistance with federal grants.

The Senator's office can be reached at (312) 886-3506 or by emailing Info@duckworth.senate.gov.

Introduction to Federal Grants

This resource guide presents an overview of the federal grants system and information on how to identify and apply for grant awards. The federal government is not the only grant-making entity offering funding. State and local governments, as well as private organizations, also make grants available to the public. While the grants process is often similar between federal agencies and other private entities, this guide solely focuses on the federal grant process.

What is a Grant?

Every year, the federal government makes billions of dollars in grants available to states, local governments, non-profits, individuals and other entities. Federal grants are awards of financial assistance to support critical community initiatives, innovative research, infrastructure programs and other projects that serve a public interest.

Grants are intended to support projects that serve local, regional and national community needs. These funds are often awarded on a competitive basis or distributed under a formula. Federal grant programs are not an entitlement or a direct benefit to individuals. The majority of federal grant awards go to state and local government agencies, which may distribute sub-awards to local entities. This guide will not detail the process of applying for sub-awards, instead focusing on the process for individuals and organizations who apply for project grants directly with the federal government.

Individuals seeking more detailed information on accessing federal benefits, small business loans or financial aid should visit the following sources for additional information:

- Individuals looking for government benefits can visit http://www.govbenefits.gov/.
- Students seeking financial aid packages or Pell grants can visit https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/.
- Entrepreneurs seeking information on starting or expanding a business through a loan can visit http://www.sba.gov/.

Direct Grants vs. Subgrants

The majority of federal grant funding is provided directly to states or local government agencies. However, state and local governments often make a portion of these federal grants funds available to individuals through the award of subgrants.

The primary difference between grants and subgrants is who administers the program. Subgrants are federal grant funds that have been awarded to states or local governments, which then open up Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) to award those funds at their discretion.

Subgrants are administered by a unit of government that has received direct grant funding from the federal government to design their own subgrant award process. For subgrants, the decision to award funds is at the discretion of that individual unit of government, while the discretion to award for direct grants is at the federal level.

You can track grant funding to state and local governments at http://www.USASpending.gov/. Once you know that a specific grant has been awarded to your state or local government, you can monitor their

website or office for announcements on subgrant opportunities. Not all units of government operate the same way, so you should keep in touch with the person in charge of grants at individual state agencies or local governments for up-to-date information.

Not all grants have subgrant opportunities; sometimes the state or local government is the final recipient for the funding awarded through a federal grant. You can reference the text of legislation authorizing federal grants to identify if those funds are intended to be distributed as subgrants.

You should note that while looking at subgrant opportunities, state and local government often use the word "subgrant" synonymously with "grant."

Grant Lifecycle

The grant process follows a lifecycle that includes creating the funding opportunity, applying for funds, making award decisions and successfully implementing the award.

The specific actions along the lifecycle are grouped into three main phases: Pre-Award Phase, Award Phase and Post Award Phase.

Pre-Award Phase

Every year, federal agencies receive a budget based on the Congressional appropriations process. Federal agencies that award grants will publish FOAs based on their budget and legislation relevant to their functions.

FOAs are grant opportunity announcements that include information regarding:

- Eligibility;
- Application deadlines;
- Funding award goals; and
- Other information pertinent to potential applicants.

FOAs will include the stated goal for any project that the agency wishes to accomplish by funding the grant. Applicants will need to determine if they are eligible and able to carry out the mission of the grant program before applying.

The pre-award phase also includes the time when individuals or organizations can apply and when the agency will review applications.

Individuals or organizations that wish to apply for grants must register their organization and grant application with several entities; including Grants.gov, SAM.gov and Duns & Bradstreet.

More information regarding this registration process is included in the "Registering Your Organization" section of this guide.

Application Review Process

After an application submission period closes, the awarding agency will begin reviewing applications. The specific review process can vary from agency-to-agency but the general framework includes an initial review, a programmatic review and a financial review.

The initial review process is to check that an organization and their application meet the basic minimum requirement for grants. The initial screening answers basic questions such as:

- Is this organization eligible?
- Is the application complete and without errors?
- Is the projected budget within the FOA requirements?
- Does the program narrative match the FOA?

Applications that do not meet these minimum requirements are rejected while the remaining applications move on to the programmatic review phase.

