

The Funding Update

November-December 2013

RECENT GRANTS AWARDED

Mayor Thomas M. Menino's Capital Resources for Early Educators Fund awards \$645,000 to 169 early education programs.

City of Boston Department of Neighborhood Development awards Partners with Non-Profits grants totaling \$394,000 to 33 local agencies.

Boston Medical Center receives Federal grant: \$222.9K from HUD for a research grant on improving health through housing stability and support.

Boston Public Schools receives State grant: \$128.7K from EOPSS for *Restorative Justice* training for administrative staff, teachers, and school police.

CITY OF BOSTON OPEN BIDS

Department of Neighborhood Development, 1/6/14
Neighborhood Housing Trust offers up to \$750K to develop affordable rental, cooperative and ownership housing for mixed incomes in areas where supply is limited.

Department of Neighborhood Development, 2/1/14
Fairmount Corridor Acquisition Loan Fund offers zero or low-interest loans to developers seeking to acquire privately-owned parcels within one mile of the Fairmount Indigo Rail Corridor to develop affordable and/or mixed income residential and/or commercial projects.

For both, call 617-635-0351 for further information, or download the RFP's by registering at <http://bit.ly/qA7kJ1>.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Recent Awards; City of Boston Bids; Federal Grants
- 2 Federal and Foundation Grants
- 3 Foundation Grants; Grantwriter Tips
- 4 Additional Resources; How to Join this Listserv
- 5-6 Washington Update

Human Resources Department, 12/13/13

Seeks bids for Management Search Consulting Services.
Contact Vivian Leonard at 617-635-3377 for information.

FEDERAL GRANTS

HOUSING and SOCIAL SERVICES

Transitional/Maternity Group Homes; 1/15/14

Housing, supportive services to runaway and homeless youth.

Eligible: Governments, colleges and non-profits.

Range: Up to \$200K/year for 5 years

<http://tinyurl.com/l8moauh>

EDUCATION and WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Industry/University Cooperative Research, 1/6/14

5-year catalyst grants for collaborative research to improve the engineering and science workforce. Preference for teams of several universities.

Eligible: Academic institutions with graduate research programs.

Range: \$12M for 2-8 full centers, and 4-6 planning grants

<http://tinyurl.com/njc5fyp>

Youth Career Connect, 1/27/14

Prepare high school students for occupations that employers use H1-B visas to hire foreign workers.

Eligible: Workforce investment board, experienced non-profit, or school system in partnership with an employer and an academic institution.

Range: \$2M to \$7M over 4.5 years. Cash match is required.

<http://www.doleta.gov/ycc/>

RESEARCH

National Institutes of Health, 2/3/14

Research on using infrastructure, technology, human, and material resources to plan, implement and improve mental health response to disasters and other emergency events.

Eligible: Governments, schools, colleges, public housing authorities, non-profits, for-profits.

Range: \$250K

<http://tinyurl.com/k8dk3ow>

Department of Education OSERS, 1/28/14

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research: projects and training to maximize inclusion and integration, and improve independent living, health and employment outcomes for individuals with a range of disabilities.

Eligible: States, for-profits, non-profits, colleges.

Range: \$500K max. Cost sharing will be negotiated with the grantee.

<http://1.usa.gov/IBy8gU>

National Science Foundation, 1/23/14 Preliminary

Division of Environmental Biology supports fundamental research on populations, species, communities and ecosystems.

Eligible: Governments, colleges, nonprofits, for-profits, individuals, foreign organizations, federal agencies

Range: \$150K - \$360K. Full Proposal Due 8/4/14

<http://1.usa.gov/YkcBxG>

Health & Human Services, 1/7/14

Bio-behavioral research to reduce health disparities among minority and underserved children.

Eligible: Governments, schools, colleges, public housing authorities, non-profits/CBO's, FBO's, for-profits.

Range: All costs needed to complete a 5-year project

<http://tinyurl.com/nzue7zm>

Health & Human Services, 1/6/14

Public health interventions to reduce exposures to hazardous substances; identify health risks at hazardous waste sites.

