National Funding Opportunities

Support for National Performing Arts Initiatives

Doris Duke Charitable Foundation: Fund for National Projects
The Fund for National Projects, an initiative of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, supports projects that strengthen the national infrastructure of the professional nonprofit dance, jazz, presenting, and/or theatre fields. In addition, the Fund works to improve conditions for the national community of performing artists in the targeted fields. Grants of $60,000 to $200,000 are provided for projects that engage a broad national constituency, occur once (or periodically) rather than annually, and have the potential to significantly impact a field. Examples of eligible projects include research initiatives assessing the national health of arts groups or of individual artists, national convenings for performing arts fields (beyond traditional national annual conferences), and special projects that address unique circumstances that affect an entire professional nonprofit field. Projects by single performing arts entities are not supported. The upcoming deadline for letters of inquiry is July 2, 2012. Visit the Foundation’s website for program details.

Grassroots Community Projects Funded

Tom’s of Maine 50 States for Good
Tom’s of Maine 50 States for Good initiative supports grassroots organizations throughout the country working to do good in their communities. In 2012, the program will provide five grants of $20,000 and one grant of $50,000 to nonprofit organizations in order to help them enhance their community projects. Eligible projects must have a positive impact on the community in one of the following areas: Environmental Goodness, Healthy Goodness, or Human Goodness. A review panel of leaders from around the country selects up to 51 finalists. Information on these finalists will then be posted on the Tom’s of Maine website in September so that the public can vote for which six projects should be awarded funding. The deadline for submitting online applications is 8pm ET June 12, 2012. Visit the company’s website to learn more about this program and submit an online application.

Grants Promote Consistency in Associate Degree Programs

Lumina Foundation/Kresge Foundation: Credit When It’s Due: Recognizing the Value of Quality Associate Degrees
The Lumina Foundation and the Kresge Foundation are teaming up to offer grants to encourage state education systems to implement consistent approaches to awarding associate degrees to students who transfer from community colleges to four-year institutions with the intention of earning a
bachelor’s degree. The foundations believe that systemizing how associate degrees are awarded will provide several benefits, including the following: fairly crediting community colleges for their work in preparing transfer students, clarifying the value of sub-baccalaureate degrees by awarding them consistently, and helping individuals by providing them a postsecondary credential with proven currency in the labor market. The foundations expect to award eight to ten two-year grants ranging from $200,000 to $600,000. Only one award will be made in any state. Eligible applicants include state higher education executive offices, state systems of higher education, and partnerships of two- and/or four-year institutions. The grant proposal deadline is June 27, 2012. Visit the Lumina Foundation website to review the grant application information.

U.S. Film Festivals Supported

**Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences: Festival Grants Program**

The Festival Grants Program, an initiative of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, provides grants of up to $30,000 to a wide variety of film festivals based in the United States. Grant recipients include major international film festivals, independent and alternative festivals, and festivals that support social and cultural diversity. Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals that make festival events more accessible to the general public, give screening access to minority and less visible filmmakers, and bring the public into contact with filmmakers. Grants are only available to applicants that have held at least five festivals as of December 31, 2011. Applications must be submitted by June 27, 2012. Grant range information and application guidelines are available on the Academy’s website.

Regional Funding Opportunities

**Funds for Active Lifestyle Youth Programs in Company Communities**

**Finish Line Youth Foundation**

The Finish Line Youth Foundation strives to make a difference in the lives of youth in the communities where company employees and customers live by supporting programs that focus on youth development and an active lifestyle. The Foundation primarily offers grants to nonprofit organizations that provide community-based access to athletics and other active lifestyle activities for youth under the age of 18. An additional focus is on camps that give kids the chance to be active, with emphasis on those that provide services to disadvantaged or special needs children. Requests are reviewed
quarterly; the remaining deadlines for 2012 are June 30, September 30, and December 31. Visit the company’s website to take the online Eligibility Quiz.

Grants Encourage Environmental Initiatives in Virginia

**Virginia Environmental Endowment**
The mission of the Virginia Environmental Endowment is to improve the quality of the environment by encouraging all sectors to work together to prevent pollution, conserve natural resources, and promote environmental literacy. The Endowment provides grants to nonprofit organizations for programs conducted in the state of Virginia and in the Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys of Kentucky and West Virginia. Specific grant programs include the Virginia Program, the Virginia Mini-Grant Program, and the Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys Program. The upcoming application deadline for all three of these programs is June 15, 2012. Visit the Endowment’s website to review the funding guidelines for each program.

