Search Engines & Grantwriting Tips

Office of Homeless Services

Grant Writing Workshop

Presenters:

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Learning Objectives

- Learn about available grant searching websites and resources
- Grant proposal writing tips
- How to use the 2010 edition of the Nonprofit Resource Guide

How to Pursue Grants!

There are 3 main steps that must be done when pursuing grant funding:

1. **Research**
2. **Writing**
3. **Submitting**

It is estimated that approximately 75% of Grant Writing Development is devoted solely to research.

Source: *Applying for Research Funding: Getting Started and Getting Funded.*

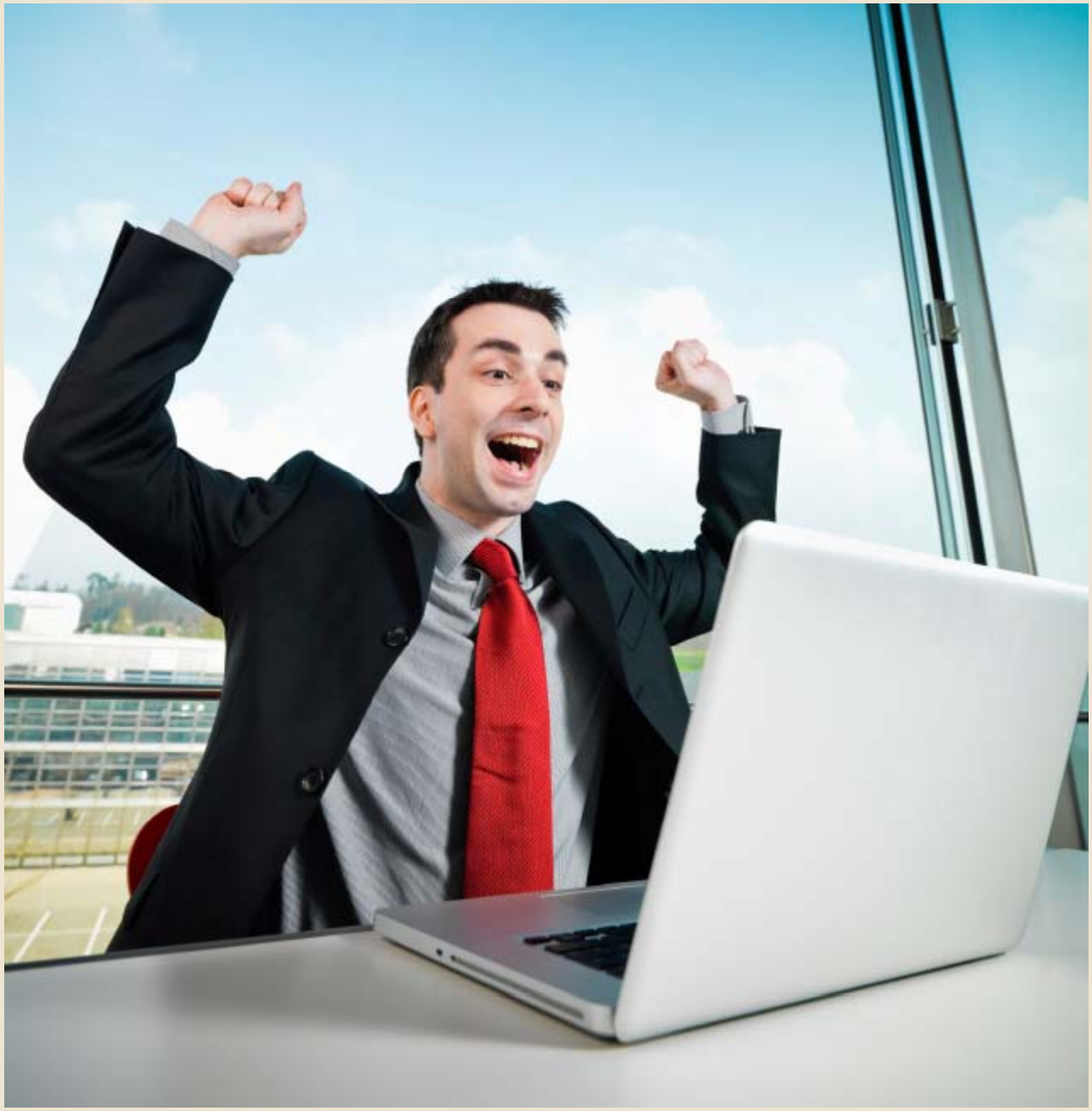
Research Funding Opportunities

Know your available search engines and grant-related websites

- See “21 Free Grant Search Engines” you can use to run your own searches

Download this document free at the Grants Office website:

http://www.sbcounty.gov/GrantsOffice/Resources/Searching.aspx



GO!

SEARCH ENGINES:

The **San Bernardino County Grants Office** has a "one-stop" grant assistance website:

http://www.sbcounty.gov/grantsoffice

The website provides you FREE access to:

- GOStream™ the Board of Supervisors' sponsored daily updated stream of grant funding opportunities
- Grantwriting resources (i.e. templates, PFAs)
- Funding research reports
- Links to hundreds of funders and grant support services
- An Event Calendar of free or low-cost trainings

SEARCH ENGINES:

Grants.gov is comprehensive grant search engine for Federal grants:

http://www.grants.gov/

Grants.gov is your source to FIND and APPLY for federal grants.

The Grants.gov website allows you to sign-up to receive e-mail notifications of grants that fit your organization's interests and needs.

All discretionary grants offered by the 26 federal grant-making agencies can be found on Grants.gov.

SEARCH ENGINES:

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance is a government-wide compendium of Federal programs, projects, services, and activities which provide assistance or benefits to the American public:

https://www.cfda.gov/index?cck=1&au=&ck=

CFDA contains detailed program descriptions for 2,008 Federal assistance programs.

The Catalog also contains financial & non-financial assistance programs administered by departments & establishments of the Federal government.

