

# Grant Opportunities

North Country Library System - 22072 County Route 190 - P.O. Box 99 - Watertown, NY 13601 - [www.nclsweb.org](http://www.nclsweb.org)



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## Tracks to Success

**Identifying the Right Grantmaker** by *Cynthia M. Adams, CEO, GrantStation*  
**New Trends, Old Approach, Part One**

Identifying the right grantmaker for any program or project is a straightforward, step-by-step process that can greatly increase the possibility of securing grant funding. In this short series on how to do grant research, we will walk you through that process from start to finish.

### Let's Set the Stage

Long gone are the days when grant writers submitted the same grant request, in the same format, to dozens and dozens of grantmakers hoping a few of them would "take." Over the past two decades, grantseekers have clearly adopted a much more focused approach, spending considerably more time aligning their requests for support with grantmakers' program objectives, building a professional relationship with the grantmaker when possible, as well as closely adhering to each

grantmakers' application procedures.

However, as we near the end of the first decade of the 21st Century, our grantseeking approach is shifting once again. Grantmakers are becoming more than a source of funding. Many organizations now expect grantmakers to vet different approaches to solving problems, sharing successful approaches, as well as advising against methods that haven't been successful. As a result, application processes are evolving. Growing numbers of grantmakers ask that grantseekers' first approach be a letter of inquiry (LOI), rather than a full grant request, and they are increasingly asking grantseekers to submit these LOIs online (electronically).

This change in application approach, starting with an electronic LOI, and, upon approval, submitting a full grant request, harkens back to the days when grantseekers wrote one grant proposal and submitted it to dozens of organizations. Or does it?

On the surface, the new process is actually very similar to the old. You can now draft a single letter of inquiry (three to five pages) which can be cut and pasted into the online LOI application. Of course, you'll still want to tweak your LOI to reflect each grantmakers' objectives, but, truthfully, there's little room to do that in these online applications. If you make it through this initial screening, and are invited to submit a full request, you can then pour your energy into making your organization's grant proposal mirror the objectives of the grantmaker. This should be fairly easy to do if you have done your research.

(See "Tracks to Success" - Back Page)



# Grants & Awards

The new “key” to library funding

## NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES DIVISION OF PRESERVATION AND ACCESS

Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions help small and mid-sized institutions, such as libraries, museums, historical societies, archival repositories, town and county records offices, and colleges, improve their ability to preserve and care for their humanities collections. Awards of up to \$6000 support preservation related collection assessments, consultations, workshops and training, and institutional and collaborative disaster and emergency planning. Grants cover consultant fees, workshop registration fees, related travel and per diem expenses, and the costs of purchasing and shipping preservation supplies and equipment.

All applications to the NEH must be submitted through Grants.gov. See the application guidelines for details.

The 2009 guidelines for Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions are available at <http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/pag.html>. You will also find sample project descriptions, sample narratives, and a list of frequently asked questions.

**Deadline: May 14, 2009.**

## Save Our History Community Education and Preservation Projects

Save Our History, a program of the History Channel and the American Association for State and Local History, is a national initiative that supports local history education and historic preservation efforts in communities across the United States. Each year, Save Our History awards a total of \$250,000 to history organizations that partner with schools or youth groups on preservation projects that engage students in learning about, documenting, and preserving the history of their communities. Eligible applicants must be nonprofit 501(c)(3) history organizations (e.g., museums, historical societies, preservation organizations, historic sites, libraries, or archives) located in one of the fifty states or the District of Columbia. Applicants must partner with a local elementary, middle, or high school(s), or organization(s) that provides educational programming for children of similar ages to design a historic education and preservation project. For more information visit the Save Our History website at <http://www.history.com/minisites/saveourhistory/>.

**Deadline: June 5, 2009**

## Rosie's For All Kids Foundation

Rosie's For All Kids Foundation awards grants to nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping disadvantaged children and low-income families. The majority of the Foundation's grants are made through the Early Childhood Care and Education program. Priority is given to experienced, community-based programs serving children in low-income areas where many families struggle to find affordable, high-quality early education and care. Types of support include tuition subsidies; small renovations, supplies, and equipment upgrades; playground construction; and staff development opportunities. Grants typically range from \$5,000 to \$15,000. Letters of intent may be submitted throughout the year. Visit the website <http://www.forallkids.org/site69d7.html?module=article&pageid=56> to take the online eligibility quiz and submit an online application.

Upon successful completion of the eligibility quiz, qualifying organizations will be asked to submit an online Letter of Intent. Each inquiry receives personal attention and a timely response within 90 days. We request that organizations awaiting a response please allow the specified time for all inquiries to be thoroughly evaluated. Organizations with programs and projects that fit within the Foundation's current funding priorities will be invited to submit a full application. Instructions and deadlines for applications are provided at that time. Disbursements of grant payments are scheduled to occur once per year, **in the Spring**.