Eligible: State and local governments

Range: \$400K

<http://1.usa.gov/1gYxJnF>

SCIENCE, TECH, ENGINEERING, MATH (STEM)

National Science Foundation CyberCorps, 2/21/14

Cybersecurity education and workforce development. The *Scholarship Track* provides scholarships. Recipients will work in cybersecurity after graduation for a government agency for a period equal to the length of the scholarship. The *Capacity Track* seeks innovative proposals to increase the ability of US higher education to produce cybersecurity professionals.

Range: Total available \$19.6M; awards vary

<http://1.usa.gov/1c7zsjm>

National Science Foundation ITEST, 2/11/14

Interventions that support K-12 students' engagement in STEM learning experiences.

Range: Up to \$1.67M

<http://1.usa.gov/1c7zsjm>

Eligibility for both: Governments, colleges, nonprofits, for-profits, individuals, foreign organizations, federal agencies

Lemelson/MIT InvenTeams, 2/28/14

High school students can create solutions to real-world problems, as part of a team of teachers and mentors.

Eligible: STEM teachers at public, private and vocational high schools.

Range: \$10K with Continuing Education Units available

<http://bit.ly/6KPqsb>

ARTS and CULTURE

Institute for Museum & Library Services, 2/3/14

Sparks! Ignition grants expand and test the boundaries of library and archive services.

National Leadership grants support projects that improve professional practice.

Eligible: Libraries and colleges

Range: Sparks: up to \$25K; National Leadership: up to \$500K

<http://1.usa.gov/1itaYcX>

HEALTH and SAFETY

Health & Human Services, 12/30/13

Ryan White Program continuation: HIV early intervention.

Eligible: Governments, colleges, nonprofits

Range: Up to \$514K

<http://1.usa.gov/18TWJTX>

Homeland Security/US Coast Guard, 1/31/14

Recreational boating safety programs to prevent accidents, injuries and deaths nationwide.

Eligible: Nonprofit boating safety organization

Range: Total available: \$5.5M; awards vary.

<http://bit.ly/1itBxPn>

FOUNDATION GRANTS

Cabot Foundation, 2/1 and 9/1, Annually

Application may be invited after review of concept paper.

Priorities: arts/culture, education/youth development, environment, health/human services, public benefit. Early childhood and youth development get highest priority.

Eligible: 501c3 nonprofits

Range: \$5K to \$50K

www.cabwel.com

Babson Foundation, 2/6 and 9/6, Annually

Preliminary call and letter are required before applying.

Priorities: entrepreneurship/economic development, culture, education/leadership development, environment, community-building.

Eligible: 501c3 non-profits.

Range: \$1K to \$40K, depending on priority area.

mjenney@gmafoundations.com

CVS Caremark, Rolling

Charitable Trust awards scholarships to pharmacy students.

Community Grants: access to health care; wellness and prevention; health education/awareness.

Eligible: Public colleges/universities, and nonprofits.

Range: Community grants - \$5K

<http://info.cvscaremark.com/community>

Lego Children's Fund, 1/15/14

Priorities: early childhood education; technology and communications that promote learning. Project grants only.

Eligible: Nonprofits and schools.

Range: \$500 to \$5K

<http://www.legochildrensfund.org/Guidelines.html>

Mabel Louise Riley Foundation, Rolling

Application may be invited after review of Letter of Intent.

Priorities: Collaboration, arts, education, social services, preschool reading, community development, high impact.

Eligible: Massachusetts nonprofits.

Range: Up to \$50K to \$100K

<http://rileyfoundation.com/GRANTGUIDELINES.pdf>

TD Charitable Foundation, 1/24/14

Priorities: affordable housing, education/financial literacy, environment. Emphasis on collaboration and leverage.

Eligible: Nonprofits.

Range: Not specified.

<http://bit.ly/i6rd2p>

Lynch Foundation, Rolling

Application may be invited after review of concept paper.

Priorities: education, culture, historic preservation, health care/medical research, religion.

Eligible: Boston-area nonprofits.

