



Chapter 15 Grant Sources



There are numerous sources of grants for libraries, though opportunities are always changing. The following list is a sampling of funding sources, both private and public, available at the time of this manual's latest revision.

Please notify us of any new grant opportunities that may be of interest to Indiana libraries by contacting Angela Fox at anfox@library.in.gov or (317) 234-6550.

LSTA Grants

<https://www.in.gov/library/services-for-libraries/lsta/>

As a library in Indiana, one of the first grant opportunities you consider should be an LSTA sub-grant. Funding is made possible by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which distributes federal funds to states annually under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). The Indiana State Library often reserves a portion of these funds for competitive sub-grant opportunities. Grant programs vary, but generally include technology and digitization initiatives. Please check our website for current grant opportunities.

LOCAL

Public Service/Social Organizations

Organizations such as Kiwanis, Lions Club, Rotary, etc. regularly offer funding opportunities in their communities and have sponsored library projects in the past.

Community Foundations

<https://www.tgci.com/funding-sources/IN/community>

Many counties in Indiana have a community foundation that collects and invests money for local agencies and returns the interest earned to them. They may also offer grants or funding opportunities for which public libraries can apply. The Grantsmanship Center offers a directory of community foundations in the state on its website.

STATE

Heritage Support Grants

<https://www.indianahistory.org/across-indiana/heritage-support-grants>

The Indiana Historical Society, with funding from Lilly Endowment Inc., offers Heritage Support Grants for a wide variety of projects to help Indiana's local organizations meet high priority needs in areas of collections stewardship, diversity, equity, access and inclusion, sustainability, and planning. In addition to grants, IHS also offers [fundraising mini webinars](#) and ongoing coaching for grant applicants.

Indiana Humanities

<https://indianahumanities.org/grants/>

Indiana Humanities oversees multiple grant programs that provide Indiana nonprofit organizations with funds to develop and implement in-depth public humanities programming. Eligible programs can include public workshops, film screenings, lectures and panels, creation of exhibits, reading/discussion programs, and any number of other formats, provided they're open to the public and utilize the humanities as a tool for engagement. Check their website regularly, as grant opportunities change from year to year.

Community Development Block Grants

<https://www.in.gov/ocra/cdbg/>

These federally funded grants come from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. Unlike LSTA grants – or most state or federal grant opportunities – construction is an allowable cost. Libraries are invited to apply for [Public Facilities Program](#) grants to enhance the lives of community members. Libraries should contact their local Community Liaison to discuss grant

opportunities. The map of liaisons can be found on their website at:

<https://www.in.gov/ocra/newsroom/community-liaisons/>

Indiana Historic Preservation Fund Grants

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/historic-preservation/financial-assistance/grants/>

This federal program of the National Park Service is administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources – Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology (HPA) and is intended to assist important local preservation projects and help the State meet its goals for cultural resource management. The DHPA makes subgrant awards in three different project categories through an annual competitive funding round. Grants can be used for preservation and rehabilitation of historic library buildings or to present educational programs about preservation.

FEDERAL

Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

<https://www.imls.gov/grants/grant-programs>

The mission of IMLS is to advance, support, and empower America’s museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. The Institute works at the national level in coordination with state and local organizations to champion lifelong learning, strengthen community engagement, advance collections stewardship and access, and demonstrate excellence in public service.

In addition to the LSTA grants available through the Indiana State Library, libraries can apply directly to IMLS for grant opportunities such as the National Leadership Grants Program or the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

<https://www.neh.gov/grants>

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is an independent federal agency dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. They offer a variety of grants that aim to provide opportunities for lifelong learning and to preserve and provide access to cultural and educational resources.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities>

The USDA offers a number of Community Facilities Programs, including the Direct Loan & Grant

program, to develop or improve essential public services and facilities in rural communities (population less than 20,000). Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment and pay related project expenses.

