

Grant Funding Leads

Disasters change plans, but funding still available

The effects of the economy and the deluge administered by tsunamis, mudslides, and earthquakes have caused several grant sources to change their programs, indicating they may decrease the number of grants or curtail the amounts offered. The budget deficits in New York and California and the anguish voiced by many other state entities indicate a stiff challenge for education in acquiring the additional funds to continue their desired technological progress.

There are, however, some avenues available as a result of the Title 1 School Improvement Grants, which have the objective to turn around the nation's lowest-performing schools. These monies must be spent over the next three years unless schools receive a waiver. Districts identify the turnaround schools and choose one of the four models available. The choices include the turnaround model, restart model, school closure model, and the transformation model. Funds will be distributed competitively to school districts based on the Title 1 formulas. Learn more at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/sif/applicant.html>.

In addition, many in the private grant sector are eager to assist schools that need to turn around or those that are advancing into this growing educational maelstrom. The grant sources include:

Foundation for Rural Education and Development

This foundation assists rural schools in acquiring technology.

More information: <http://www.fred.org/tech.html>

Walmart Foundation State Giving Program

This group supports education and the needs of underserved people. Grants are for \$25,000 and up, and deadlines are in September.

More information: <http://walmartstores.com/CommunityGiving/236.aspx>

Lawrence Foundation

Areas of interest include environment, education, and human services.

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

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Amgen Science Award

Amgen recognizes excellent teachers and makes \$5,000 available to recipients.

More information: <http://www.amgen.com/citizenship/aaste.html>

Captain Planet Foundation

This foundation supports learning that involves the promotion of environmental understanding.

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

Teacher's Pet

(grant tip geared specifically toward teachers' smaller projects)

Welch's Harvest Grants

This is a grant for teachers who focus on value of the environment, gardening, and healthy eating. Sums range from \$500 to \$1,000.

More information: <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3752777>