SEARCH ENGINES:

Grant Gopher is a resource center of available grants for nonprofit organizations:

http://www.grantgopher.com/

Provides up to date information on some of the latest grant programs accepting applications.

Sign-up for their free weekly Grant Gopher bulletin, each weekly issue brings a few new announcements directly to your inbox.

Create a free account for your organization or purchase an inclusive membership for only $30 for 6 months or $50 for a full year membership.

SEARCH ENGINES:

Fundsnet Services ONLINE is a privately owned Web site created in 1996 for the purpose of providing Nonprofit Organizations, Colleges and Universities with information on financial resources available on the Internet:

http://www.fundsnetservices.com/

Links to third-party sites are provided for your convenience.

An interesting fact is that according to Fundsnet, 80% of all their visitors are women

SEARCH ENGINES:

GrantsAlert.com created in 1996 provides free assistance to educators, schools, and consortia in finding and securing funding resources:

http://www.grantsalert.com/

Grants Alert provides free access to up-to-date announcements of corporate, foundation, state and federal education funding opportunities.

Browse through GrantsAlert.com's list of grant currently available.

Be sure to register for the Grants Alert free Email Updates!

SEARCH ENGINES:

Although no longer updated, **Internet Prospector** provides a wealth of information regarding writing and finding grants:

http://www.internet–prospector.org/

Use Internet Prospector's search tool to find sites reviewed by the volunteer team of editors over the years.

Those sites may lead you to an interesting path of resources still useful to researchers.

The website is no longer updated, but (for several years) you will still be able to use the Pico Search tool to retrieve articles related to your search term.

SEARCH ENGINES:

Duke University Funding Opportunities provides an extensive database on searchable funding sources:

http://researchfunding.duke.edu/search.asp

Check out the weekly postings of open funding opportunities by discipline and deadlines.

Search by funding agency and narrow search using the advanced search function.

Click on the Funding Opportunity to read a synopsis, eligibility detail, award amounts and announcement links!