FOUNDATIONS/CORPORATE

Tip: Try consulting local banks, real estate brokers, convention and visitor bureaus, etc., for possible funding or sponsorships.

Barnes & Noble

<http://www.barnesandnobleinc.com/about-bn/sponsorships-charitable-donations/>

At a local level, the Barnes & Noble Community Business Development Program supports pre-K-12 schools and not-for-profit arts and literacy organizations. They also consider sponsorships and donations to organizations that focus their core businesses on higher learning, literacy and the arts. Barnes & Noble does **not** have a grant program; for information on sponsorships and donation opportunities, inquire at your local store.

Believe in Reading

<https://believeinreading.org/grant-guidelines/>

Believe in Reading is funded by The Steve and Loree Potash Family Foundation and is based in Cleveland, Ohio. Believe in Reading will consider funding programs that serve any age or aspect of supporting reading and literacy, including adult literacy, English as a second language projects, or Braille-related projects for the blind or visually impaired.

Dekko Foundation

<http://www.dekkofoundation.org/grant-making/grantseeker-support/dekko-foundation-101/>

The Dekko Foundation invests year-round in projects and initiatives that help children, young people, and communities thrive, with a major focus on early childhood development programming. Applicants must be located in the following northeast Indiana counties: DeKalb, LaGrange, Kosciusko, Noble, Steuben and Whitley.

Dollar General Literacy Foundation

<https://www.dgliteracy.org/grant-programs/>

Dollar General offers a number of grant programs for literacy service providers, including Summer Reading grants and Adult, Youth, and Family Literacy grants. Numerous Indiana public libraries been awarded these grants.

Gladys Brooks Foundation

<http://www.gladysbrooksfoundation.org/guidelines.html>

Grant proposals will be considered generally for resource endowments (for example, print, film,

electronic database, speakers/workshops), capital construction and capital equipment. The Foundation considers library proposals with an emphasis on innovative projects.

Lois Lenski Covey Foundation

<https://www.loislenskicovey.org/bookmobile-grants/>

The Lois Lenski Covey Foundation awards grants to bookmobile programs that serve children from disadvantaged populations. The grants are for purchasing books published for young people preschool through grade 8.

Perdue Farms Foundation

<https://corporate.perduefarms.com/company/foundation/>

The Perdue Farms Foundation provides grants to organizations and projects meant to strengthen local communities, with preference given to communities close to their plant facilities. Grant requests under \$1,000 are reviewed on a monthly basis; over \$1,000 on a quarterly basis.

Rural Electric Membership Corporation (REMC)

(check your local REMC website)

Operation Round Up grants provide financial support to nonprofit organizations within counties served by REMC. Organizations within a regional REMC's service area are eligible to apply for up to \$10,000.

Walmart

<https://walmart.org/how-we-give/local-community-grants>

Through the Local Community Grant Program, the Walmart Foundation awards grants ranging from \$250 to \$5,000. The grants are designed to address the unique needs of the local communities and to support organizations with goals that align with one of eight areas of funding, including quality of life, education, and community and economic development.

Additional Resources to Locate Grants

American Library Associate Grants

<https://www.ala.org/grants>

The ALA offers grants, awards, and scholarships via their many divisions. Check this site for a comprehensive list.

Grants Portal for Indiana Libraries

<https://www.in.gov/library/site-index/grants/>

The Indiana State Library maintains this portal, which includes links to various grants and grant registries.

Grants.gov

<https://www.grants.gov/>

Grants.gov is a central storehouse for information on over 1,000 federal funding opportunities and access to more than \$500 billion in annual awards. **Searching for grant applications does not require registration.** Once registered at this site, you may apply online for any federal grant. Online assistance with the application process is available.

Library Grants Blog

<http://librarygrants.blogspot.com>

Grant expert/librarian Stephanie Gerding frequently update this blog with new and ongoing grant opportunities. You can sign up to get daily or automatic emails when a new library grant opportunity is posted.

