

FOUNDATION GRANTS

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Susquehanna River
North Branch Water Trail

Introduction to Foundations

Must give away roughly 5% of their assets annually to charity and/or nonprofits.

They can be structured as one of the following:

- **Private (Family/ individual)**
- **Corporate (Linked to a Business)**
- **Community (local/ regional)**

Why Explore Foundation Grants?

- **#1 = Strategy for growing funds for your organization or project.**
- **Chase the partner not the money**
 - aka Search for foundations whose mission matches your organizations**
- **When approaching these foundations emphasize the alignment between both of your organizations and how a financial partnership can be mutually beneficial for meeting your missions.**

How to Find Grants & Foundations?

- **Candid** (online foundation database)
- **Instrumentl** (AI based, also can track deadlines and match)
- **Local Libraries** (most offer a “Foundation Directory” for free)
- **Senator/ State Representatives Office** (most have a grant directly free for their constituents)
- **Form 990s search** (shows exactly where foundations gave money in the previous year through this tax form)
- **Google Search** (type in your location and “foundational grants”)

What to Expect

- Letter of Intent (LOI)
- Request for Proposal (RFP)
- Potential Interview with a Giving Officer/ Foundation Officer
- Request for 501c3 status, list of board members, Staff CVs, etc
- Quarterly, Annually, and/or Final Grant Reports

Are YOU Grant Ready?

- Prepare a checklist with core documents needed for an LOI or preapplication
- Having these documents in an accessible folder will allow you to respond to LOIs and RFPs with speed and accuracy without a last-minute scramble.
- Create an excel list that can be linked to your calendar to remind you of grant openings, deadlines, and needs on a yearly basis.
- Keep a file with feedback from the foundations on your applications.
- Stay in contact with foundation officers even if they do not originally fund you. Create the relationship, show your organizations potential and worth... **then apply again!**

Resources

- [Find funding for nonprofits | Candid](#)
- [Grant Opportunities for Nonprofits | Instrumentl](#)
- [Home | Grants.gov](#)

Questions?

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