The programmatic review digs deeper into the questions of program narrative and the organization's ability to carry out their proposal. The common method for the programmatic review is a peer review panel made up three to five experts in the relevant field. Panelists judge the merit and quality of an application and convene for a discussion on their findings. Often, panelists assign an application a numerical score based on an agreed upon rubric for each FOA.

Following the programmatic review, applications that are not rejected enter the financial review phase. Federal agencies conduct a cost analysis of any given project and conduct a line-by-line budgetary review to ensure that all aspects of a proposal comply with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. The financial review also factors in the total funds available for the grant program and how best to disburse funds to qualified applicants. As a result, it is possible that not all qualified applicants will receive funding.

Award Phase

Once the federal agency completes a review of all grant applications, the agency proceeds to the decision phase, where it determines which organizations receive grant funds. Final award decisions are made at the sole discretion of federal agency staff that oversees the FOA.

When an agency reaches a decision on which applications should be awarded grant money, the agency issues a Notice of Award (NOA) to the entities selected for funding. Selected entities must sign the grant agreement issued with the NOA. Once signed, the grantee becomes legally-obligated to carry out the terms of the grant.

Entities that accept the grant funds are subject to statutory regulations and requirements as described by federal law. Grants.gov provides an overview of the policies governing grant awards. You can find more information by visiting http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/learn-grants/grant-policies.html

Post Award Phase

The post award phase includes implementation of the grant, reporting progress and any close-out requirements that a specific grant may require.

Reporting

While each grant differs, every grant agreement includes some form of financial and metric reporting so the granting agency can monitor the recipient's progress. Typically, an agency assigns a grants management officer and/or a program officer who reviews reports and conducts site visits as needed.

If you are a grant recipient, it is extremely important to fulfill your reporting requirements, as the granting agency has the right to intervene and cut-off funding if the grantee does not fulfill the requirements of the grant agreement.

Closeout

When the period of any recipient's grant ends, the recipient must submit final financial and programmatic reports. These reports differ by agency and by grant, but are required for any closeout. Many closeout guidelines are established by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB):

> *"The recipient must submit all financial, performance, and other reports required under the grant within 90 days after the grant award expires or is terminated. The awarding agency will review these reports to ensure compliance with all the grant terms and conditions as well as to make sure you spent all the funds appropriately."*
>
> *– OMB Uniform Grants Guidance*

You can access the Office of Management and Budget's Uniform Grants Guidance handbook online at https://fawiki.fws.gov/display/UG2C2

Identifying Grant Opportunities

Identifying grants that fit your organization's needs can be a daunting task. Thankfully, there are two federal government websites that can help you navigate a sometimes complex system. When researching FOAs, it is important to check that your organization meets the grant's eligibility requirements and that the goals of the federal grant program align with your program goals.

Grants.gov

Grants.gov is an all-encompassing website for federal grant opportunities. It catalogs every FOA issued and catalogs all closed grant opportunities. At any given time, there are roughly 2,000 posted grant opportunities from any number of agencies. Grants.gov is an important resource for identifying grant opportunities and is the only place to apply for federal grants.

On Grants.gov you can search opportunities by eligibility, issuing agency, category and keyword.

In addition to searching for grant opportunities, individuals and organizations can make use of the website's "Grants Learning Center," download common grant reporting forms and track grant applications.

Visit the homepage at http://www.grants.gov/.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA)

The CFDA, located at http://www.cfda.gov/, provides a full listing of all federal grant opportunities and projects. The CFDA breaks down grant opportunities by agency and their associated CFDA-assigned number, which are unique identifiers for federal grant projects.

On CFDA, you can browse current and past grant project announcements. While you cannot apply for grants on CFDA, browsing previous years' FOAs can also be helpful in identifying and preparing for likely upcoming opportunities.

Eligibility

The U.S. government makes billions of dollars in federal grants available every year. Determining which grants might be right for you or your organization begins with determining eligibility. Every FOA contains an "Eligibility" section that lists the different types of entities that are open to apply for said grant. Federal agencies break down eligibility into seven different categories and within each one are different subsections. Determining where you fall in those subsections is vital to determining eligibility for specific grants.

