PRIVATE FOUNDATION GRANTS OVERVIEW
OSU Foundation
Office of Foundation Relations

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Services

• Research on private foundations
• Project development services – online toolkit
• Access to attachments
• Grant review and editing
• Training
The Office of Foundation Relations is here to help get you funding

• Make OSUF your first stop when investigating a private foundation funding opportunity.

• Hands on or hands off? We’ll work with you at whatever level of service you need to be successful.
Agenda

1. Foundation grants overview – how they differ from federal/state grants, how to find them
2. Overview of the component pieces of a typical grant proposal
3. Description and Q&A on the whole grant cycle from prospect research through reporting.
Foundations

Private foundations

- **Independent**: Include most of the nation’s largest foundations. Generally established by individual donors or donor families.
- **Operating**: Primarily run their own programs, but some also make grants. Generally established by individuals or families.
- **Corporate**: Established by large or small businesses, although legally separate entities.

Community foundations raise funds from the public and engage in grantmaking primarily within a defined geographic area.

**Total foundations** = 119,791

- Independent: 7,947
- Operating: 2,888
- Corporate: 1,067
- Community: 107,889

**Total assets** = $1.2 trillion

- $82B
- $36B
- $98B
- $948B

**Total giving** = $82 billion

- $8B
- $7B
- $10B
- $57B

Foundation giving is a modest but growing slice of overall giving in the U.S.

**Private giving by source**

- **Foundations**: 18%
- **Individuals**: 68%
- **Bequests**: 9%
- **Corporations**: 5%

Source: Figures for 2019 from Giving USA Foundation, Giving USA, 2019. Per Giving USA criteria, corporate foundations are included under “Corporations” and community foundations are excluded.

**Foundation giving over time**

Source: Based on a historical view of the IRS BMF for the given fiscal year end. Limited to organizations with a filing address in the 50 U.S. states and D.C.

Source (left): Based on most recent IRS filing, 2016 or later, available for organizations appearing in the December 2019 IRS BMF.
When you know one private foundation... you know one private foundation.
Private funders often resemble individual donors more than federal funding agencies.

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Community foundations raise funds from the public and engage in grantmaking primarily within a defined geographic area.
They make their own rules

• Guidelines may change
• Priorities and focus areas may change
• Deadlines can be hard to predict
• May be unavailable for feedback or support
Part of a **balanced external** funding plan

- Uniquely flexible funding source, nimble
- More rapid turnaround
- Sometimes less competition
- Usually smaller gifts; seed funding for larger initiatives
Best thought of as supporting innovations, startups, and special projects.
Where to find private grant opportunities

OSUF Funding Opportunities List
- Excel spreadsheet with tabs for new, previous, and contact info
- Use Ctrl+F to keyword search
- www.osufoundation.org/fundingopportunities

OSU Office of Research Development
- Limited submission opportunities
- Research Development newsletter sign-up
- https://research.oregonstate.edu/ord
OSU Subscription Services
http://guides.library.oregonstate.edu/grants

GrantForward
Customized search for both public and private funding opportunities on your topic. Use advanced search terms, save searches, and subscribe to receive automated notifications.

Foundation Directory Online
Non-profit industry tool for learning about specific foundations and their grantmaking.
Free Online Resources

**proposalCENTRAL**

http://proposalcentral.altum.com

Grantmaking portal used by many government, non-profit, and private grantmaking organizations.

Search for RFPs and apply via the application interface. Create a free login to access.

**Philanthropy News Digest**

http://philanthropynewsdigest.org

*Philanthropy News Digest* (PND) is a daily news service of the Foundation Directory Online.

Features searchable daily published RFP listings.
Subscribe to receive regular updates via email.
Follow Instructions
What’s the first question a private foundation funder asks about your project?

So what?!

The program officer knows that your project is important, but why is it important to the private foundation from which you are seeking funding?

Do you and your sponsor share priorities?

Impact = the substantive way your findings or innovation will produce positive change. Includes quantification and context.
Typical grant proposal components

• Need or Problem Statement (Why)
• Project Design/Solution (What)
• Key Personnel (Who)
• Management Plan (How, When, and Where)
• Evaluation (What happened and what’s next)
Need or Problem Statement (Why)

• Section where the *problem* is framed.
• Sets up the *so what?* question.

Successful proposals meet needs the sponsor cares about.

Project Design/Solution (What)

• Includes:
  • Project description
  • Goals and objectives
  • Activities

Successful proposals design solutions that meet the needs they outline.
Key Personnel (Who)

Successful proposals demonstrate that the PI has sufficient experience to undertake the project.

Management Plan (How, When, and Where)

Section that describes how, when, and where the solution will be undertaken.

• May include:
  • Methods
  • Milestones/benchmarks

Successful projects are well designed, thoughtful, and achievable
Evaluation (What happened and what’s next)

Describes the anticipated outcome of the project, and how you will determine if it is successful.

• Section may include the following:
  • Outcomes and Impacts
  • Data collection plans
  • Analysis
  • Formative and/or summative evaluation
  • Reporting
Other Common Proposal Items

• Project Budget
• CV or Biosketch
• Applicant Organization Information
• Authorization
The Grant Cycle

Step 1: Generate Your Idea
Step 2: Find Funding
Step 3: Develop Your Proposal
Step 4: Submit Your Proposal
Step 5: Grant Award & Acceptance
Step 5: Manage Your Award
Step 6: Close Out Project
Step 7: Share Research
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6-12 months
QUESTIONS?
FOUNDATION RELATIONS
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