Range: Up to 5% of total organizational budget.

<http://thelynchfoundation.com/how-to-apply>

Ruddie Memorial Youth Foundation, 4/30/14

Application may be invited after review of pre-application.

Priorities: innovative, effective practices that lead to breakthrough results in supporting underprivileged youth.

Eligible: Nonprofits in Boston & 7 other metro cities.

Range: \$5K to \$25K

http://www.rmyf.org/content.cfm?u=our_grants

Ways to Make Your Grantwriter's Time Count

Edited from an article by Allison Shirk

1. Get organized. Make sure your grantwriter has everything needed to be as autonomous as possible. This is likely to require a substantial amount of time in the beginning, but it will also save you time in the end. Ask your grantwriter for a checklist of needs, as well as a wish list. For nonprofits, the basics include audited financial statements and organizational budgets. Go a step further, with project budgets for every program or capacity-building initiative that may be eligible for the grant. Also: letterhead, photographs, .jpegs of logos, and anything else needed to tell your story.

2. Single point of contact. If working with a contractor, it's always best to have a single point of contact. Make sure the individual assigned to be that person is a decision maker who can delegate effectively to every department/function within the organization. Development directors of small organizations may be too busy with special events to give grant proposals the attention they require on a regular basis. Having the grantwriter report directly to the executive director is optimal, in that it will give better access to the "big picture" and help ensure that the information needed is produced in a timely fashion.

3. Put it in writing. Dictating instructions or narrative to a grantwriter over the phone can be a poor use of time and increase the chances of miscommunication or error. Instead, take the time to put key ideas and information in bullet-point form for the grantwriter to elaborate on and polish. Use a descriptive subject line in e-mails so the grantwriter can quickly locate the information at crunch time. It's also a good idea to keep e-mail threads current by changing the subject line when important new information is introduced in the thread. If an attachment is included, make sure to reference it in the body of the e-mail.

4. Back off the deadline. Too often, busy applicants will wait until a deadline looms to send information to the grantwriter. **Don't.** Grantwriters need time to analyze the grant opportunity, write and edit the proposal, incorporate revisions and additional edits into the proposal, and package it all to best effect. Organizations lose the opportunity to put their best foot forward if they wait until the last minute. If there's going to be more than one reviewer, create a review calendar and stick to it. Or better yet, use Google docs so that the appropriate parties can participate in the group-editing process, leaving time for the grantwriter to finish it up. Be sure to note the time of day and time zone for online applications. Leave time for logistics. Last but not least, give the grantwriter a chance to give the proposal a final read-through before submitting it.

5. Provide the budget first. One of the most frustrating experiences for a grantwriter is to get a proposal ready and then receive a project budget that doesn't remotely resemble the proposal narrative. Follow the money. It's critical that the grant budget is set first, so that the narrative serves to describe the request for funds. Remember, organizations that have a solid understanding of what it really costs them to provide a service tend to do best in the quest for sustainable funding.

6. Use your grantwriter to write grants. Be careful not to let your team put the grantwriter to work doing administrative tasks. Keep in mind what you are paying by the hour, and while gently nagging team members for important information, crunching numbers, and creating board rosters might be useful in the short term, you might want to use the time for writing grants.

7. Take their advice, seriously. Experienced freelance grantwriters are worth their weight in gold because they know what foundations want, and expect, to hear and can help organizations move in that direction. They also tend to be familiar with a broad range of research, the latest developments in technology, and can suggest ways that the organization can work more efficiently and effectively — but only if you ask.

8. Keep them in the know. Make sure a grantwriter receives pertinent e-mail, board/staff meeting minutes, and reports. The more s/he knows about your organization and its work, the better able s/he will be to keep an eye out for appropriate grant opportunities.

9. Try a retainer. Working with your grantwriter on a monthly retainer basis provides flexibility to respond to urgent needs or back off when things are slow. If an urgent opportunity comes up, s/he can devote extra hours to that particular proposal and spend fewer hours the following month so that things balance out over time. Your financial team also will appreciate having a consistent monthly dollar amount to figure into the budget planning process.