Units of Government

- State Governments
- County Governments
- City or township governments
- Special district governments
- Native American tribal governments (federally recognized)
- Native American tribal governments (other than federally recognized)

Education Oranizations

- Independent school districts
- Public and state controlled institutions of higher education
- Private institutions of higher education

Public Housing Organizations

- Independent school districts
- Public and state controlled institutions of higher education
- Private institutions of higher education

Nonprofit Organizations

- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

Businesses

- For-profit organizations other than small businesses

For -Profit Organizations

- Small Businesses
- Additional eligibility criteria may apply on a grant by grant basis

Individuals

- Individuals

Grant-Making Agencies

There are 26 primary grant-making entities within the federal government that offer different FOAs each year. Most Departments and agencies offer a "Grants Forecast" on their website. This tool allows users to see upcoming grant opportunities that will be open later in the fiscal year. For more information on individual forecasts, visit the Department websites listed below. The grant-making agencies listed below are grouped by the primary area of focus they fund; however, individual agencies offer grants across fields. Grant-seekers should use the search function on Grants.gov to identify opportunities of interest.

You can find more information regarding each agency in Appendix 2 of this guide.

Agriculture, Food and Nutrition	Community Development	Consumer Protection	Disaster Prevention and Recovery
• U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	• Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) • U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	• U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) • U.S. Department of the Treasury (TREAS) • Social Security Administration (SSA)	• U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Economic Development and Employment	Education and Research	Environment and Natural Resources	Foreign Affairs
• U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) • U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) • U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) • Small Business Administration (SBA)	• U.S. Department of Education (ED) • National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) • National Science Foundation (NSF)	• U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) • U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) • Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	• U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) • U.S. Department of State (DOS)

Housing	Healthcare Programs and Research	Humanities and the Arts	Infrastructure and Transportation
• U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) • U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) • U.S. Department of House and Urban Development (HUD)	• U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	• Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) • National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) • National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) • National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)	• U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

Applying for a Grant

After you identify the grant opportunities that are right for you or your organization, you can begin the application process. Filling out grant applications can be a time-consuming and complex task that is often taken on by professional grant writers. However, with the right preparation and drive, anyone can put together a successful application. Before you can submit any application, you must make sure you are "grant ready" by registering your organization with the relevant federal bodies and by following a few best practices.

STEP 1: Register Your Organization

STEP 2: Submit Application

STEP 3: Track Your Application

Registering Your Organization

Before you or your organization can apply for any federal grant, you must register with Grants.gov, SAM.gov and DUNS.

Grants.gov

Grants.gov is the website which aggregates all federal FOAs and the website you will use to submit any and all federal grant applications. There is no fee to register with Grants.gov and the processing time is usually 1-2 business days.

For more information on using Grants.gov to find federal grants, visit the "Identifying Grant Opportunities" section of this guide.

To register yourself or your organization, visit http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html

System for Award Management (SAM)

SAM is the official U.S. government website for managing grant awards, federal contracts and other federal cooperative agreements. There is no fee to register with SAM and the processing time should take 3-5 business days.

To register yourself or your organization, visit https://www.sam.gov/

Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)

Duns & Bradstreet is a private company, which runs the DUNS database that tracks businesses, nonprofits, local governments and other organizations all over the world. DUNS numbers are unique 9 digit identifiers that will you will use throughout the grant application and reporting process. If your organization is a registered non-profit, you likely already have a DUNS number. Be sure to check with your organization's leadership about your DUNS status before applying through Duns & Bradstreet.

DUNS numbers are free to obtain and require 3-5 days of processing time to receive.

Each organization will issue you a unique identifier allowing you to track and submit your grant application and keep up on your reporting requirements. All three identifiers will come in handy throughout the process. **Entities who fail to register with all three websites will automatically be disqualified during the initial screening process of grant applications.**

All three organizations identifiers are required for grant application submission. Each registration requires several days to process, so please do not wait until the last minute to register your organization before submitting a grant application.

Helpful Tip: *Ensure all required registration with IRS is properly filed before applying for a federal grant. To check the status of your entity with the IRS and State registrations, go to http://www.irs.gov/*

Application Basics

Grant applications across all federal agencies will contain the same required sections:

- Cover letter
- Proposal summary or abstract
- Introduction describing the grant seeker
- Problem statement or needs assessment
- Project objectives
- Project methodology or design
- Project evaluation methodology
- Future funding goals
- Project budget

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) Report RL32159, titled *How to Develop and Write a Grant Proposal*, offers several helpful tips in writing your application. You can access the report by visiting the Senator's website.

