Federal Funding Agencies: Department of the Interior (DOI)

Many individuals’ familiarity with the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) likely involves the National Park System, of which the COI is the conservator. This 167-year-old agency encompasses far more in its jurisdiction and activities. Bureaus and offices under its control include the Bureaus of Indian Affairs, Land Management, Ocean Energy Management, Reclamation, and Safety and Environments Enforcement as well as the aforementioned National Park System, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

In keeping with their stewardship of and responsibility for natural and cultural resources in the United States, the DOI provides funding to understand and enhance natural resources, to learn how to make the best and most responsible use of those resources, and to support the science related to understanding
those resources. Rather than providing a single list of funding opportunities available on their main Web page, the DOI publishes research and programmatic grant opportunities through Grants.gov and through its individual bureaus and offices. Some of the bureaus/offices and funding programs of interest to those in higher education include the following:

- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)** – The FWS supports programs related to the understanding and management of wildlife throughout the U.S. They provide funding for research on and preservation of endangered species, among other things. Several of their grant programs provide funds to states, who in turn issue subawards to other institutions, such as universities. In Texas, some of these funds are passed through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to other entities. To view a list of their current financial assistance programs, please visit this Web page: [https://www.fws.gov/grants/programs.html](https://www.fws.gov/grants/programs.html)

- **U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)** – The USGS provides support for research in the earth sciences, including investigation of water resources, seismic and volcanic activity, geological mapping, and climate change. The USGS accepts both solicited and unsolicited proposals, providing a wide range of opportunities for earth science research. Information about their current financial assistance programs may be found on this Web page: [https://www2.usgs.gov/contracts/faprop.html](https://www2.usgs.gov/contracts/faprop.html)

For more information on the Department of the Interior, please visit their Website at [https://www.doi.gov/](https://www.doi.gov/) or contact ASU’s Office of Sponsored Projects at [osp@angelo.edu](mailto:osp@angelo.edu).
Ten Writing Tips: These are Good for Grant Writing, Too!

An experienced technical writer and businessman, Josh Bernoff, offers a concise list of “Ten writing tips and the psychology behind them” that is applicable not only to business writing but also to grantsmanship. This is being shared under a Creative Commons License and has not been altered in any way.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tip</th>
<th>Why it matters</th>
<th>Why you fail</th>
<th>How to fix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Write shorter.</td>
<td>Readers are impatient.</td>
<td>You just keep typing; it's easier than editing.</td>
<td>Edit out extraneous text.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shorten your sentences.</td>
<td>Long sentences puzzle readers.</td>
<td>You tuck on ideas as you’re writing.</td>
<td>Break into shorter sentences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rewrite passive voice.</td>
<td>Passive hides true meaning.</td>
<td>You’re insecure about what you’re saying.</td>
<td>Make the actor the sentence’s subject.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eliminate weasel words.</td>
<td>Weasel words make statements wimpy.</td>
<td>You’re afraid to be bold.</td>
<td>Cut weasel words; if you can’t, cut the sentence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cite numbers effectively.</td>
<td>Stats back up your point.</td>
<td>You think any number adds credibility.</td>
<td>Include both context and source for stats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use “I,” “we,” and “you.”</td>
<td>Pronouns invite the reader to relate.</td>
<td>You’re afraid of sounding informal.</td>
<td>Imagine the reader; write directly to her.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Move key insights up.</td>
<td>Bold statements retain attention.</td>
<td>You feel the need to “warm up” first.</td>
<td>Write bold openers; rewrite with each draft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cite examples.</td>
<td>Text without examples is boring.</td>
<td>You’re too busy to do the research.</td>
<td>Plan to spend half your time on research.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

American Association of University Women

*Community Action Grants*

**Submission deadline:** January 15, 2017
Program description: “AAUW’s Community Action Grants provide funds that address issues related to the needs of women and girls or that provide information to educate and benefit the public on those issues. AAUW encourages proposals for projects that: 1) Use innovative approaches to address local community needs or build links among community partners, and/or 2) Build partnerships between schools and community organizations.”


Association for Asian Studies

Grant Programs

Submission deadline: Varies according to specific program; see announcements for details

Program description: The Association for Asian Studies (AAS) offers support for a variety of programs and research on Asia. Programs include those that focus on specific regions of Asia (Japan, Korea, China, etc.) as well as outreach/education and translation grants. The AAS is particularly interested in projects that improve teaching quality and programming on the college and precollege levels.

Link to full announcement: http://www.asian-studies.org/Grants-and-Awards/AAS-Grant-Programs

Longview Foundation

Internationalizing Teacher Prep & Innovations

Submission deadline: Funding Inquiry - January 25, 2017; Full proposal - March 23, 2017

Program description: “As a small foundation, the Longview Foundation must focus its resources in order to have impact. Trustees have identified K-12 education in the U.S. as their primary area of interest and fund projects that directly support building global perspectives in teachers and students. Proposals funded will advance the field or impact significant numbers of students. The foundation will support efforts to expand teachers’ global knowledge and skills. Preference will be given to those teacher preparation institutions that are connected to state or citywide systemic effort in order to have a greater impact and to those using online courses for pre-service education or professional development.”

