

# Grant-Seeking Tips

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With the many functions public libraries serve, it can often be difficult to find funding for additional projects. However, the demonstrated value of Early Literacy activities gives you access to a wide range of public and private monies for your projects. We have compiled a list of the best prospects for funding your beneficial work with children.

## Think Local

Foundations and corporations tend to fund organizations within a specific geographic location, as do state and regional governments. A smaller number of the bigger foundations and the federal government fund projects on a national scale.

So, here's a rule of thumb when using the Government funding and Private/corporate foundations matrices: First look to private and corporate foundations with an interest in your local city or county, then on to the foundations interested in our state, before considering pitching a grant project to funders with a regional (Pacific Northwest) or national interest.

## Collaborate

In your efforts to improve Early Literacy awareness in your community, we hope that will consider joining with other organizations concerned with child welfare. Collaboration offers not only a better opportunity to receive funding, but also several other tangible benefits.

Collaboration offers you:

- Access to additional resources
- Opportunities to cooperate across institutional borders
- New perspectives and ideas
- Opportunities to think "outside the box"
- Access to new target populations
- Relationships for the future
- The competitive edge: Grantmakers want to fund collaboration.

Grantmakers want to see organizations and groups working together to solve problems. Collaboration also allows for leveraging possibilities. Collaboration can expand the eligibility of the cooperating partners to seek funds.

However, collaboration is not without pain and effort. Sometimes conflict occurs. Sometimes people forget that their success came from the collaboration. You can't walk away from the game and take all of your marbles. Sometimes collaborators have to cooperate for the greater good, and then benefit from the next round of funding's new opportunity.

Your regional **Early Learning Hub** (link to the HUBs page on the CSD site; the ODE site isn't going to be helpful here) is a great place to start when looking for potential collaborators in your area.

## Improve Your Odds

Consider following these steps to better your chances of successfully receiving government grants:

1. Register to receive notification of federal grant funding in each category of potential interest.
2. Contact (by phone or email) the program contact person to confirm the lead applicant's eligibility for the grant program.
3. Request or download the RFPs (Requests for Proposals) from a federal website.
4. If available, obtain a copy of a past successfully funded proposal.
5. Receive permission to proceed, analyze the application guidelines, set up a timeline for the process (which may also include submitting a letter of intent to apply), and develop a list of questions that must be answered to complete the application.
6. Work with the project's grant seeking team to submit proposals. (It can take up to a year to receive notice of an award from a state or federal funding agency.)

## Learn More

Not sure where to get started? The Foundation Center provides **free articles and webinars** (<http://foundationcenter.org/getstarted/>) to help you get your grant! They also have their own **online reference librarian** (<http://foundationcenter.org/getstarted/askus/index.html>) who will answer questions via e-mail or chat and **physical locations** (<http://foundationcenter.org/about/locations.html>) where you can search their detailed grants database and get assistance finding and applying for grants.

If you help finding research quotes or early literacy statistics for your grant application, contact **Katie Anderson** (<http://www.oregon.gov/os/LD/Pages/youthsvcs/aboutyouth.aspx>), our Youth Services Consultant at the Oregon State Library.