Tracking an Application

After completing and submitting your application on http://www.grants.gov/, your application will be assigned a tracking number. You can use this tracking number to check the status of your application.

To check the status of your grant application, visit http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/track-my-application.html.

Letters of Support

Obtaining letters of support from community leaders can be a good way of demonstrating community support for your project. The process for obtaining a letter of support from your Congressperson or any other local elected officials varies from office-to-office.

If you wish to request a letter of support from Senator Duckworth, please complete the "Request for Letter of Support" form on our website or by completing the form at the end of this guide and returning by email to dan_mcmanus@duckworth.senate.gov.

Additional Resources

Congressional Research Service (CRS)

CRS offers several useful guides to understanding federal grants and composing complete grant applications. A sampling of relevant guides is below. You can access any of the guides by visiting the Senator's webpage.

- *How to Develop and Write a Grant Proposal* – CRS Report RL32159
- *Resources for Grantseekers* – CRS Report RL34012
- *Federal Grants-in-Aid Administration: A Primer* – CRS Report R42769
- *Community Development Block Grants and Related Programs: A Primer* – CRS Report R43520

Senator Duckworth's Office

Senator Duckworth hopes to serve as a resource for all grant seekers and employs a full-time Grants Specialist to help you with your application. While her office does not provide grant writing services, her staff can work with you to help identify grant opportunities, bolster your application with a letter of support from the Senator, track your application and much more.

Visit the 'Grants' section of Senator Duckworth's website to learn more.

Additionally, during the Senator's tenure representing the Eighth Congressional District, she hosted a series of federal grant workshops. The workshops gathered experts from national agencies to share best practices for submitting grant applications. The workshops covered a variety of topics including: Agriculture and Nutrition, Education, Arts and Humanities, Infrastructure, Veterans and Firefighting grants. Please contact the Senator through her website if you would like more information.

You can find more information on working with the Senator's office on her website.

Appendix 1

Request for Letter of Support Form

Thank you for contacting the Office of Senator Tammy Duckworth. To aid us in the evaluation process, please complete this form and email it to Info@duckworth.senate.gov. Please add in the subject line "ATTN: Grants Coordinator." The approximate time to review the request is 1-2 weeks.

Information about the Grantor
Name of Application
Agency
Contact Name/Title
Mailing Address
Due Date
Purpose of Grant
Total Funding Request
Program Name and Number

Information about the Applicant
Name of Organization
Point of Contact
Mailing Address
Phone
E-mail
Population It Serves
Mission
Accolades Received
DUNS Number

Additional Information

- Have you applied for this grant in the past? If so, please provide detailed grant history.
- Have you also reached out to other elected officials? If so, to whom?
- Have you contacted our office in the past? If so, for what purpose?
- Do you have a draft letter of support? If you are providing a draft letter of support, here is what it should include:
  - ✓ What population it serves
  - ✓ A description of how the grant money will be used
  - ✓ Why this project is important to the community
  - ✓ Any unique features of the project
  - ✓ Any cost-sharing provisions, including by whom and in what percentages

If a letter of support can be provided by the state office, we ask that you keep the office updated with the final result. Thank you.

TAMMY DUCKWORTH
U.S. SENATOR FOR ILLINOIS

Appendix 2

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

The Agency for International Development is an independent federal government agency that provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries to ensure a better future for us all.

For more information, visit http://www.usaid.gov/.

Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)

The Corporation for National and Community Service is the nation's largest grant-maker supporting service and volunteering. Through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps and the Learn and Serve America programs, the Corporation is a catalyst for change and offers every American a chance to contribute through service and volunteering.

For more information, visit http://www.nationalservice.gov/.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Established in 1862, the Department of Agriculture serves all Americans through anti-hunger efforts, through stewardship of nearly 200 million acres of national forest and rangelands and through product safety and conservation efforts. The USDA opens markets for American farmers and ranchers and provides food for needy people around the world.

For more information, visit http://www.usda.gov/.

U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC)

The Department of Commerce fosters and promotes the nation's economic development and technological advancement through vigilance in international trade policy, domestic business policy and growth, and promoting economic progress at all levels.

For more information, visit http://www.commerce.gov/.

U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)

The Department of Defense provides the military forces needed to deter war and protect the security of the United States through five major areas: peacekeeping and war-fighting efforts, Homeland Security, evacuation and humanitarian causes.

