

Fundraising Resources

Need Money?

Finding funding can be a big hurdle to launching a youth engagement project. The good news is that, with a little time and effort, you can usually find the resources you need

The following section is designed to give you and your organization a quick overview of fundraising, along tips on where to start to get more information. It may be necessary to get creative when you start fundraising, but a good place to start may be community or national foundations, organizations with smart growth concerns, and corporations or businesses with community ties.

Grants

A grant is a specific amount of money given to an individual or organization to complete a specified project or task. Some grants are designed to support entire programs while others support only specific portions.

Some organizations hire grant-writers, which can be really helpful but also expensive. Others make it an office effort – enlisting the talents of the entire team to create a successful proposal.

The following sites provide general resources and tools for those in search of grant money.

Grants Information Center

www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/Memorial/grants/proposal.htm

An Internet guide to proposal writing. This site is provided through collaboration between the University of Wisconsin and the Foundation Center and offers a variety of tools for grant-writing.

Non-Profit Guides

www.npguides.org

This site assists nonprofit organizations with the grant-writing processes by providing sample proposals and other fundraising tools.

Foundations

A foundation is a nonprofit corporation or a charitable trust with a principal purpose of making grants to other organizations or institutions. (The Foundation Center, 2003). Each

foundation has different standards for the programs that they can fund. Resources for finding national and community foundations are listed below. We encourage you to also research state foundations in your area.

Coalition of Community Foundations for Youth

www.ccfy.org

The CCFY exists to strengthen the leadership capacity of community foundations to improve the lives of children, youth and family.

Council on Foundations

www.cof.org

The Council on Foundations (COF) is a nonprofit association of foundations & corporations that promote effective philanthropy. Their site provides a multitude of resources, including a Community Foundation Locator accessed at

www.cof.org/Locator/index.cfm?menuContainerID=34

The Foundation Center

www.fdncenter.org

The Foundation Center's site provides links to over 140 private, community, and corporate foundations that make grants along with charities that support other nonprofit groups. Also available on this site are resources to help both grant applicants and grant-makers through the process.

Smart Growth Organizations

There are many organizations that exist solely to promote smart growth and thoughtful community development around the country. Many provide funding information for projects aimed at developing communities responsibly.

The Funders Network for Smart Growth & Livable Communities

www.fundersnetwork.org

This website provides resources for foundations, nonprofits, and other partners who are working to support smart growth. You can find profiles of funders committed this cause.

Smart Growth America

www.smartgrowthamerica.com

Smart Growth America's website includes the link 'smart money'; a guide to funding resources that focus on smart growth issues.

Smart Growth Funding Resource Guide

www.smartgrowth.org/pdf/funding_resources.pdf

Smart Growth Online provides an online handbook to assist smart growth projects. The resource guide includes three sections (1) funding categories and grants programs; (2) other funding directories; and (3) tips on the successful procurement of grant monies.

Sustainable Communities Network

www.sustainable.org

The Sustainable Communities website provides links to resources to help support the effort to build sustainable communities.

Corporate Sponsorships

Many corporations operate extensive giving programs to support youth development program. Some offer product donation, in addition to funds. Note: many corporations primarily focus on the communities in which they do business.

The following links provide information about corporate grant makers that focus their resources on youth development projects/programs.

America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth

www.americaspromise.org/about/factsheets/corporatepartners.cfm

Along with other resources, America's Promise includes a list of corporate sponsors and sponsorship examples you may have overlooked (i.e. what about asking for donated time instead of money?)

The Foundation Center, Corporate Granters

www.fdncenter.org/funders/grantmaker/gws_corp/corp1.html

The Foundation center provides a searchable list of corporate donors.

National Youth Development Information Center

www.nydic.org/nydic/fundsearch.html

The National Youth Development Information Center has compiled a list of corporate sponsors (also includes Foundation links) with a youth development agenda.

Businesses in Your Community

Small businesses or corporations with community ties are a great place to look for local support. Local charity is a great PR tool for the businesses; it also strengthens ties for your program with the business community.