



## ***December Grant Newsletter***

December 19, 2013

Dear Hoosier,

As many of you plan for 2014, finding sources of revenue can be a challenge. Budget constraints and our still-recovering economy have reduced many government grants and made both government and foundation grants more competitive. I hope the following information helps with your decision making.

If you have any questions about the information provided, please contact my office at [Beth.Barrett@donnelly.senate.gov](mailto:Beth.Barrett@donnelly.senate.gov). If you would like to request a letter of support for grant applications from me, please visit [my grants page](#).

Sincerely,

Senator Joe Donnelly



## ***Working with Private Foundations***

Before applying for a private or corporate foundation grant, do your homework.

- Does the foundation request *unsolicited* applications? Many do not.
- Check the eligibility requirements. Many corporations only offer funding to organizations within their service areas. Some foundations will fund local government projects; others are strictly for nonprofits.
- What is the pool of applicants? Does the foundation award internationally, nationally or locally? Size up the competition to be sure you have the capacity to vie for the funding.
- Does your project closely align with the mission of the foundation? Don't try to stretch your program to fit the funding guidelines. This only dilutes your program and does nothing to advance your application.

Rather than "cold call" your application, make an attempt to acquaint the foundation with your organization. Make an appointment to meet with the foundation director, if possible, to introduce your project to them. Provide a professional packet of information that tells your story.

Check **corporation websites** for smaller grants for special area projects.

Use a reliable source of information about private foundations. Don't be fooled by websites that charge for information you can access for free. There are resources available that provide lists of Requests for Proposals, free training and educational publications, and even funding sources specifically for the State of Indiana. More information about applying for private foundation grants can be found in the Grants section on the [Donnelly website here](#).

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