## Kresge Foundation Capital Challenge Grants

The Kresge Foundation's mission is to strengthen organizations that advance the well-being of humanity. Eligible and past applicants include libraries. The Capital Challenge Grant Program is designed to support an organization's immediate capital needs and to build its capacity to raise private support for the future. An organization applies to the Foundation after it has recruited campaign volunteers, secured leadership gifts, and developed firm project costs. A Kresge grant is awarded on a challenge basis. It is an “all or nothing” challenge and is usually one-third to one-fifth of the amount an organization has to raise to complete its campaign goal. <http://www.kresge.org/content/displaycontent.aspx?CID=98>

**Deadline: Ongoing**



# Is your library in need of books or the funding to purchase books?

## **Distribution to Underserved Communities Library Program**

The Distribution to Underserved Communities Library Program (DUC) distributes books on contemporary art and culture free of charge to rural libraries nationwide. The program aims to actively further a more egalitarian access to contemporary art, and is committed to fostering partnerships between publishers, non-profit organizations, librarians and readers to enrich and diversify library collections. The program offers well over 490 titles by more than 90 different publishers. The program reaches readers in all 50 states and has placed over 200,000 free books in public libraries, schools, and alternative pedagogical venues. For more info and how to order these free books visit: <http://www.ducprogram.org/orderform.php>

## **Lois Lenski Covey Foundation**

The Lois Lenski Covey Foundation, Inc. is a charitable institute whose purpose is to assist organizations in their efforts to provide books to children who might otherwise lack access to children's literature. Lois Lenski, the 1946 Newbery medalist for *Strawberry Girl*, had a life-long concern that good books be available to all children. In pursuit of this goal, she established a foundation to provide grants to public libraries, school libraries, and non-profit agencies serving disadvantaged populations.

The Lois Lenski Covey Foundation, Inc. annually awards grants to rural and urban, public and school libraries serving at-risk children. The Foundation gives priority to applications from libraries and agencies with real need and limited book budgets. Funds are earmarked for purchasing books for young people, and are not intended for administrative or operational use. Previously awarded grants have ranged from \$500 to \$3000. Successful applicants have proposed purchases to update their children's book collections generally or to expand their holdings in specific areas. Visit <http://www.loislenskicovey.org/> to find out how to apply.

## **Libri Foundation Grants for Children's Books**

The Libri Foundation is a nationwide non-profit organization which donates new, quality, hardcover children's books to small, rural public libraries in the United States through its BOOKS FOR CHILDREN program. The Foundation awards grants three times a year.

The library director/library manager of each library participating in the BOOKS FOR CHILDREN program selects the books her library will receive from a booklist provided by the Foundation. The 700-plus fiction and nonfiction titles on the booklist have been judged as outstanding or highly recommended by recognized authorities in the library and education fields and have been published in the last 3 years or are classics. The guidelines and application can be found here: <http://www.librifoundation.org/apps.html>.

The Foundation will match any amount of money raised by your local sponsors from \$50 to \$350 on a 2-to-1 ratio. Thus, your library could receive up to \$1,050 worth of new children's books (about 70 books). Local sponsors have five months (or longer, if necessary) after their library has been selected as a participant in the BOOKS FOR CHILDREN program to raise the matching funds.

**Deadlines: Annually, January 15th, April 15th, and August 15th**





## Grants & Awards (continued)



### **Build-A-Bear Workshop Giving Programs**

Build-A-Bear Workshop, Inc. is accepting grant applications as part of its annual giving program. In the company's twelve-year history it has donated over \$20 million to organizations that support families, children, animals, and the environment, including the donation of thousands of stuffed animals to comfort children in need. The Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation supports charities in the United States and Canada through grant programs including Literacy and Education Grants which provide support for children in literacy and education programs such as summer reading programs, early childhood education programs, and literacy programs for children with special needs. Grant request deadlines are at the end of February, May, August, and November. For more information visit <http://www.buildabear.com/aboutus/community/bearhugs.aspx>

**Deadline: Ongoing**

### **Jenny Jones Community Grant Program**

Talk show host and philanthropist Jenny Jones has announced that she will donate an additional \$1 million to continue her Jenny's Heroes ( <http://www.jennysheroes.com/> ) community grant program. The Jenny's Heroes program awards grants to individuals who submit the best ideas for tangible, lasting community projects. Jenny's Heroes provides grants of up to \$25,000 each to fund projects that promise long-term community benefits. Through the fifty grant recipients so far, funds have been used to provide items and services such as library books, school computers, and coats for children in domestic violence shelters. The program's focus is primarily on smaller communities where fundraising can be difficult. For more information on Jenny's Heroes and grant guidelines, visit the program's Web site. RFP Link: <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15016232/jennysheroes>

**Deadline: Ongoing**

### **Tracks to Success** (continued from front page)

#### **Basic Preparation for Doing Research**

Before beginning the grantseeking process, draft a generic letter of inquiry to help guide your research. This is important! Don't try to find potential grantmakers without developing this LOI first. Taking the time to draft the LOI will help narrow your focus to those grantmakers that may truly fund your project. Answering the questions provided below in your generic LOI will refine your research, set boundaries, and prevent you from trying to squeeze your project into a grantmaker's guidelines when it's clearly not a good fit.

- What is the geographic scope of the project (local neighborhood, rural area, county or borough-wide, statewide, national)?
- What is the specific problem your organization/project addresses (hunger, homelessness, access to a building, reading skills, obesity, toxic waste management, etc.)?
- Does your organization/project serve a specific segment of the population (youth, seniors, single parents, teachers, missionaries, etc.)?
- Approximately how much money does your organization need for this project?
- What is the timeline for the project?

Once you have drafted your LOI (and it doesn't have to be perfect at this point) you can use it to guide your research.

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If your library has grant information or grant acquisition stories to share in *Grant Opportunities*, please contact Dawn Vincent at NCLS: 782-5540 or [dvincent@ncls.org](mailto:dvincent@ncls.org)