Scholastic – Library Grants

<https://www.scholastic.com/librarians/programs/grants.htm>

Scholastic's grant aggregator is focused specifically on library grants, on one-time or ongoing library grants and includes both grants with set application deadlines and ongoing funding opportunities.

Sources of Grants for Indiana Libraries (2023)

Library Name	Grant(s) received
ADAMS PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM	Star Net - 2000 eclipse glasses; Adams County Cares for summer non-resident cards for students; United Way of Adams County - 1000 Books Kindergarten; ARPA through Adams County for a delivery vehicle; local bank for outreach Amish schools.
ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	AWS Foundation for upgrades and enhancements to the equipment in the Audio Reading Service department; an ARPA grant through the City of Fort Wayne for maker equipment
ARGOS PUBLIC LIBRARY	ALA Libraries Transforming Communities grant - making rural communities more accessible
ATTICA PUBLIC LIBRARY	Attica Community Foundation - grants for programs and a play touch table
AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT	Dearborn County Community Foundation
BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Federal Communications Commission - Emergency Connectivity Fund
BATESVILLE MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY	Ripley County Community Foundation - to start a coding club; Indiana Humanities - One State/One Story
BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY	Indiana Arts Commission for a Culture Crawl event.
BELL MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY	Not really a grant, but we receive about \$14,000 per year from the Kosciusko County Community Foundation from funds specified in the final wills and testaments from former community members.
BENTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Benton County Community Foundation - for a seed library.
BLOOMFIELD-EASTERN GREENE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Greene County Foundation - Fixing the Façade of the Building.
BOSWELL-GRANT TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY	Benton Community Foundation - flag pole replacement
BROOK-IROQUOIS-WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY	Jasper Newton Foundation for a Library of Things expansion
BROWN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	PLA Digital Literacy Grant; Traditional Arts Indiana Grant; Indiana Humanities Authors Grant
CAMDEN-JACKSON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY	Indiana Humanities Grant
CHARLESTOWN-CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Indiana Arts Council for the Summer Reading Program
CLINTON PUBLIC LIBRARY	Giacoletto Foundation

COVINGTON-VEEDERSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY	Western Indiana Community Foundation - improvements/creativity zone
CRAWFORDSVILLE DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY	Montgomery County Community Foundation - a mobile laptop lab for technology classes and hotspots/Chromebooks to circulate; Walmart - winter reading program; MIBOR - frames for a story walk; Indiana Humanities grant
CROWN POINT COMMUNITY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Crown Point Community Foundation for STEAM circulating kits
DANVILLE-CENTER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY	ALA - Digital Literacy
DELPHI PUBLIC LIBRARY	Indiana Humanities - book discussion and author visits
DUNKIRK PUBLIC LIBRARY	Betty Gaunt Foundation - library construction
EARL PARK-RICHLAND TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY	Benton Community Foundation - sign for library events
EAST CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY	Foundations of East Chicago - programming
ECKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY	Community Foundation DeKalb County - enhancing 1000 Books Before Kindergarten; Eckhart Library Foundation, for repair and maintenance of library facilities
ELKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY	Community Foundation of Elkhart County - Riverwalk engagement activities; Friends of EPL--multiple grants for costs associated with events and programs
FLORA-MONROE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY	The Arts Federation ARP grant and arts support grant - to run a summer art program for all ages
FORT BRANCH-JOHNSON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY	Toyota of Gibson County - technology and furnishings in our STEM area
FRANCESVILLE-SALEM TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY	Pulaski County Community Foundation for Summer Reading Program; Carroll White REMC for Winter Reading Program
FRANKFORT COMMUNITY PUBLIC LIBRARY-CLINTON CO CONTRACTUAL PUBLIC LIBRARY	United Way for Dolly Parton Library and Literacy
FRANKLIN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT	Franklin County Community Foundation -- children's programs
FULTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Fulton County Community Foundation - Imagination Library; Women's Giving Circle - Imagination Library
GOSHEN PUBLIC LIBRARY	Indiana Humanities for a bilingual outreach story time that included bilingual book giveaways; Crossroads United Way to support our annual summer reading outreach book giveaway
GREENSBURG-DECATUR COUNTY CONTRACTUAL PUBLIC LIBRARY	Honda Manufacturing – children’s programming (mainly summer reading)
GREENWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY	Johnson County Community Foundation – early literacy

