

# Grant Research

How can you stand out from the others and actually get resources into your classroom? The first step is to find a potential funder who aligns with your values and project goals.

## Order of Grantors/Research

Here are the different “sectors” of grants you should research to see what you have to work with. They are ordered this way because these are the steps I take when I research grants for schools.

- 01** Local (community)
- 02** County
- 03** State
- 04** National
- 05** Federal

Depending on your project timeline, different grants can be more flexible than others. Also, You can typically expect an increase in potential funding as you go in this order, but the complexity of the application process usually increases in tandem. It is usually the best course of action to start local, so that your project can receive some quick investors. Larger, statewide or national funders are much more interested in supporting projects that have already received support and commitment from others, preferably local organizations.

## How to Find Grants

### Local/County Grants

#### Google Keywords Search

- Search “grants” +
  - Education, Community, [county name], [public] school / [school name], [school district name], Teachers / educators, etc.

#### Knowing your Community

- Local Banks
- Stores/shops
- Private Family Foundations
- PTA/O
- Rotary/Optimist Clubs

#### Word of Mouth / Newsletters

### Community & Education Foundations - Local/County Grantors

- Seek out these foundations and first build a connection with its members.
- You learn how much money can be awarded and when the deadlines are.
- This information is sometimes not listed on the foundation's website, making direct calls and emails all the more important.
- Keep in mind that many smaller foundations often fail to consistently update their website.
- You might see grant awards for teachers from 2005 to 2016 but nothing after.
- Get in touch with a member of the foundation early on to ensure that grants are being provided and that you don't waste your time crafting a narrative for a grant that doesn't exist.
- Usually, a contact name or general email is provided at the bottom of the homepage.
- Subscribe to the newsletter if you are interested in a particular org!

### Private/Family Foundations - Local/County/Statewide Grantors

- Typically much more competitive than community/education foundations.
- Funding amounts are typically much larger.
- The mission and vision of the foundation usually keeps their focus pretty narrow.
- Check out previously funded projects!
- Look closely at the guidelines
- Many private foundations will support educational nonprofits, but not k-12 institutions themselves!
- Some foundations are by invitation only - reach out if you can.

### Federal Grants

- CARES Act, American Rescue Plan, and ESSER Funds
  - Section 2001 of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 requires the Department of Education (Department) to allocate \$121,974,800,000 in awards to State educational agencies (SEAs) through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund).