

Grant Funding Leads

Resin your bow and get ready to fiddle

In the quest for funding assistance, this is no time to fiddle around. The school year is racing toward us and the district dollars are fading. Hesitation in the search for grant largesse could mean failure in the acquisition of needed learning materials.

The poet Edgar Lee Masters describes Fiddler Jones who had trouble staying with his 40 acres and was distracted by the gaiety around him. Similarly, little boys in grammar school frequently are viewed as being distracted and accused of “fiddling around.” And we are not discussing the political machinations of Nero while Rome roasted. If there is to be any serious fiddling, it must be in the nature of the serious career-type fiddling of a Charlie Daniels, an Irish Caoimhin O Raghallaigh, or a Cajun Doug Kershaw.

Therefore, the fruitful search for necessary funding must be to treat the fiddle as if it were used by one of the above and launch your quest vigorously. If successful, you can carry your fiddle in a violin case and be mistaken for the Yehudi Menuhin of grant searches.

If that is not the case, here are some potential sources that could resin your requests, beginning with these federal possibilities:

Carl Perkins Act

The purpose of the Perkins Act is to prepare a workforce with the academic and vocational skills needed to compete successfully in a world market. The most frequent uses of funds include occupationally relevant equipment, vocational curriculum materials for learning labs, and curriculum development or modification.

More information: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OVAE/CTE/perkins.html>

Innovative Programs

These programs stimulate educational innovation by encouraging broad-based reform. Funds may be used for technology, professional development software, or curricular materials.

More information: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/innovative/index.html>

Grant Funding Leads

Enhancing Education Through Technology

The program's goal is to improve student academic achievement through the use of technology in elementary and secondary schools.

More information: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/edtech/index.html>

National Science Foundation

NSF promotes and advances scientific programs in the United States and advances grants for science, math, and engineering research in education.

More information: <http://www.nsf.gov/funding/>

Rural Education Achievement Program

This fund provides flexible grants to rural districts with at least 20% of the students living in poverty.

More information: <http://www.ed.gov/nclb/freedom/local/reap.html>

If you choose to fiddle on the private side of the grant equation, we offer:

Lumina Foundation

The objective is to expand knowledge and improve practices that affect students' access and success in secondary and postsecondary education.

More information: <http://www.luminafoundation.org/grants/index.html>

Bayer Foundations

Bayer stresses the advancement of science education and a strong, reliable workforce.

More information: <http://www.bayer-foundations.com/en/homepage.aspx>

Chevron Texaco Foundation

Chevron provides grants for partnerships between K-12 schools and local scientific organizations (museums, aquariums) to provide scientific exploration and discovery programs.

More information: www.chevron.com

Grant Funding Leads

Environmental Excellence Awards

K-12 teachers and students are recognized for environmental preservation.

More information: <http://seaworld.org/conservation-matters/eea/index.htm>

Lodestar Foundation

This foundation funds only efforts that are intended to lead to long-term collaborative activities of nonprofits working in the same field.

More information: <http://www.lodestarfoundation.org/>

Lawrence Foundation

They are focused on making grants to support environment, education, human services, and other causes.

More information: <http://www.thelawrencefoundation.org/>

Wachovia

Wachovia aims to increase student achievement, Pre-K through Grade 12.

More information: <https://www.wachovia.com/>

Teacher's Pet

(grant tip geared specifically toward teachers' smaller projects)

Office Depot Foundation

Offering grants of \$50 to \$3,000, Office Depot works with organizations large and small to collaborate on programs and efforts that bring systemic change to the communities they serve. (Submit application electronically.)

More information: http://www.officedepotfoundation.org/grant_guidelines.asp