



# Grants Guidebook

Revised 2023

ASU-SBDC: Funded in part through the State of Texas and a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Small Business Administration.



*Building the Texas Economy, One Business at a Time*

ASU Small Business Development Center  
69 N. Chadbourne St., San Angelo, TX 76903  
325-942-2098 | sbdc.angelo.edu

## **Types of Grants**

### **Federal Business Grants**

Federal government departments and agencies are among the biggest distributors of business grants. They are highly competitive and developing the application can be complex. The typical award range for federal grants is \$100,000 - \$1,000,000+. Visit [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), a free and public database, to search for federal grant opportunities.

### **State Grants**

Because federal grants can be particularly competitive — and limited in number — you might also seek out opportunities with state government departments and agency small-business grants. They are highly competitive and developing the application can be complex. The typical award range for state grants is \$100,000 - \$1,000,000+. Visit [Texas.gov](https://www.texas.gov), a free and public database, to search for state grant opportunities.

### **Local and Regional Grants**

The Development Corporation Act of 1979 gives cities the ability to finance new and expanded business enterprises in their local communities through economic development corporations (EDCs). Chapters 501, 504, and 505 of the Local Government Code outline the characteristics of Type A and Type B EDCs, authorize cities to adopt a sales tax to fund the corporations, and define projects EDCs are allowed to undertake. Type A EDCs are typically created to fund industrial development projects such as business infrastructure, manufacturing, and research and development. Type B EDCs can fund all projects eligible for Type A, as well as parks, museums, sports facilities, and affordable housing. Contact your local Economic Development Corporation to learn more.

The City of San Angelo Economic Development Corporation is considered a Type A EDC. Find out more about their programs at [www.cosadc.com](https://www.cosadc.com) **Corporate Grants**

Many corporations and large companies have a philanthropic component that includes small-business grants. While some provide grants to nonprofits servicing specific industries only, some also give to for-profit companies.

### **Grants to Start a Business**

If you're looking for startup business grants, you may have more difficulty finding available grants on any level. Some state and local governments, as well as private companies, however, may offer startup grants for small businesses.

### **Small Business Hardship Grants**

Small-business hardship grants can help you recover after an emergency situation, like a natural disaster or public health crisis. Typically, these funds are available through the state or federal government.

### **Specialty Small Business Grants**

To help spread entrepreneurial success across demographics, many organizations focus funding efforts on specific communities, such as rural and underserved areas.

## **How to Prepare for a Grant**

### **Define the Funding**

Business owners should outline the specific funding needed and identify the precise objectives a grant will help them achieve.

### **Create a detailed Business Plan**

The next step is creating a business plan. Your plan should include essential details about your business, such as a company description, the business structure, services offered, financial projections, and other useful information.

More resources to write a business plan can be found online at:

<https://www.angelo.edu/live/events/73508-virtual-how-to-write-your-business-plan-i-focus-on>

<https://www.angelo.edu/live/events/73511-virtual-how-to-write-your-business-plan-part-ii>

### **Compile Administrative Information & Details**

You should gather other vital details, such as the business owner's contact information, planned use for the grant money, the business' state tax identification number, the federal IRS employer identification number (EIN), and, if pursuing federal funding, the business' Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

### **Gather Business Records**

Business owners should also assemble all the necessary business records, which may include business formation documents and business financial statements from at least the last three years.

## **How to Make Your Grant Application/Proposal Stand Out**

### **Understand Your Audience**

First, understand what the organization is interested in supporting. When looking for funding opportunities for the population your organization serves, make sure that a foundation's goals align with the specific work your organization does. Research their mission statement and any other relevant information so you can craft an application and supporting documentation that speaks directly to them, and the goals of their grant.

### **Follow the Application Directions**

Ensure all directions are followed carefully to eliminate confusion or delay in processing your request for funding. It's also essential to make sure all requested documents are submitted with the correct formatting, and within any specified time frame given by the granting body.

### **Proofread and Edit Thoroughly**

Make sure there aren't any typos, grammar errors, or confusing sentences; run spell check; double-check facts; verify dates; look over figures; etc., so nothing slips through unnoticed prior to submission.

## **What to Avoid**

### **Overapplying**

When business owners apply for too many grants at one time, they decrease their chances of getting one due to reduced time and quality spent on each application. Instead, focus on applying for one or two grants that you're likely to receive.

### **Not following directions**

Grant suppliers are looking to see if you meet a very specific set of criteria, so following directions is an absolute must. Do not provide more information than requested and ensure you've followed every instruction in the letter, including the submission deadline.