HAMILTON EAST PUBLIC LIBRARY	Hamilton County Historical Society - Bicentennial programming
HAMILTON NORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY	Hamilton County Bicentennial Committee grant -- to support/sponsor programs/services celebrating the bicentennial and Hamilton County History
HARRISON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Emergency Connectivity Fund grant - to Close the Homework Gap from the Federal Communications Commission
HUNTINGTON CITY-TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY	ALA - accessibility planning
HUSSEY-MAYFIELD MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY	Town of Zionsville; Community Foundation of Boone County; Purdue IEEE
INDIANAPOLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY	Emergency Connectivity Fund - Device Lending; Via IndyPL Foundation: Early Learning Indiana - early literacy programming; Indianapolis Public Transportation Foundation - bus pass, vulnerable populations; Central Indiana Community Foundation- programs
JASPER COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	REMC grant for Summer Reading prizes; Women's Giving Circle grant for LEGOs
JEFFERSONVILLE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY	Community Foundation of Southern Indiana - accessible computer and memory kits for people and family members of people with dementia
JOHNSON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Early Learning Indiana supported by the Lilly Endowment to support early education in babies and toddlers; Branigin Foundation to help upgrade the early childhood learning space; Indiana Arts Commission for Native Voices programming; IN-MAC to support the robotics learning lab
KEWANNA-UNION TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY	Arrowhead County Resource Conservation and Development - bat conservation; Community Foundation - summer reading material
KNIGHTSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY	Henry County Community Foundation; Tri Kappa Alpha Zeta chapter
KNOX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Heritage Support Grant from the Indiana Historical Society; SNAP Ed grant from the Indiana Department of Health
KOKOMO-HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Indiana Humanities – Genealogy and Local History Dept; ALA - Americans and the Holocaust exhibit; National Yiddish Book Center - Stories of Exile; Indiana Humanities - African American Genealogy workshop; Howard County Community Foundation - GrantSelect database
LA PORTE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Howmet Foundation for support of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library; Howmet Foundation for the purchase of new equipment for our makerspace; Unity Foundation for support of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Star Net grant; Writing Workshop grant from Indiana Humanities; Advancing Racial Equity Speaker Bureau grant

	from Indiana Humanities; The One State, One Story grant from Indiana Humanities
LIGONIER PUBLIC LIBRARY	Amelia Frehse grant - purchasing sensory items
LINCOLN HERITAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY	CenterPoint - Summer Reading; Dollar General - Summer Reading
MARION PUBLIC LIBRARY	Indiana Historical Society grant to our museum for restoration of some documents
MELTON PUBLIC LIBRARY	Orange County Community Foundation - programming
MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Penguin Random House - adult book club for mentally challenged
MITCHELL COMMUNITY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Lawrence County Community Foundation - children's services improvements
MONROE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Wahl Family Trust Grant: mobility aids; Psi Iota Xi grant - circulating ukeleles
MORRISSON-REEVES LIBRARY	Indiana Humanities Grant for One World, One Plate program
MUNCIE-CENTER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY	Schaefer Foundation - restoration Phase 1 at Carnegie Library; 21st Century Community Learning Centers Cohort 10 - Great Achievers afterschool program; Ball Brothers Foundation - music stage purchase; 8/twelve Coalition grant - Maring-Hunt Annual Scarecrow Festival
NEW ALBANY-FLOYD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Indiana Humanities - collection development; Samtec Cares grant to build an Audio/Visual MakerSpace Lab at Carnegie Center for Art & History branch
NEW HARMONY WORKINGMEN'S INSTITUTE	Posey County Community Foundation - program development
NOBLE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Rural Technology Fund for STEM programming
NORTH JUDSON-WAYNE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY	Starke County Community Foundation - restoration of historic documents; Starke County Community Foundation - Story Walk board installation
NORTH MANCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY	Science Kits for Public Libraries - Science Kit library; Good Deeds grant application - arts programming; POET Community Grant - tower garden
OAKLAND CITY-COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY	STEMtales was a stipend for participating in the program; Liberty Bank for a financial kids book club; Oklahoma State University stipend for water program participation; and Gibson County Community Foundation for Play to Learn book/game kits
ODON WINKELPLECK PUBLIC LIBRARY	Grants from the REMC Operation Roundup and Daviess County Community Foundation to add a server and ePrint software; United Way of Davess County to put a story trail in the local park; Daviess County Community Foundation for SRP books