Link to full announcement: http://www.longviewfdn.org/applying/how-apply/

National Council of Teachers of English

Awards for Research

Submission deadline: Varies according to program; see full announcement for details

Program description: “NCTE supports research activity and publication in the field of English and English education through a series of research awards, grants, and scholarships.”

Link to full announcement: http://www.ncte.org/awards/research

National Endowment for the Humanities

Collaborative Research Grants

Submission deadline: December 7, 2016

Program description: “Collaborative Research Grants support interpretive humanities research undertaken by two or more collaborating scholars, for full-time or part-time activities for periods of one to three years. Support is available for various combinations of scholars, consultants, and research assistants; project-related travel and archival research; field work; and technical support and services. All grantees are expected to disseminate the results of their work to the appropriate scholarly and public audiences.”

Link to full announcement: http://www.neh.gov/grants/research/collaborative-research-grants
Digital Humanities Advancement Grants

Submission deadline: January 11, 2017
Program description: “Digital Humanities Advancement Grants (DHAG) support digital projects throughout their lifecycles, from early start-up phases through implementation and long-term sustainability. Experimentation, reuse, and extensibility are hallmarks of this grant category, leading to innovative work that can scale to enhance research, teaching, and public programming in the humanities.”
Link to full announcement: https://www.neh.gov/grants/odh/digital-humanities-advancement-grants

Public Humanities Projects

Submission deadline: January 11, 2017
Program description: “Public Humanities Projects grants support projects that bring the ideas and insights of the humanities to life for general audiences. Projects must engage humanities scholarship to illuminate significant themes in disciplines such as history, literature, ethics, and art, or to address challenging issues in contemporary life. NEH encourages projects that involve members of the public in collaboration with humanities scholars or that invite contributions from the community in the development and delivery of humanities programming. This grant program supports a variety of forms of audience engagement. Applications should follow the parameters set out below for one of the following three formats: community conversations, exhibitions, [or] historic places.”
Link to full announcement: https://www.neh.gov/grants/public/public-humanities-projects

Scholarly Editions and Translations

Submission deadline: December 7, 2016
Program description: “Scholarly Editions and Translations grants support the preparation of editions and translations of pre-existing texts of value to the humanities that are currently inaccessible or available in inadequate editions. Typically, the texts and documents are significant literary, philosophical, and historical materials; but other types of work, such as musical notation, are also eligible. Projects must be undertaken by at least one editor or translator and one other collaborating scholar. These grants support full-time or part-time activities for periods of one to three years.”
Link to full announcement: http://www.neh.gov/grants/research/scholarly-editions-and-translations-grants

National Science Foundation

ADVANCE: Increasing Participation and Advancement of Women

Submission deadlines: Letter of intent - December 14, 2016; Full proposal - January 11, 2017
Program description: “The goals of the ADVANCE program are (1) to develop systemic approaches to increase the representation and advancement of women in academic STEM careers; (2) to develop innovative and sustainable ways to promote gender equity that involve both men and women in the STEM academic workforce; and (3) to contribute to the research knowledge base on gender equity and the intersection of gender and other identities in STEM academic careers. The ADVANCE program contributes to the development of a more diverse science and engineering workforce because of the focus on equity for STEM academic faculty who are educating, training, and mentoring undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral scholars.”

Discovery Research PreK-12 (DRK-12)

Submission deadline: December 5, 2016
Program description: “The Discovery Research PreK-12 program (DRK-12) seeks to significantly enhance the learning and teaching of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) by PreK-12 students and teachers, through research and development of STEM education innovations and approaches. Projects in the DRK-12 program build on fundamental research in STEM education and prior educational practice and provide scalable, field-tested materials and approaches that other educators can adapt or adopt in their classrooms.”

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research and development efforts that provide theoretical and empirical justification for proposed projects. Projects should result in research-informed and field-tested outcomes and products that inform teaching and learning. Teachers and students who participate in DRK-12 studies are expected to enhance their understanding and use of STEM content, practices and skills.”


### Russell Sage Foundation

*Research Programs*

**Submission deadline:** Varies according to specific program; see full announcement for details  
**Program description:** “The Russell Sage Foundation is an operating foundation dedicated to programs of social science research.” Areas of interest to the Russell Sage Foundation include social inequality, the future of work, race, ethnicity and immigration, and behavioral economics.

**Link to full announcement:** [http://www.russellsage.org/research/categories/requests-proposals](http://www.russellsage.org/research/categories/requests-proposals)

### U.S. Department of State

*Capacity Building Grants*

**Submission deadline:** December 19, 2016  
**Program description:** The U.S. Department of State and Partners of the Americas are pleased to announce Capacity Building Grants for U.S. Undergraduate Study Abroad, which are designed to create or expand the capacity of U.S. HEIs to administer study abroad programs under diversity goals. These goals include broadening the student population who studies abroad and/or the destinations and disciplines in which they study. These grants are also intended to allow U.S. institutions to collaborate with and help expand the capacity of overseas HEIs to provide academic programs for U.S. undergraduate students.”

**Link to full announcement:** [http://www.partners.net/capacity-building-grants](http://www.partners.net/capacity-building-grants)

The e-Funding Alert is published monthly by Angelo State University’s Office of Sponsored Projects. To subscribe to this alert, please send a message to osp@angelo.edu with “Subscribe Alert” indicated in the subject line.