

FINDING FUNDING FOR LOCAL PROJECTS¹

There are so many sources of information available online and in print that it can be difficult to decide where to begin when seeking grants for funding. This chapter is provided as a resource guide to make the search a little easier. New York State is home to many of the largest foundations in the United States. Private funding should not be overlooked as a source for grantseekers in all fields. Grant resources covered in this chapter are organized by type of funding; private giving, government grants, and other sources of information that can be found online or CD-ROM.

PRIVATE GIVING

The Foundation Center was created in 1956 by already existing foundations as a response to an era of suspicion and public scrutiny. The Foundation Center was created to provide transparency and comprehensive, accurate information about private foundations and their giving practices. The Foundation Center provides information that is current, accurate, reliable and available to anyone who wants or needs it. A network of field office libraries and cooperating collections is located across the country to provide service. The list of participating libraries is always growing to meet the needs of grant seekers on a national level. There are 19 cooperating collections in New York State. Each collection is headed by a supervisor who works with local grantseekers to use the resources of the collection more effectively. Because these collections vary widely in their hours, materials and services, it's advised to call in advance before a visit. To check new locations, or current holdings, you may call toll free 1-800-424-9836, or visit the Foundation Center Website at <http://fdncenter.org/collections/index.html>.

Of the five Center libraries, one is located in New York, at 79 Fifth Avenue in New York City. It is open to the public, and offers educational programs on the funding research process from start to finish. Visitors have free access to Center publications, supplemental materials, periodicals, how-to guides, foundation annual reports, 990-PF IRS returns, and CD-ROM and internet resources. Those who cannot visit a Center library can usually find a Foundation Center cooperating collection nearby. (Table 1 shows the cooperating collections in New York State).

The Foundation Center has several print resources that they recommend for beginners just starting to seek grants and fundraising:

Foundation Fundamentals provides insight into how foundations work along with the full array of electronic and print resources available to help grantseekers develop their prospect lists.

The Foundation Center's Guide to Proposal Writing covers the basics and the finer points of preparing grant proposals. Included are sample proposals, insider information from grantmakers, and pre-proposal planning tips.

The Foundation Center's Guide to Grantseeking on the Web presents insight into developing an organized, focused approach to funding research online.

¹ This chapter was prepared by Christine Szczerba in cooperation with Linda Braun, the former Supervisor of the cooperating collection at the New York State Library.

TABLE 1

NEW YORK STATE COOPERATING COLLECTIONS	
New York State Library Cultural Education Center Empire State Plaza Albany, NY 12230 (518) 474-5355	Foundation Center Office and Library 79 Fifth Avenue, 2 nd Floor New York, NY 10003-3076 (212) 620-4230
Broome County Public Library 185 Court Street Binghamton, NY 13901 (607) 778-6400	Adriance Memorial Library Special Services Department 93 Market Street Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 (845) 485-3445
New York Public Library Bronx Library Center Bronx, NY 10458 (718) 579-4244	Riverhead Free Library 330 Court Street Riverhead, NY 11901 (631) 727-3228
Brooklyn Public Library Social Sciences/Philosophy Division Grand Army Plaza Brooklyn, NY 11238 (718) 230-2122	Rochester Public Library Grants Information Center 115 South Avenue Rochester, NY 14604 (585) 428-8120
Buffalo and Erie County Public Library Business, Science & Technology Dept. One Lafayette Square Buffalo, NY 14203 (716) 858-8900	New York Public Library St. George Library Center 5 Central Avenue Staten Island, NY 10301 (718) 442-8560
Southeast Steuben County Library 300 Nasser Civic Center Plaza Corning, NY 14830 (607) 936-3713	Onondaga County Public Library 447 S. Salina Street Syracuse, NY 13202 (315) 435-1900
Sachem Public Library 150 Holbrook Road Holbrook, NY 11741 (631) 588-5024	Utica Public Library 303 Genesee Street Utica, NY 13501 (315) 735-2279
Huntington Public Library 338 Main Street Huntington, NY 11743 (631) 427-5165	White Plains Public Library 100 Martine Avenue White Plains, NY 10601 (914) 422-1480
Queens Borough Public Library Social Sciences Division 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 (718) 990-0700	Yonkers Public Library Riverfront Library One Larkin Center Yonkers, NY 10701 (914) 337-1500
Levittown Public Library One Bluegrass Lane Levittown, NY 11756 (516) 731-5728	

Foundation Center resources are a good starting point for identifying likely funding sources. Grantmaker directories are well-indexed with many ways to search. They answer a full range of questions including names and affiliations of local grantmakers, projects that were recently funded, and size of budgets earmarked for projects. Center directories can help local governments find private funders close to home that are more likely to have a greater interest in local problems. Some of these print directories include:

Foundation 1000. Foundation Center, 2006.

Grant programs of the 1,000 largest foundations in the country.

Foundation Directory. Foundation Center, 2006.

The classic guide in three volumes.

Guide to U.S. Foundations, Their Trustees, Officers, and Donors. Foundation Center, 2006.

Master list of the decision-makers who direct America's foundations. Lists over 70,000 private, corporate, operating and community foundations, many not described elsewhere. Two volumes and a comprehensive name index. Source of data disclosing foundation affiliations of local families, community leaders, board members, donors and volunteers.

Of particular interest:

New York State Foundations. 7th ed. Foundation Center, 2001.

Comprehensive guide to active grantmaking foundations in New York State, with multiple ways to search including by county.