OHIO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Rising Sun Regional Foundation for new public computers; Ohio County Community Foundation grant for program supplies; American Red Heart Association for seeds for our public seed library
ORLEANS TOWN & TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY	Orange County Community Foundation for a television and summer reading program; Orange County Youth Council for a laptop; Orange County REMC Round-Up for the summer reading program
OWEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Owen County Community Foundation for use of Youth Services Department; in support of our Adult Education Center we receive grants from Monroe County Public Schools; a federal reimbursement
PAOLI PUBLIC LIBRARY	Orange County Community Foundation - Genealogy Room improvements
PARKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Parke County Community Foundation for updates to the Teen Space
PEABODY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Whitley County Master Gardeners - raised garden beds for programing; Indiana Humanities - author visit; ALA Libraries Transforming Communities grant - accessibility and technology; Indiana Arts Commission (AOS/APS grant) - community art shows
PERRY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Community Foundation - local newspaper and yearbook archive; United Way of Perry County - STEM walls and children's furniture; Bookmobile grant - bookmobile materials
PERU PUBLIC LIBRARY	Northern Indiana Community Foundation - children's programming; Psi Iota Xi Sorority - children's books
PIKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Indiana Arts grant to offer arts workshops; Community Foundation grant to add a music garden, ALA Digital Literacy Grant to teach digital concepts to seniors
PLAINFIELD-GUILFORD TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY	Indiana Humanities, Hendricks County Community Foundation - programs
PORTER COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM	Porter County Community Foundation - support for library garden design
PRINCETON PUBLIC LIBRARY	Gibson County Community Foundation - build three free little libraries, one blessing box, and one small fridge to house items grown from our garden towers
PULASKI COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	ALA Libraries Transforming Communities grant
REMINGTON-CARPENTER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY	Jasper County REMC for English as a Second Language class; Remington Woman's Giving Circle for programs; Jasper Foundation for a storage shed
ROANN-PAW PAW TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY	Community Foundation of Wabash County for a new sign
SCOTT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Community Foundation Youth Grant Committee for summer reading program

