



Government Funding – Yes YOU Can!

With the announcement of the \$780 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, there are many shifts to witness. One is our shift in processing enormous numbers as commonplace and ordinary. The other is increased transparency in government budget practices. Another more subtle shift is in the economy with Washington, DC slowly but surely becoming the banking capitol of the world. With New York still reeling from leading with greed, there is a desire for a new place where people can expect trust and 'playing by the rules'. With DC moving forward as the liquidity and the regulatory capitol there are now more reasons for nonprofits to become well versed in government funding practices and opportunities.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will be administered through various government agencies versus going through budget 'earmarks' where an elected representative specifies the recipient of funds in his or her own state or Congressional district. This means that if one has an appropriate program that aligns with an agency program, a grant application can be submitted. These applications can be laborious in many instances. However, if your organization has a foundation funder and you have a thorough application that you submitted for this funding, much of this work can be repurposed in a government grant narrative.

Know that the program name and purpose does not have to be a word for word alignment with the grant. For example, the Women's Sports Foundation received funding for anti-gang activity through the Department of Justice for the organizations' after school health education program. There are ways to craft the language and effort for success. When one receives government funding, other funders tend to believe, and rightly so, that your organization has passed the highest funding test in the land.

With the down play of 'earmarks' there will be significantly more funding being administered through agency grants than ever before. Several agencies have still not posted all of their funding opportunities related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and this www.grant.gov website is a dynamic database with additions being made every day.

There are numerous opportunities to immerse one's self in the www.grants.gov website and come up empty handed because your organization isn't helping antelopes in Montana or looking out for Hawaiian seafood! After playing with the advanced search tool, there are a few currently posted grants that may be applicable to many women's rights organizations such as "Translating Research to Protect Health through Health Promotion, Prevention, and Preparedness" – an initiative looking at health equity and bringing knowledge of health issues to ALL socio-economic communities, and The Corporation for National and Community Service - offering funding through "The Learn and Serve America Community-Based Programs FY 2009"..

More than 75% of the funds in the Act will be distributed by September of 2010. These dollars will be disbursed fast and furious and it is important to keep a focus on compliance at beginning as this may come out later in audits. The funds are surely attractive to pursue but will come with a lot of obligations. Always good to tie in the key points of the [administration's position](#) and how your program intersects with both administration and the agency goals.

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