SEARCH ENGINES:

GrantsNet at the Science Careers Forum is your one-stop resource to find funds for research and training in the sciences:

http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/funding

Register for a GrantsNet account that lets you save GrantsNet search results and individual grant announcements.

Search the Funding Directory's list of all programs currently entered in the database. You can use it to find information about specific programs that interest you.

This service is completely FREE!

SEARCH ENGINES:

The Foundation Center – Foundation Finder is an easy tool to look up information about foundations, 990s and foundation funded reports:

http://foundationcenter.org/widgets.html

Foundation Finder offers basic information on grantmakers in the U.S. including private foundations, community foundations, grantmaking public charities, and corporate giving programs.

Search by grantmaker name—including former, partial, and common names

SEARCH ENGINES:

THE CHRONICLE OF PHILANTHROPY

The Chronicle of Philanthropy's Guide to Grants provides a searchable database of endowments at nonprofit organizations and foundations:

http://philanthropy.com/section/Guide-to-Grants/270/

Search for grants by keyword, the grantmaking agency or by recipient from 2010 through 2001.

Create your own Search Agent – save your search criteria and receive email messages alerting you when new grants match your search.

SEARCH ENGINES:

SchoolGrants provides a listing of Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade grant opportunities:

http://www.schoolgrants.org/index.htm

SchoolGrants reduces the effort of searching for open grant opportunities by listing a variety of grants available to public and private nonprofits, elementary and secondary schools, and districts across the United States.

Create your own Search Agent – save your search criteria and receive email messages alerting you when new grants match your search.

SEARCH ENGINES:

HSS Grant Forecast is a database of planned grant opportunities proposed by its agencies:

http://extranet.acf.hhs.gov/hhsgrantsforecast/

Each Forecast record contains actual or estimated dates and funding levels for grants that the agency intends to award during the fiscal year. Forecast opportunities are subject to change based on enactment of congressional appropriations.

Did you know that HHS is one of the largest Federal Departments, the nation's largest health insurer, and the largest grant-making agency?

SEARCH ENGINES:

The **State of California Grants Website** provides links to state and federal agencies that provide grant funding within California:

http://www.ca.gov/Grants.html

Search in multiple categories from Agriculture through Transportation!

Did you know that California's official state song by law is "I Love You, California", written by F.B. Silverwood, a Los Angeles merchant.

SEARCH ENGINES:

GuideStar is an information service specializing in U.S. nonprofits. It provides information on more than 1.7 million IRS-recognized nonprofit organizations**:**

http://www2.guidestar.org/

Obtain access to current Form 990 tax returns for IRS recognized nonprofits!

GuideStar was the first central source of information on U.S. nonprofits.

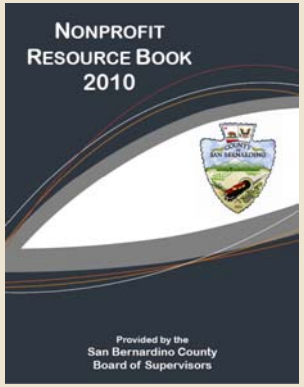
SEARCH ENGINES:

Try **Google** or **Bing,** in addition to providing easy access to billions of web pages, both sites offer many special features to help you to find exactly what you're looking for:

http://www.google.com/

http://www.bing.com/

Did you know that Google and Bing have built in calculator functions? In the search bar type in your equation (i.e. 5+9*(2-3)=). Try it out!



The Nonprofit Resource Book

- This year's book is filled with:
  - Federal, State, Local and Foundation Grant opportunities
  - Grant-writing tips
  - An expanded list of online resources
  - Networking organizations
  - Program evaluation and assessment guides

Did you know that Supervisor Biane began distributing a nonprofit resource booklet in 2003 after hosting his first workshop for local nonprofits.

Now for some…
Grant Writing Tips!

5 Tips to Success

- Start with a Great Idea
- Be Realistic
- Keep it Clear, Simple, & Easy to Read
- Submit a Realistic Budget
- Follow the Guidelines

Be mindful of spelling and grammar. Trust me, it makes a difference.