CORPORATE PHILANTHROPY

Most corporations provide funds for local projects in areas where they have headquarters or plants. Many are aware that targeted funding can enhance their image, build business-community relationships, or capture stockholder interest. Corporations are not required to make public their in-house giving programs. Despite this, there are several good sources for searching corporate information:

National Directory of Corporate Giving. 12th ed. Foundation Center, 2006.

Provides background information on sponsoring companies and their corporate giving programs.

Foundation Reporter. 39th ed. Taft, 2006.

Comprehensive profiles and gift analysis of the nation's major private foundations.

Most of these sources will be found in local cooperating collections or in business collections at local colleges.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Despite the decline in available dollars, federal and state financial assistance to local governments remains an important component of local program funding.

Federal Aid Resources

The following sources provide insight into agency giving trends and assist in finding the correct person to clarify information.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. Washington, DC: General Services Administration. Loose leaf service and available online at www.cfda.gov. Single best resource for leads on federal assistance administered by federal agencies.

Federal Funds Express at http://www.house.gov/ffr/resources_all.shtml. The Federal Funds Express provides summary and detailed information by type of grant, type of contract award, recipient, and geographic location, including congressional district.

Federal Register. Washington, DC: National Archives (NARA). Online at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html. This source can be used to update the information found in the CFDA. It is published Monday through Friday except official holidays. It makes available public regulations and legal notices issued by federal agencies. These include agency documents of public interest, such as notices of grants by various agencies.

Other Federal Sources Include:

Federal Grants and Contracts Weekly. The inside guide to finding and winning federal funds. Alexandria, VA: Aspen Publishers. Announces grants and project opportunities in research, training and services.

Congressional Yellow Book. Who's who in congress, including committees and key staff. Washington, DC: Leadership Directories, Published quarterly.

Federal Yellow Book. Who's who in federal departments and agencies. Washington, DC: Leadership Directories, Published quarterly. Accesses more than 39,000 top people in the Executive Branch of the Federal government.

Guide to Federal Funding for Governments and Nonprofits. Washington, DC: Thompson Publishing Group, Government Information Services.

The United States Government Internet Manual, 2003-2004. Lanham, MD: Bernan Press, 2004. An annotated guide to government sources on the internet.

United States Government Manual. 2003/2004. Washington, DC: Presidential and Legislative Publications, Federal Register, NARA. Official handbook for the Federal government. Provides comprehensive information on the legislative, judicial and executive branches of the United States government.

State Resources

The Catalog of State and Federal Programs Aiding New York's Local Governments.

Grants Action News. Information on available state and federal grants. Albany, NY: New York State Assembly Speaker's Office, Communication and Information Services. Identifies new and existing State and federal grant opportunities. Listed at <http://www.assembly.state.ny.us>.

Local/State Funding Report. Washington DC: Thompson/GIS. Published weekly except last week in August and last week in December. This newsletter is useful for its notices of Federal funding and for the occasional notice of funding available in a particular state.

New York Directory of City and Village Officials. Albany, NY: New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials (NYCOM), 2005. Contact NYCOM, Tel: 518-463-1185.

New York State Directory. 2004/2005. Walker's Research, LLC. Guide to accessing public officials and private sector groups and individuals who influence public policy in the State of New York.

New York State Register. Albany, NY: New York State Department of State, Office of Information Services, 41 State Street or call 518-474-6785 for further information.

Electronic Resources

FC Search

Covers over 78,000 foundations, corporate givers, and grantmaking public charities with advanced searching capability. Updates twice yearly. Offered by the Foundation Center.

Foundation Grants Index

Designed by the Foundation Center to be user-friendly.

Foundation Grants to Individuals Online

Source for individual grantseekers is searchable for support for educational goals, research projects, arts and cultural funding, and giving for special needs.

Foundation Center Website

This website is located at <http://foundationcenter.org/> and serves as a gateway to grantmaker websites, provides tutorials on proposal writing and grantseeking. It provides a calendar of events and courses and access to the Foundation Center shop of books, guides and newsletters.

BigOnLine

A database of North American foundations in Canada and the United States. The database contains items from 1997 to present. It has a fully searchable archive of 990-PFs; summary information on foundations, directors and officers; a visual map tool that shows the distribution of grantmakers and their grants; and contains contact information for newly established foundations.

Electronic Subscription:

The Foundation Directory and Foundation Grants Index are both available through DIALOG database searching. The State Library will conduct online, work related searches for New York State employees at no charge. Database searches are available to New York State residents for a \$40.00 fee. Library users with a P card can access grant related databases through the New York State Library webpage. Call Circulation at (518) 473-7895 for further information and ask for "Remote Access."

Additional sites are available at the New York State Library homepage, <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov>. Check the site map under "Grants" for more information or visit the Internet Bibliographies.

GovBenefits.gov

Helps citizens find the benefits for which they are eligible. Provides program descriptions and contact names through screening questions answered by users.

Grants.gov

Grants.gov allows users to find and apply for federal grant opportunities from federal grant making agencies. Users can limit searches by agencies, topics, dates or types of grants.

GrantsNet (www.hhs.gov/grantsnet/)

This site has useful information, although its main emphasis is on HHS grants. There are standard forms to download, and users can explore sections on the grants application process.

TGCI.com

The Grantsmanship Center has been around for over thirty years. It is a national training organization for nonprofits.

The New York State Library homepage is located at <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/>.

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