



## FEDERAL GRANTS QUICK GUIDE

### What is a Federal Grant?

A grant is a way the government funds ideas and projects to deliver public services and stimulate the economy. Grants support critical recovery initiatives, innovative research, and many other programs.

### Types of Federal Grants

**Formula Grants** - awarded automatically to state and local governments based on factors like population or need.

**Competitive Grants and Cooperative Agreements** - awarded based on the merit of the proposal and open to various eligible entities.

### Who Can Apply for Federal Grants?

- Government Entities
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Educational Organizations
- Public Housing Organizations
- Some Small Businesses and Individuals

### Finding Federal Grant Opportunities

- Create an account at Grants.gov
- Check agency-specific sites (e.g., HUD, DOJ, USDA)
- Subscribe to newsletters and resources focused on Florida Congressional District 8
- Contact your state or regional grant offices for support

### Basic Steps to Apply for a Federal Grant:

- Determine a specific need or project
- Register your organization with SAM.gov and Grants.gov
- Obtain your Unique Entity ID (UEI) issued by SAM.gov
- Identify funding opportunities that align with your project's goals
- Carefully review the grant program materials, guidance and most recent announcements for eligibility, deadlines, and requirements
- Communicate with the funding agency about project eligibility or other guidance
- Prepare your application, including the narrative, budget, and any required attachments
- Submit your application before the deadline
- Track the status of your application and respond promptly to any requests for clarification

### What is the Difference Between a Grant, Cooperative Agreement, and Contract?

**Grant** - Funding with broad discretion for project execution with less federal oversight

**Cooperative Agreement** - Similar to a grant, but with substantial federal involvement

**Contract** - Procurement agreement for specific goods or services with strict federal terms

## Common Federal Grant Requirements

- Detailed project work plan and budget
- Data or studies related to the proposal project
- Regular progress and financial reports
- Compliance with federal laws
- Records retention and audit readiness
- Often matching funds or cost-sharing

## Key Systems and Identifiers

**SAM** (System for Award Management) is the official U.S. government portal to register your organization. Registration is mandatory to apply for most federal grants and must be renewed annually.

**UEI** (Unique Entity Identifier) is the new identifier replacing DUNS for federal grants issued via SAM.gov. *\*A valid UEI is required to apply for federal grants.*

## Tips for Success

- Start early** - applications can be complex and time-consuming
- Follow all instructions exactly** - missing information can disqualify you
- Keep your registration info current** (SAM.gov, IRS status, etc.)
- Maintain compliance-ready records**
- Use Grants.gov and agency specific webinars and resources**
- Request a Letter of Support** - contact Congressman Haridopolos' District Office

## Key Terms to Know

**NOFO/NOFA: Notice of Funding Opportunity / Notice of Funding Availability** - Official federal grant announcements that outline program purpose, eligibility, deadlines, and application instructions.

**RFP: Request for Proposal** - A solicitation for contracts or cooperative agreements in which the federal agency seeks specific services or products.

**NICRA: Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement** - A federally approved rate that allows organizations to recover indirect (overhead) costs associated with grant-funded work.

**NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act** - Requires environmental review for federally funded projects to assess potential environmental impacts (e.g., construction of new facilities or major infrastructure improvements).

**Match:** Local or non-federal funds required by some grants to supplement or “match” federal funding; may include cash or in-kind contributions.

**Forecasted:** A potential future grant opportunity listed in advance of its formal announcement to help organizations plan ahead

**For additional questions, please contact Karen Bryan, Grants Manager for the Office of Congressman Haridopolos at [FL08MHgrants@mail.house.gov](mailto:FL08MHgrants@mail.house.gov)**