Nothing beats a Great Idea!

- Develop a clear single overall goal – What do you want to do!
- Build specific aims that are related logically to your overall goal!
- Ask Questions!

An Idea is like a seed; it needs to be nurtured in order for it to grow!

Be Realistic!

- Is the goal reachable?
- Is the approach in the realm of your organization's technical expertise?
- Is your organization eligible?

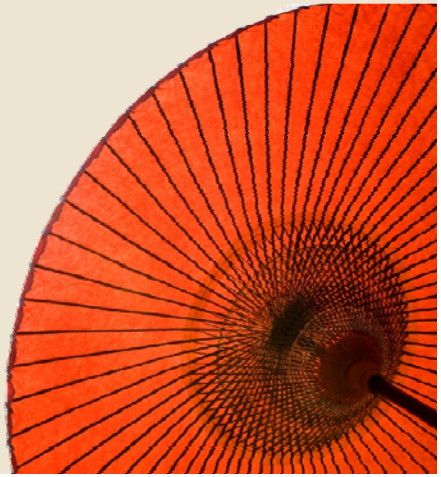
The work proposed to prepare the grant should be proportional to the time of support needed to complete it.

Provide tantalizing evidence that the question you ask is actually worth answering!

Simplicity

- Assume you are the reviewer and know nothing about your organization and project.
- Define all abbreviations or acronyms at first use.
- Use diagrams to illustrate concepts and models.
- Use formatting for emphasis.

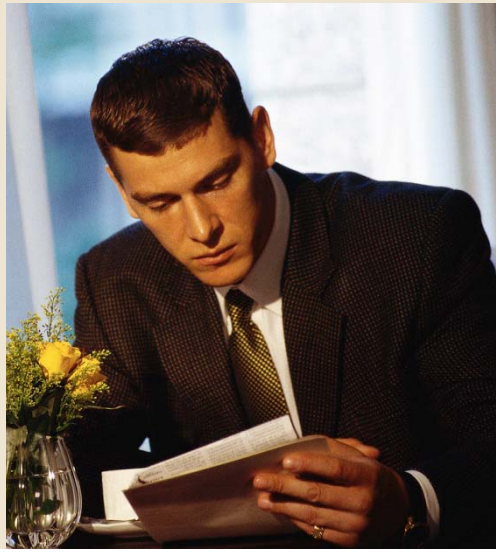
Use Logic Models! They help to simplify your document!



Readability

- Think like a reviewer.
- Make information easy to find; don’t make the reviewer hunt for it.
- Use “easy to read” font and format.
- Avoid verbosity.

Ex. Use the name of the place, ~~rather than, “we are located in~~ the majestic hills of sunny…”



Submit a Realistic Budget

- Request only what you need and can logically defend – no more, no less.
- Justify every item in the budget.
- Keep your agency's current financial capacity in mind.

Most foundations never fund ~~more than 50% of an agencies~~ total operating budget.

Follow the Guidelines

- Read the Guidelines thoroughly.
- Create a list of the requirements.
- When in doubt, ask – don’t assume ANYTHING.

Rules can be improved, changed, or broken … But never ignored.

Common Grant Writing Problems

- Does not address a need in the funder's area of interest.
- Not eligible or not appropriate.
- Too difficult to understand.
- Inadequate supporting materials.
- Incomplete.
  - Late – AVOID!
  - Not signed.

Advice

- Know your literature in depth and in breadth.
- Make definitive statements only when your data supports.
- Seek collaborators or experts for help.
- Celebrate your successes, but don’t be reluctant to admit your shortcomings.

Seek multiple readers and writers in developing the grant.

Critical Advice

- Never deviate from the Grant Guidelines!
- If you are unclear of any of the areas on any form or format – ASK!
- Establish timelines – work backwards.
- Create checklist – ensure all requirements are met.

In the words of Walt Disney, “Dream, diversify, and never miss an angle”

Questions?