### **Watch out for Scams**

Don't pay any money for a "free" government grant. If you have to pay money to claim a "free" government grant, it isn't a government grant and it isn't really free. A real government agency won't ask you to pay a processing fee for a grant that you have already been awarded—or to pay for a list of grant-making institutions. Make sure to do your research on the grant, especially if it comes from a corporation or large company.

## **Requirements after you Receive the Grant**

Occasionally you may find a grant that comes with no strings attached, but this is uncommon. Once you receive a grant, you are accountable for following the guidelines set forth by the grant provider. For instance, most funders require you to provide progress reports so they can track the impacts of their funding over time.

The requirements for maintaining a grant are something you should be aware of ahead of time, although they are usually not too difficult to manage. Once you establish an agreement between the grant funder and yourself, you'll be set to move forward with your business or project.

## **Resources**

### **Grant Databases**

[Grants.gov](#) All Federal Government and most Departments use the site

<https://www.getfundid.com/grants/categories>

[Helloalice.com](#) Website that offers current Grant opportunities along with business lending and Business

[Grantwatch.com](#)

[SAM.gov](#): Register your business and obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) in order to do business with the federal government including pursuing federal grant funding.

<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/grants>

<https://www.usgrants.org/> Funding Agencies and categories can be found at this site as well as additional instructional information.

<https://grantsforus.io/>

[America's Seed Fund Startup Expo](#) enables entrepreneurs with technology developed through the SBIR/STTR programs an opportunity to present their innovative ventures to leading members of the broader innovation ecosystem and the American Public.

<https://www.newusafunding.com/> Website states eligible grantees include:

- Small/large business startups Education
- Various real estate ventures Inventions
- Historical building preservation Environmental preservation
- National security Medical research

### **Annual Small Business Grants**

[FedEx Small Business Grant Contest](#): FedEx has an annual competition that awards \$290,000 to 10 small businesses, with the top prize being \$50,000 going to 3 companies and \$20,000 to 7 other companies. . Opens Jan 28- Feb 28 each year.

<https://www.nav.com/business-grant-contest/> the Nav grant rewards multiple winners each round, with first prize taking home a \$10,000 business grant. The grant helps small businesses that are growing and could use the funds to take the next step in their growth. Applications are accepted through the Nav Facebook page. Currently closed but will reopen later this year.

<https://business.amazon.com/en/discover-more/blog/amazon-business-small-business-grants-2023>

<https://venmo.com/business/small-business-grant/>

## **Women-owned Small Business Grants**

<https://www.spanx.com/redbackpackfund>: The Red Backpack Fund. Each recipient received a gift of \$5,000, the exact amount Sara Blakely started Spanx with 20 years ago. So far, over 1080 female recipients have received funds

<https://ambergrantsforwomen.com>: Grants of \$10,000 each month are awarded to entrepreneurial women, along with two \$25,000 annual Amber Grants. Each month, one woman receives the \$10,000 and four others receive \$1,000. Each \$10,000 is eligible for one of two \$25,000 Amber Grant. There is also a Business Specific Grant in the amount of \$5,000 per month. The foundation announced several new grants this year, including a Marketing Grant and Business Category grant.

<https://femalefoundersfund.com>: Female Founders Fund is an early-stage fund investing in the next generation of transformational technology companies founded by women. Since 2014, Female Founders Fund has put money toward “category-defining female leaders with a strong community to fuel their success,” mainly in B2B, consumer, healthcare, fintech and social companies.

## **Veteran Owned Small Business Grants**

<https://secondservicefoundation.org/mec/> The Military Entrepreneur Challenge is a nationwide grant program that gives veteran, military spouse, and Gold Star Family entrepreneurs the opportunity to network, learn, and compete for capital to grow their small business.

<https://www.warriorrising.org/> Non-profit working to support veterans and their businesses through training, workshops, and grants to assist in startup cost.

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/> the Veteran Readiness and Employment program, offers service-disabled veterans unable to work in a traditional employment environment training and grant funding to start their businesses or help with job training.

<https://hiversandstrivers.com/> VC group focused on early-stage investments to support start-up companies founded by graduates of the U.S. Military Academies. MUST be a military veteran to seek funding with H & S.

<https://foundersfirstcdc.org/veterans/> Grants for up to 50 veterans who are running employer-based small businesses.