10. Project wisely. Encourage your grantwriter to write several proposals at a time. Developing a completely new proposal for every opportunity that comes up is labor intensive and inefficient, as is having your grantwriter switch his or her focus from project to project. One way to avoid this is to focus one month on general operating support grants and the next on program support or special projects.

11. Leave time for follow-up calls. One of the best ways to get your grant proposals funded is to build a relationship with the funders you have targeted. Allotting time for follow-up calls, even for proposals that are declined, is one of the best investments of your grantwriter's time you can make. You might even want to consider giving your grantwriter an organizational e-mail address to use for initial inquiries and follow-ups. Relationships and personal contacts matter in development work, and the more resources your organization devotes to cultivating them, the better the chances your proposal will end up on the top of the submission pile.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CURRENT FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

<http://grants.gov/>

Grants.gov has released a new-applicant training video: <http://tinyurl.com/kt7m6qa>

CURRENT STATE BID AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

<http://www.comm-pass.com/>

Free training session on 12/17/13: Connecting Your Business to the Commonwealth. Includes a live demonstration of where to find bidding opportunities in Comm-PASS. Register at www.mass.gov/sdo.

CURRENT CITY OF BOSTON BID OPPORTUNITIES

<http://www.cityofboston.gov/purchasing/bid.asp>

Follow the City of Boston's Transition Blog at next.cityofboston.gov

THIRD SECTOR NEW ENGLAND – BIDDERS CONFERENCE: 12/5/13; DEADLINE: 1/31/14

The Inclusion Initiative will support a limited number of cross-sector community-led networks working toward the eradication of poverty. Contact Trina Jackson with questions: 617-523-6565 x206. <http://bit.ly/1jhD3lo>

CATALYST FUND FOR NONPROFITS

Technical advisory and financial support is provided as a catalyst for promising, voluntary collaborative ventures and mergers. <http://nonprofitfinancefund.org/northeast/new-england-catalyst-fund>

MASSACHUSETTS SERVICE ALLIANCE – SEE WEBSITE FOR DEADLINES

Mini-grants are available to support service initiatives and AmeriCorps National Service Programs.

<http://www.mass-service.org/resources>

JOIN THE FUNDING UPDATE LISTSERV

The Funding Update is distributed by the Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Relations to over 5000 subscribers per month. To subscribe, send an email to join-funding_update@listserv.cityofboston.gov. It's also available on the City of Boston's webpage at <http://www.cityofboston.gov/intergovernmental/>. If you wish to partner with a City department on a grant, technical assistance and advocacy are available through our office. Call 617.635.3954, or email inez.foster@cityofboston.gov.



THE WASHINGTON UPDATE

Edited from the Newsletter by Virginia Mayer

Key Upcoming Dates:

- Compromise spending plan deadline: Dec. 13
- Next round of sequester cuts: Jan. 15
- Debt ceiling reached: Feb. 7

Budget Work Continues

House and Senate Budget Committee leaders from both sides of the aisle are still working to provide the outline of a budget deal that both chambers can support, however they face a December 13 deadline to reach an agreement and present it to Congress. Staff and principals have said they will continue to talk during recess this week and also during the Senate's extra week out of session.

Congress needs to update or replace the current Continuing Resolution (CR) which expires on January 15, 2014. Absent a deal, Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH) said Thursday he would look to put forward a new CR at the sequester-level of \$967 billion. House Democrats meanwhile are calling for House leaders to cancel the December break if there is no deal by the 13th in order to continue negotiating. Currently the House is slated to go out of session on December 13th, and is not scheduled to return to session until January 7th.

Leaders of the budget conference committee are expected to continue private talks this week as they aim for a narrow deal that would provide some sequester relief and set discretionary spending levels for the next two years, according to sources familiar with the negotiations. Although top aides caution that Democrats and Republicans do not have a deal yet, the spending targets and the provisions under discussion suggest leaders of the conference committee have set their sights on an outline for a limited agreement that would create budgeting stability through 2015 while setting aside larger and more contentious questions.