SHELBY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Wortman Family Foundation (Blue River Community Foundation) for Library of Things/Beanstack; Northeastern Hometown Community Fund (Blue River Community Foundation) for Storywalk
SHOALS PUBLIC LIBRARY	Dollar General Foundation - Summer Reading
SOUTH WHITLEY COMMUNITY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Whitley County Community Foundation (multiple) - Lighting update and unrestricted
SPENCER COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Spencer County Parks Board and the Spencer County Community Foundation - Storywalk at our Hatfield branch
ST JOSEPH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Pokagon Fund - Summer Reading Club; Muessel Ellison Memorial Trust Fund Foundation - author talk; ACP Navigator/Affordable Connectivity Program – sign-up assistance
STARKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM	Tri-Kappa--Summer Reading Kick Off program
SULLIVAN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Wabash Valley Community Foundation - purchase of archival and preservation materials for the history museum
SWITZERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Community Foundation of Switzerland County; Vevay-Switzerland County Foundation
TIPTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Northern Indiana Computer Consortium for Libraries (NICCL) 2023 Technical Improvement grant - the grant purpose is to provide hardware, software or other tangible items to improve the member library's technology infrastructure
UNION COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Union County Foundation - supporting summer reading and library programs
UPLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY	IEEE Foundation Region 4 for STEM kits for circulation
VERMILLION COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	International Paper Newport Mill - support SRP performer fees
VERNON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY	Hancock County Community Foundation - ENL classes
VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	ASTC If/Then Gender Equity Engagement grant; Wabash Valley Community Foundation - Creating a Better Tomorrow; United Way - Neighborhood Improvement Project; Wabash Valley Community Foundation - Impact grant
WALKERTON-LINCOLN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY	ALA and ARSL Accessibility Grant
WARREN PUBLIC LIBRARY	Huntington County Community Foundation Make a Difference Grant - modernization for elevator lift
WASHINGTON CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Daviess County Community Foundation - eclipse
WATERLOO-GRANT TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY	James Foundation - program snacks; Community Foundation - community room furniture upgrade

WELLS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	Wells County Foundation -Wabash Endowment Fund - teen programming
WEST LAFAYETTE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Indiana Arts Commission – arts programming
WESTFIELD-WASHINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY	Emergency Connectivity Grant - Universal Service Fund - Hotspot Data Service from Verizon for 10 hotspots; Betty Overman Westfield Washington Public Library Endowment Fund - Hamilton County Community Foundation for purchase of books for the SRP incentives
WHITING PUBLIC LIBRARY	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) – STEM grant
WILLARD LIBRARY OF EVANSVILLE	Landmarks Indiana - to perform a facilities study

Grant Writing Tips

1. Ask for advice. Start on the application well before the deadline. Solicit help from the granting organization program officer. Ask colleagues to review the application and offer suggestions.
2. Identify projects that would be of benefit to your organization before looking for grants. Ways to do this include conducting a meeting of stakeholders to brainstorm for ideas, creating a file of ideas submitted by staff and patrons, and soliciting ideas from the public. Determine what ideas would be most suitable for grant funding. Be ready when funding opportunities arise instead of reacting to announcements of available grants.
3. Locate grantmaking organizations with goals that match your project. Using the various tools listed above, identify grantors who fund projects similar to your proposed project.
4. Research the grant opportunity. Make sure your library is eligible. Read the guidelines to determine if the project fits with the mission of the granting organization and if there are any restrictions that may prohibit you from accepting the funds. Learn about previous grants awarded by the organization. Determine the funding limits and whether the amount of money being offered will realistically cover the costs for your project.
5. Follow the instructions provided by the grantmaker. Check deadlines. Answer all the questions and include all the necessary parts of the proposal or application when submitting it. If any part of the application is confusing, contact the grant program officer for help.
6. Don't give up if an application isn't funded. If possible, ask for feedback as to why your grant application was denied. Ask about any opportunities for resubmitting the grant. Consider other funding sources.
7. Avoid two common mistakes often made by new applicants. One is including too little detail about the proposed project and giving insufficient justification for the significance of the need. The other is proposing more work than can be reasonably done during the grant period.
8. Think like a reviewer. One of the best ways to learn how to write a grant is to participate on a grant review committee. Organizations that offer publicly funded grants are often looking for individuals willing to assist in grant review.

Sources of Grant Writing Classes & Workshops

This list is for informational use and does not imply endorsement of any kind.

