

THE INVESTMENT FUND FOR FOUNDATIONS (TIFF) IN 2009



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Where Does Grant Money Come From?

- Grant funding is available through the government as well as through thousands of private foundations in the US.
- As of 2014, there were over 84,000 foundations in the country that offer grant funding.
- These organizations gave over sixty billion in grant funds in 2014, according to The Foundation Center.

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How Do I Earn Grant Funding?

- There are more than 1.5 million registered nonprofit organizations in the US competing for grant funding.
- Earning grant funding is achieved by promoting what your nonprofit has done and what it has the capacity to do.
- Imagine that someone asks you for an investment of \$10,000 to start a nonprofit that brings donuts and coffee to police officers on duty, free of charge. What questions would you ask them about the investment?

Qualifying For Funding

- It's important that your nonprofit is ready to apply for grant funding.
- Some foundations offer start-up funds, but most are interested in funding successful organizations.
- What have you done to build a successful organization?

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What kind of projects are funded by foundations?

- Any project! If your nonprofit offers it, there is likely funding for it.
- Projects might involve the arts and theater, literacy, education, health services and health care, human services, child welfare, sustainable or urban development.

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IO (Human Services)



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Baby Box Project in Rolla, MO (Human Services)



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Building Vocational Skills for the Roma in Hungary,
Croatia and Romania

(Community and Economic Development)

Finding a Foundation That Fits

- It's important to look at what the foundation has funded in the past to ensure that your project fits their interests.
- What is their geographic focus?
- What are they interested in funding?
- Do they require annual reports?
- All foundations have different priorities, but most are especially interested in an organization's financial responsibility and the projected outcomes of the project.

Networking for Success

- "It's not about what you know, it's about who you know."
- Networking with foundation directors and the board of directors allows them to become familiar with your organization.
- Having a good relationship with a foundation lays the groundwork for continued funding. Not all foundations offer repeat funding, but many do.

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