Support for Healthcare Organizations in Idaho and Oregon

**PacificSource Charitable Foundation**
The mission of the PacificSource Charitable Foundation is to provide funds to nonprofit organizations working to improve health status and meet healthcare needs in the communities the company serves in Idaho and Oregon. Priority is given to organizations that address the healthcare needs of children and youth. Eligible applicants include the following: school-based health centers, community-sponsored clinics and health centers, rural health clinics, behavioral and oral health programs, and local health departments. Grants generally range between $10,000 and $50,000. The next application deadline is June 30, 2012. Visit the company’s website to download the Proposal Application Packet.

Community Programs in Maine Funded

**The Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation**
The Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation focuses on strengthening and supporting communities throughout the state of Maine. The Foundation provides grants of $500 to $50,000 for community-based projects that address the underlying causes of social and environmental problems, as well as those that address the consequences. Priority is given to nonprofit organizations that promote literacy, provide community services, or focus on the arts. Requests are reviewed two times per year; the next application deadline is June 30, 2012. Funding guidelines and application forms are available on the Foundation’s website.
Federal Grant and Loan Programs

Grants Support Solutions Advancing Promise Neighborhoods

**Department of Education**

The Promise Neighborhoods Program provides support for the implementation of Promise Neighborhood plans in targeted geographic areas with a demonstrated need, including rural and tribal communities. Proposed activities should include a sound strategy for creating a continuum of solutions and demonstrate the capacity to implement the plan. Special consideration may be given to implementation activities that address the following priorities: comprehensive local early learning networks, quality internet connectivity, arts and humanities, and quality affordable housing. Proposed implementation activities focused on family engagement in learning through adult education are also reviewed. The letter of intent deadline is June 8, 2012. The application deadline is July 27, 2012.

Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiatives Supported

**Department of Justice**

The Violent Gang and Gun Crime Reduction Program provides support for coordinated efforts to reduce gun and gang-related violent crime. Collaborative task forces will implement gang and gun crime enforcement, intervention, and prevention initiatives within each district adhering to the following core elements: strategic planning, training, outreach, and accountability. Priority will be given to high-performing initiatives utilizing effective, intelligence- and data-driven strategies in areas of greatest need. The application deadline is June 14, 2012.

Pre-Construction Planning Funds for Learning Labs Available

**Institute of Museum and Library Services**

The Learning Labs in Libraries and Museums Program provides support for planning and design activities for spaces that foster experimentation and creativity for middle- and high-school youth in library- and museum-based, out-of-school-time settings. Proposed labs should be grounded in evidence-based research on youth, and should be designed to support youth learning in such 21st century skills as critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). The application deadline is June 15, 2012.
Individual Development Account Programs for Refugees Funded

Department of Health and Human Services

Discretionary Grant Funds for Projects to Establish Individual Development Account Programs for Refugees provide support for projects that establish, support, and manage Individual Development Accounts (matched savings accounts) for eligible low-income refugees to help them achieve economic self-sufficiency through meeting savings goals to acquire an asset, including a home, a small business, a vehicle, professional recertification, and post secondary education. Proposed projects should be designed to meet the following objectives: encourage regular saving habits among refugees; promote their participation in the financial institutions of this country; promote refugee acquisition of assets to build individual, family, and community resources; increase refugee knowledge of financial and monetary topics; assist refugees in advancing their education; increase homeownership among refugees; and assist refugees in gaining access to capital. The application deadline is June 18, 2012.

Online Education Sessions

Upcoming Online Education Sessions

Unless otherwise noted, all Online Education Sessions are webinars, are 90 minutes in duration, and are scheduled to begin at 2 PM Eastern Time. The registration fee is $89 per person.

Developing a Powerful Program Evaluation Plan

Many grant writers are stumped when it comes to developing the evaluation component of a grant application. They can easily articulate the issues, define goals and objectives, delineate the action steps, and estimate the costs of implementation - everything except a plan to demonstrate the program’s effectiveness. In this course, Susan Eliot will teach participants the basic components of an evaluation plan, how to link the evaluation plan to goals and objectives, how to decide which evaluation strategies to use, how much to budget for an evaluation, and when to seek out the help of a professional evaluator. Participants will receive samples of evaluation plans used in actual programs. The webinar will be held on Tuesday, June 5, 2012. Visit the link above to register.