# How to Conduct a search on Grants.Gov

1. Go to [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)

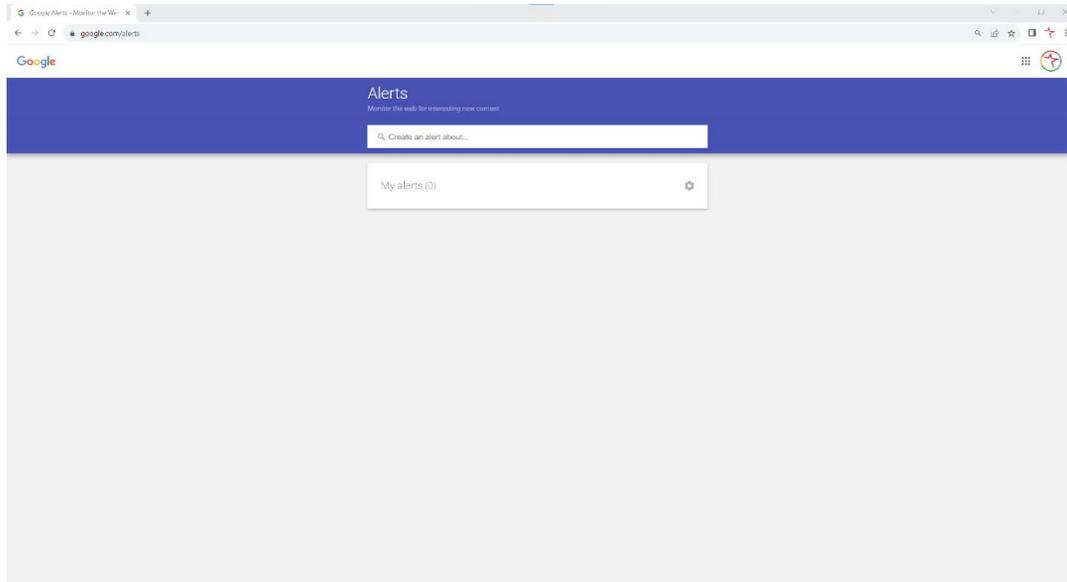


**Reminder:** Federal agencies do not publish personal financial assistance opportunities on Grants.gov. Federal Grants.gov are for organizations and entities supporting the development and management of government more information about personal financial assistance benefits, please visit [Benefits.gov](http://Benefits.gov).

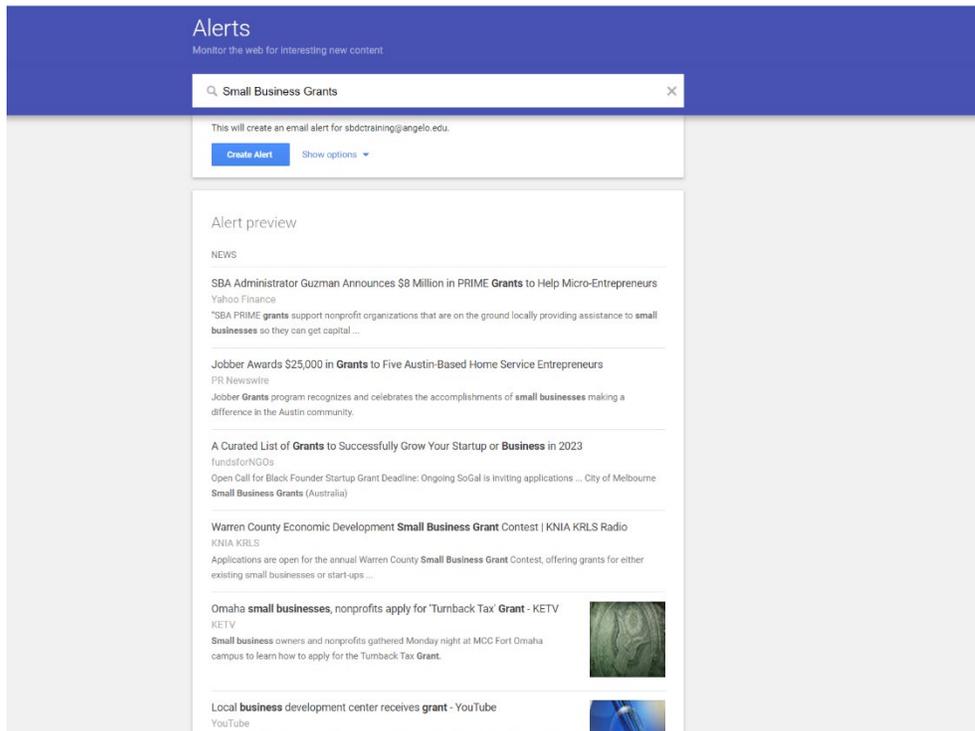
- 2.
3. Navigate to the “Search Grants” Tabs at the top page
4. Under “Basic Search Criteria” Identify specifics to help you find a grant opportunity in your industry.