Colleges/Universities

Indiana University regularly offers a course on grant writing. Please contact the School of Information and Library Science for more information. <http://ils.indiana.edu>

Professional Organizations

The Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University <https://philanthropy.indianapolis.iu.edu/professional-development/index.html> offers professional development centered on fundraising. The Fund Raising School offers courses such as “Proposal Writing and Grant Management” for a fee; courses can be taken online or in-person.

Candid Learning

<https://learning.candid.org/training/>

Candid (formerly Foundation Center) offers a variety of webinars and training courses on fundraising and proposal writing. Once you select a format (live, on-demand), you can filter for free classes.

LYRASIS

<https://www.lyrasis.org/services/Pages/Classes.aspx>

LYRASIS sometimes offers classes on grant writing. Past classes have included Grant Writing for Digitization and Preservation Projects and Grant Writing Secrets for Librarians. The site allows you to filter for free classes.

Grant Writing Resources

The Indiana State Library has numerous grant writing resources in their collection. Here is a sampling of what is available.

The ALA book of library grant money. Chicago: ALA, 2014.

The Art and science of grant writing. Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (United States. Dept of Housing and Urban Development), 2006.

Barbato, Joseph and Danielle S. Furlich. *Writing for a good cause: the complete guide to crafting proposals and other persuasive pieces for nonprofits.* NY: Simon & Schuster, 2000.

Bauer, David G. *The "How to" grants manual: successful grantseeking techniques for obtaining public and private grants.* Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2007. [Available online in the INSPIRE eBook Collection.](#)

Carlson, Mim. *Winning grants step by step: the complete workbook for planning, developing, writing, successful proposals.* 2nd edition. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2002.

Clarke, Cheryl. *Storytelling for grantseekers: the guide to creative nonprofit fundraising.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass. 2001.

Coley, Soraya M. *Proposal writing: effective grantsmanship.* 3rd ed., Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2000.

Directory of Indiana grantmakers. Indianapolis, Indiana: Grantmakers Alliance, 2006.

Geever, Jane C. *The Foundation Center's guide to proposal writing.* NY: Foundation Center, 1997.

Hall-Ellis, Sylvia D. *Grants for school libraries.* Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2003.

Hall-Ellis, Sylvia D., et. al. *Librarian's handbook for seeking, writing, and managing grants.* Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2011.

Karsh, Ellen and Arlen Sue Fox. *The only grant-writing book you'll ever need.* New York: Carroll & Graf; [Berkeley, Calif.] : Distributed by Publishers Group West, 2003.

Kreiser, Maria. Library of Congress. *How to develop and write a grant proposal.* RL32159. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Research Service, 2018. Web.

Mackellar, Pamela H. and Stephanie K. Gerding. *Winning grants: a how-to-do-it manual for librarians with multimedia tutorials and grant development tools*. NY:Neal-Schuman, 2010.

Marshall, Maria I., Aaron Johnson, and Jean Fulton. *Writing a successful grant proposal*. Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, 2006.

Maxwell, Nancy Kalikow. *Grant money through collaborative partnerships*. Chicago: ALA, 2012.

Staines, Gail M. *Go get that grant! : a practical guide for libraries and nonprofit organizations*. Scarecrow Press, 2011.

Wason, Sara D. *Webster's new world grant writing handbook*. Wiley, 2004.

Weinstein, Stanley. *The complete guide to fundraising management*. NY: J. Wiley, 2002.

Ziarnik, Natalie Reif. *School & public libraries: developing the natural alliance*. Chicago: ALA, 2003.

Online Resources

Shaping Outcomes – Online course in Outcomes Based Evaluation

<https://shapingoutcomes.org/>

This course was developed through a cooperative agreement between the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). It is a particularly helpful resource in preparing an LSTA or IMLS grant application.

GrantStation Pathfinder

<https://grantstation.com/public-resources/the-pathfinder>

While a paid membership is required for full-access to GrantStation's resources, non-members can access an abundance of information on grant-writing, grant management, budget and matching funds, data sources for compelling statistics to show needs, and other grant-related topics.