For more information, visit http://www.dod.gov/.

U.S. Department of Education (ED)

The Department of Education ensures equal access to education and promotes educational excellence through coordination, management, and accountability in federal education programs. The Department works to supplement and complement educational efforts on all levels, encouraging increased involvement by the public, parents and students.

For more information, visit http://www.ed.gov/.

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

The Department of Energy's goal is to advance national, economic and energy security in the U.S.; to promote scientific and technological innovation in support of that goal; and to ensure environmental cleanup of the national nuclear weapons complex.

For more information, visit http://www.energy.gov/.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

The Department of Health and Human Services is the federal government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially to those who are least able to help themselves.

For more information, visit http://www.hhs.gov/.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

The Department of Homeland Security has three primary missions: Prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism and minimize the damage from potential attacks and natural disasters.

For more information, visit http://www.dhs.gov/.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

The Department of Housing and Urban Development's mission is to increase homeownership, support community development and increase access to affordable housing free from discrimination. HUD fulfills this mission through high ethical standards, management and accountability, and by forming partnerships with community organizations.

For more information, visit http://www.hud.gov/.

U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)

The Department of the Interior protects and provides access to the nation's natural and cultural heritage, including responsibilities to Indian tribes and island communities. Departmental goals include resource protection and usage, overseeing recreational opportunities, serving communities and excellence in management.

For more information, visit http://www.doi.gov/.

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)

The Department of Justice enforces the law and defends the interest of the United States, ensuring public safety against threats foreign and domestic; providing federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime; seeking just punishment for those guilty of unlawful pursuits; and ensuring fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans.

For more information, visit http://www.usdoj.gov/.

U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)

The Department of Labor fosters and promotes the welfare of job seekers, wage earners and retirees by improving their working conditions, advancing their opportunities, protecting their retirement and health benefits and generally protecting worker rights and monitoring national economic measures.

For more information, visit http://www.dol.gov/.

U.S. Department of State (DOS)

The Department of State strives to create a more secure, democratic and prosperous world for the benefit of the American people and the international community.

For more information, visit http://www.state.gov/.

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

The Department of Transportation's mission is to ensure fast, safe, efficient, accessible and convenient transportation that meets vital national interests and enhances the quality of life of the American people, today and into the future.

For more information, visit http://www.dot.gov/.

U.S. Department of the Treasury (TREAS)

The Department of Treasury is a steward of United States economic and financial systems, promotes conditions for prosperity and stability in the U.S. and encourages prosperity and stability in the rest of the world.

For more information, visit http://www.treasury.gov/.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

The Department of Veterans Affairs strives for excellence in patient care and Veteran's benefits for its constituents through high-quality, prompt and seamless service to United States Veterans.

For more information, visit http://www.va.gov/.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency is to protect human health and the environment. Since 1970, the EPA has been working for a cleaner, healthier environment for the American people.

For more information, visit http://www.epa.gov/.

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute serves as a leader in providing services to enhance learning, sustain cultural heritage and increase civic participation.

For more information, visit http://www.imls.gov/.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration serves as the nation's forefront of exploration and continues to pioneer aeronautics, exploration, science and space operations.

For more information, visit http://www.nasa.gov/.

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

The National Archives and Records Administration enables people to inspect the record of what the federal government has done, enables officials and agencies to review their actions and helps citizens hold them accountable.

For more information, visit http://www.archives.gov/.

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, bringing the arts to all Americans and providing leadership in arts education. The Endowment is the largest national source of funds for the arts.

For more information, visit http://www.nea.gov/.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

The National Endowment for the Humanities is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation and public programs in the humanities.

For more information, visit http://www.neh.gov/.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

The National Science Foundation is an independent federal agency created to promote the progress of science, to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare and to secure the national defense. The NSF annually funds approximately 20 percent of basic, federally-supported college and university research.

For more information, visit http://www.nsf.gov/.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

The Small Business Administration maintains and strengthens the nation's economy by aiding, counseling, assisting and protecting the interests of small businesses, and by helping families and businesses recover from national disasters.

For more information, visit http://www.sba.gov/.

Social Security Administration (SSA)

The Social Security Administration advances the economic security of the nation's people through compassionate and vigilant leadership in shaping and managing America's Social Security programs.

For more information, visit http://www.ssa.gov/.