Opportunity Number	Opportunity Title	Agency	Opportunity Status	Posted Date	Close Date
RFA-DA-25-018	Engaging Survivors of Sexual Violence and Trafficking in HIV and Substance Use Disorder Services (R34 Clinical Trial Optional)	HHS-NH11	Posted	06/21/2023	06/05/2024
RFA-OH-24-002	Exploratory/Developmental Grants on Lifestyle Medicine Research Related to the World Trade Center Health Program (R21)	HHS-CDC-HHSOCERA	Posted	08/18/2023	12/05/2023
PA-23-281	Research Projects to Enhance Applicability of Immortal Models for Translational Research (R01 Local Trial Not Allowed)	HHS-NH11	Posted	08/18/2023	09/07/2026
RFA-OH-24-010	Exploratory/Developmental Grants Related to the World Trade Center Survivors (R21-No Applications with Responders Accepted)	HHS-CDC-HHSOCERA	Posted	08/18/2023	12/05/2023
RFA-HC-24-010	National Centers for Translational Research in Reproduction and Infertility (NCTR) (P50 Clinical Trial Optional)	HHS-NH11	Posted	08/17/2023	11/29/2023
PA-23-272	Th. L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (RSA) Individual Fellowship for Students at Institutions with NSF-funded Institutional Predoctoral Dual-Degree Training Programs (Parent F30)	HHS-NH11	Posted	08/16/2023	09/07/2025
PA-23-272	Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (RSA) Individual Predoctoral Fellowship (Parent F31)	HHS-NH11	Posted	08/16/2023	09/07/2025
PAR-23-270	Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment or Prevention (SBIRT) for alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD) use and misuse in adult populations that experience health disparities (R01, Clinical Trial Optional)	HHS-NH11	Posted	08/16/2023	05/07/2027
RFA-NS-24-027	NINDS Clinical Trial Methods in Clinical Neurological Disorders Course (R25 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)	HHS-NH11	Posted	08/16/2023	10/23/2023
RFA-NS-24-027	VCID Center Without Walls for Understanding and Leveraging Small Vessel Cerebrovascular Disease Mechanisms in AD/HD (R01 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed)	HHS-NH11	Posted	08/16/2023	02/01/2024
PA-23-244	NSA Research and Entrepreneurial Development Immersion (RED): Entrepreneurial Small Business Transition Award (R1/R42 Clinical Trial Optional)	HHS-NH11	Posted	08/15/2023	10/26/2023
PA-23-244	NSA Research and Entrepreneurial Development Immersion (RED): Entrepreneurial Small Business Transition Award (R1/R42 Clinical Trial Optional)	HHS-NH11	Posted	08/15/2023	10/26/2023
PAR-23-244	Population Approaches to Reducing Alcohol-related Cancer Risk (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)	HHS-NH11	Posted	08/15/2023	01/07/2027

## How to set up Google alerts for Small Business Grants



1. Go to [www.google.com/alerts](http://www.google.com/alerts)



2. Type in “Small Business Grants” or any keywords related to the type of grant you are in search of

**Alerts**  
Monitor the web for interesting new content

Q Small Business Grants X

How often: At most once a day

Sources: Automatic

Language: English

Region: Any Region

How many: Only the best results

Deliver to: sbdctraining@angelo.edu

Create Alert Hide options ▲

Alert preview

NEWS

SBA Administrator Guzman Announces \$8 Million in PRIME Grants to Help Micro-Entrepreneurs  
Yahoo Finance  
\*SBA PRIME grants support nonprofit organizations that are on the ground locally providing assistance to small businesses so they can get capital ...

Jobber Awards \$25,000 in Grants to Five Austin-Based Home Service Entrepreneurs  
PR Newswire  
Jobber Grants program recognizes and celebrates the accomplishments of small businesses making a difference in the Austin community.

A Curated List of Grants to Successfully Grow Your Startup or Business in 2023  
fundsforNGOs  
Open Call for Black Founder Startup Grant Deadline: Ongoing SoGal is inviting applications ... City of Melbourne  
Small Business Grants (Australia)

Warren County Economic Development Small Business Grant Contest | KNIA KRLS Radio  
KNIA KRLS  
Applications are open for the annual Warren County Small Business Grant Contest, offering grants for either

3. Click “more options” and choose where and how often you would like to receive these alerts.