Effective Donor Communication - You Can Do It! (NEW)

Fundraising is all about relationships, and relationships are based on productive communication.
Nonprofits today engage in all kinds of communication activities in a variety of print and online formats. Yet most of their end products fail to produce the desired results with funders and prospects. This webinar, presented by Judi Margolin, explores the who, what, why and when of donor-centric communications, with special attention to nonprofit newsletters, websites, and grant reports. Getting to know and segmenting your audiences are also addressed, as is conducting a successful site visit with your funder, assessing and readjusting your communications efforts for maximum impact, and cultivating all donors for future support. This webinar will be held on Thursday, June 7, 2012. Visit the link above to register.

**Positioning Your Organization for International Funding**

This webinar will offer participants an overview on how to work with internationally focused U.S. government agencies that fund work being done overseas. Terri Hasdorff, President of Compassion Strategies, will discuss topics including: structuring your organization correctly and capacity building, registering your organization with USAID, and accessing international grant funds efficiently and effectively. The webinar will also provide information about various membership associations that offer relevant resources for organizations working overseas. There will be time allotted at the end of the webinar for questions and answers from participants. This webinar will be held on Thursday, June 21, 2012. Visit the link above to register.

**Designing Surveys That Produce Useful Results**

Surveys can gather a lot of useful information in a reasonably quick and cost-effective manner. Data generated by surveys can help you take your community's pulse, plan for new programs, develop meaningful policies, evaluate your program's effectiveness, find out how satisfied your employees are, determine if program recipients are benefitting from services, and justify the need for new or additional funding to grantmakers. But, if surveys are not designed and administered properly, they can generate worthless information and waste your time and money. In this webinar, Susan Eliot will teach participants when to use a survey (and when not to), how to write relevant questions, how to get good responses, and how to make results useful. Participants will also receive a ten-page survey development guide and several samples of well-designed surveys. This webinar is for beginning and intermediate participants. The webinar will be held on Tuesday, June 26, 2012. Visit the link above to register.

For a complete list of upcoming Online Education Sessions, click [here](#).
Partner Depot

True Nonprofit Accounting with Blackbaud

Blackbaud

Traditional accounting systems cannot meet the specific challenges nonprofit financial officers face every day. Even the “nonprofit” versions of off-the-shelf software are ill-equipped to handle the unique requirements of nonprofit organizations. Look no further with Blackbaud’s true nonprofit accounting system, The Financial Edge™, to help you track and manage all of your revenue streams in one place, reduce the time spent producing reports for your funders, enable budget controls to avoid overspending, automate the calculation of grant reimbursements, and allocate indirect costs to provide a complete grant picture. Join us for a FREE 15-minute webinar to learn more about The Financial Edge™ and some exciting promotions we are offering when you sign up by June 30, 2012. You can also learn more by downloading our free white paper on how using a nonprofit specific accounting system can help save you time and money.

GrantStation Announcements

Current Trends in Grantseeking Just Published

State of Grantseeking Spring 2012

The State of Grantseeking Spring 2012 is the fourth semi-annual informal survey of nonprofit organizations highlighting the current state of grantseeking in the U.S. “The idea behind these surveys is to take the pulse of grantseeking and determine the status of philanthropy in the U.S. today, not a year or two ago,” said Cynthia Adams, CEO of GrantStation. “We live in such a fast-paced society that current information is critical to the success of anyone trying to raise funds. This survey is full of up-to-date information to help nonprofits as they continue to adjust to current economic conditions and plan their grantseeking strategies.” Download your free copy of The State of Grantseeking Spring 2012 here.

Tracks to Success

Common Grant Writing Mistakes You Can Fix Today!

There are common mistakes that many grant writers make that can hurt a proposal’s chance of being
awarded. Getting over these hurdles can significantly help your organization’s application rise to the top of the pile. In this series, Alice Ruhnke, CEO of The Grant Advantage, will discuss common errors made by both novice and experienced grant writers and describe ways to avoid or fix them. Click on the link provided above to read Part Four.