

Funding Fundamentals



UNC

GrantSource Library

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<http://research.unc.edu/grantsource>

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Techniques for identifying funding sources

Networking: ask colleagues, mentors, speakers, and others about their funding experiences and knowledge.

Scholarly literature: check acknowledgements in relevant professional literature to identify funders interested in your topic area.

Print & electronic databases: search print reference materials and electronic databases for opportunities relevant to you.

Types of funding available

Grants: funding for travel, projects, creative activities, or research. Usually, no repayment is required.

Fellowships: support for studies and related activities at the graduate or post-graduate level. Usually, no repayment is required.

Awards: Competitions, prizes, honoraria in recognition of personal accomplishments, research results, professional or creative writing, or artistic activities.

Loans: money for study or research that must be repaid –with or without interest.

Traineeships: Internships, research training, and other work experience programs.

Agencies that provide funding

Government: Federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Education provide nearly 80% of the sponsored research funds at UNC-Chapel Hill. Other government agencies at the state and local level also provide funding.

Foundations: Private foundations are another source of funding.

Corporations: Both national and local companies sponsor research and provide funding for educational projects. Corporations sometimes also create corporate foundations, such as the Exxon Education Foundation, to handle their funding activities.

Professional/Scholarly Organizations: These organizations often provide small awards for members and/or students and young scholars in relevant fields.

UNC-Chapel Hill Graduate School: The Graduate School administers several UNC-Chapel Hill internal awards:

http://gradschool.unc.edu/fellowships_and_funding/

How to get started

The GrantSource Library has online databases of funding opportunities and a print library that includes funding directories, proposal writing guides, and samples of successful proposals.

Major sources of funding information

Online databases such as the *COS*, *InfoEd Sponsored Programs Information Network (SPIN)*, and *Foundation Directory Online* funding databases allow you to search large numbers of currently available funding opportunities. These are available through the GrantSource Library web site:

<http://research.unc.edu/grantsource>

Print reference materials are also a useful source of funding information. The GrantSource Library has a comprehensive set of print reference materials that fall into several categories:

- **Grants:** we have the *Annual Register of Grant Support*, *Directory of Research Grants*, and more.
- **Foundations & Corporations:** we have the *Corporate Giving Directory*, *NC Giving*, and more.
- **Specialized interests:** we have the *Distance Learning Funding Sourcebook*, *Environmental Grantmaking Foundations* on CD-ROM, *Directory of Grants in the Humanities*, and more.
- **Students:** we have the *Money for Graduate Students* series, scholarship directories, books on financial aid for minorities, and more.
- **Proposal writing:** we have the *"How To" Grants Manual*, *Proposal Planning and Writing*, copies of successful proposals, and more.

Funding agency publications such as annual reports, funding guidelines, and agency web sites are primary sources of funding information. The GrantSource Library web site includes a list of links to funding agency web sites.