

# Grants Preparedness: Federal Grants

This video is for general informational purposes only and is not legal advice. Viewers should consult their attorney, accountant, lender, and payroll provider to make determinations regarding their organization's specific eligibility and to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

# The Rationale

- Non-profits and other grant eligible organizations must engage in a variety of strategies to solicit and secure funds to support operations
- Federal grant awards tend to be larger, multi-year awards to support projects, programs, research, and other activities
- Opportunities for over \$600 billion in regular Federal funding are announced and posted annually
- The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Emergency Security (CARES) Act allocated a record amount of additional relief funding to Federal agencies which will be awarded in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

# How to Access Funding

- Register your organization at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), the publicly accessible website where you will find all Federal grant opportunities posted
- The website allows you to do several things:
  - Register to receive grant notifications and alerts
  - Search for current, forecasted or archived grant opportunities
  - Submit applications for Federal funding
  - Manage submitted applications in Workspace
  - Track the status of a submitted application
  - Access blogs, tutorials and other resources to guide you through the process

# Steps for Getting Registered:

- Complete a one-time registration process on [www.login.gov](http://www.login.gov)
- Secure a DUNS Number and Unique Entity Identifier
- Register at [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov)
- Login on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) and create a profile for your organization
- Completing the registration process does not obligate your organization to apply for Federal funding and registration is not required to conduct a search of grant opportunities
- Video tutorials to walk you through the process are available on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)
- Helpline information is also available on the website

# The Benefits of Registering Now

- Grant opportunities may have as little as 30 days from the date of posting to due date
- Being registered allows your organization to focus its efforts on developing your competitive application once an aligned opportunity is identified
- The registration process is taking longer than normal due to the high volumes of entities now registering to receive grant funds
- The registration is a multi-step process that is conservatively estimated to take several weeks to complete

# Strategies for Success

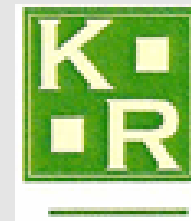
- Identify compatible organizations with which you can partner to apply for funding
- Most Federal grants are awarded on a reimbursement basis, so you must identify a non-Federal source of funding to cover initial expenses and invoice for reimbursement
- Simplify the process by having standard components of your grant applications already written (e.g., organizational background, program descriptions, sustainability plan, and qualifications of key staff members, etc.)
- Consult with your finance staff and/or financial advisor to determine if it's beneficial to apply for a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate or accept the 10% de minimis rate

# Strategies for Success

- Purchase software that will allow you to easily convert documents to PDF
- Complete and save standard forms which are required for all applications for Federal grant funds (e.g., SF-424, SF-424a, etc.)
- Set-up a folder of commonly requested attachments in PDF (e.g., Board of Directors List, IRS Non-profit Determination Letter, resumes and bios for key staff, annual financial audits)
- Reach out to your Federally elected representatives to determine their process for securing a letter of support

# Websites to Know and Use

- [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)
- [www.login.gov](http://www.login.gov)
- [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov)
- [www.whitehouse.gov/omb](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb)



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