Congressional aides cautioned that the discussions are highly fluid and that the elements of a potential package are constantly changing. Ryan and Murray are trying to reach accord on a common discretionary spending limit for fiscal 2014, which began October 1, as well as for the upcoming fiscal year, which would allow appropriators in both chambers to write annual spending bills.

Ryan and Murray also hope to reach agreement on a partial reduction of the sequester, which, when it hits in mid January, is set to cut overall discretionary spending by \$20 billion — from the current fiscal 2013 level of \$986 billion to the sequester-imposed maximum of \$967 billion. According to several sources familiar with the Murray-Ryan talks, one option would reduce the sequester by about \$65 billion over two years, raising top-line spending to \$1.012 trillion in the current fiscal year and to \$1.015 trillion in fiscal 2015. The increased spending would be evenly divided between defense and nondefense spending, softening a scheduled \$20 billion cut in defense spending this year and providing additional resources for the domestic side of the budget.

Republicans have demanded offsetting cuts in mandatory spending programs as the price of any budget deal, but the proposals being discussed are limited in scope and do not offer fundamental changes in entitlements nor the revenue through tax increases that Democrats want. Sources said one package being considered would raise billions of dollars from auctioning off wireless spectrum, raising aviation fees and other user fee increases. On the spending side, the package could save billions of dollars from reducing the cost of federal retirement programs, cutting Medicare payments to hospitals that serve a disproportionate share of low-income patients and overhauling the postal service. Sources close to the talks said that any savings that would be realized from a separate conference committee agreement on a farm bill are unlikely to be included in a budget deal.

House Appropriations Cardinals Call for Top Line Spending Number

Last Monday, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Harold Rogers (R-KY) and all 12 Subcommittee Chairmen (Cardinals) sent a letter to the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Budget Committees asking that they provide the Appropriations Committee with a "top line" spending number for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 that they may use in comprising the various spending bills before Congress. The Cardinals asked that such a number be provided no later than Monday, December 2.

Education - STEM

The House Energy and Commerce Committee held a hearing titled, "*Our Nation of Builders: Training the Builders of the Future*," focusing on the importance of STEM education and the manufacturing workforce. Witnesses included private-sector experts. For more, click on House Hearing on STEM.

Last Wednesday, the House Administration Committee approved by voice vote a committee resolution to establish rules for an annual **nationwide competition** for young students in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The first competition would challenge students to develop apps for mobile, tablet or computer devices.

Last Tuesday, the House Education and the Workforce Committee held a hearing on "*Preparing Today's Students for Tomorrow's Jobs: Improving the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act*." Witnesses included Education Department Assistant Secretary for Adult and Vocational Education Brenda Dann-Messier. For more, click on Strengthening Career and Technical Education.

New Markets Tax Credit

House Republicans and Democrats are formally asking House Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp (R-MI) and Ranking Member Sander Levin (D-MI) to take action to permanently extend the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC), a federal tax credit program that has created hundreds of thousands of jobs in distressed rural and urban communities. If Congress fails to act, the NMTC will expire at the end of this year. The bipartisan letter in support of the NMTC, signed by 70 members of Congress, highlights the importance of the Credit, which provides a modest tax incentive to encourage private sector investment in communities often left out of the economic mainstream.

Reports

- Turning Brownfields Into Parks: <http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe-brownfield-article-2012.pdf>
- Land Banking Abandoned Properties: <http://bit.ly/17PBc4L>
- Strategies for Ending Homelessness: <http://conta.cc/1cWPTAK>

Giving Thanks

While working in Washington is sometimes perceived as a "thankless" job - I actually find it rewarding. Whether it is finding funding for early childhood education or transportation, sharing new ideas for addressing gun violence, pushing the envelope just a bit further to try to end chronic homelessness - or any number of things that are undertaken on a daily basis to make things better - we're making a difference. It's all about having a "glass half full" mentality. We have a lot to be thankful for ~ and more great work to do. Thank you for all YOU do!

~ Virginia