

SchoolGrants Bimonthly Newsletter

November 2003

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Welcome to all of the new subscribers who have joined us since the September 2003 newsletter was published! I am pleased to have you on board with us!

This issue represents a significant change in formatting. Unless I receive a lot of negative feedback from you, the SchoolGrants Bimonthly Newsletter will now be published online and I will simply email you the link to access it every two months. Please be sure to [let me know](#) if you really like or dislike this change. I do listen to what my subscribers have to say!

NEWS AND RESOURCES

All information in this free newsletter is edited from previous issues of the [SchoolGrants Biweekly Newsletter](#) (SBN). The biweekly newsletter is emailed to subscribers twice each month and contains a wealth of valuable information. If you are truly interested in PK-12 grant writing, you owe it to yourself to check out the benefits of the SBN. You can see a sample copy at <http://www.schoolgrants.org/sbn.pdf>.

COMING SOON!

Did you know that successful state and federal proposals fall under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)? The trick to obtaining copies is knowing how to request them from the appropriate parties. [Aid for Education Report](#) is planning a one-hour teleconference that details the steps necessary to access proposals using the FOIA. Tentatively set for December 9, the workshop promises to be beneficial to those who wish to obtain sample proposals of state and/or federal proposals for which they plan to apply. More details will be posted on the SchoolGrants site as soon as they are available.

TEACHER PAY ACROSS THE U.S.

<http://www.aft.org/research/survey02/SalarySurvey02.pdf>

The American Federation of Teachers recently published its 2002 edition of *Survey and Analysis of Teacher Salary Trends*. This document includes some useful salary information such as state-by-state pay scales and metropolitan-area pay and cost-of-living indices that you may find handy when writing grants.

GUIDANCE FOR FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS ON PARTNERING WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/guidance_document.pdf

President Bush's Faith-Based and Community Initiative makes it possible for faith-based charities to compete on equal footing for public dollars to provide public services. While there are not separate programs set aside solely for faith- and community-based organizations, this initiative makes it possible for these groups to compete with other public charities for funding for many federally supported programs.

This 16-page document provides a brief overview of the following:

- . An overview of the federal grants process
- . Do's and don'ts for faith-based organizations
- . Facts about charitable choice

The document may help answer some questions that faith-based organizations have about finding grant opportunities and what responsibilities and requirements exist for applying for and managing federally funded programs.

If you need grant writing assistance, please consider [contacting SchoolGrants](#) about your needs. Let's discuss how we can work together to access funding for your programs. In the last three years, I have helped U.S. charter schools and school districts obtain over \$11 million in state and federal funding. I can help you do the same!

TEACHING OUR YOUNGEST: A GUIDE FOR PRESCHOOL TEACHERS AND CHILD CARE AND FAMILY PROVIDERS

http://www.ed.gov/teachers/how/early/teachingouryoungest/page_pg6.html?exp=0

This publication describes experiences that promote childhood learning from birth through age five. This booklet for preschool teachers and child care providers draws from scientifically based research on ways to help children to develop their language abilities, increase their knowledge, become familiar with books and other printed materials, learn letters and sounds, recognize numbers, and learn to count.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION

<http://www.homedepotfoundation.org/>

The Home Depot Foundation invests in nonprofit organizations and programs throughout the United States and Canada. Their funding initiatives include:

- Assisting at-risk youth - Young people need safe places to play and learn, leadership programs that teach skills through community engagement and job readiness training.
- Protect the environment - Our future and the future of generations to come depend on the environmental choices we make today.

The Home Depot Foundation makes grants to 501(c)(3) tax-exempt public charities in the United States and to charitable organizations in Canada. To maximize the impact of Foundation resources, the Foundation only funds programs that meet its eligibility test. Grants typically range from \$5,000 to \$25,000. The Foundation will consider only one proposal from the same organization in a 12-month period.

Application Timeline:

Proposals Received between:	Receive Notification By:
January 16 - April 15	June
April 16 - July 15	September
July 16 - October 15	December
October 16 - January 15	March

WAL-MART'S COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANTS

<http://www.walmartfoundation.org/wmstore/goodworks/scripts/index.jsp>

The Wal-Mart and SAM'S CLUB Community Matching Program allows local nonprofit organizations to hold fundraisers at their local store. Wal-Mart and SAM'S can elect to match a portion of the funds raised up to \$1,000. Events held off the premises of a Wal-Mart store or SAM'S CLUB are also eligible for funding when a Wal-Mart or SAM'S CLUB associate is actively involved in the event. Additionally, once the Wal-Mart or SAM'S CLUB has met certain criteria in the Matching Grant Program each year, a second source of funding is awarded to the store /club to use in the community. These funds do not require a fundraiser to be held; instead the funds can be awarded directly to a deserving organization.

Organizations that may qualify to receive funding through the Matching Grant Program are 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations or organizations that are exempt from needing 501(c)(3) status, such as public schools, faith-based institutions such as churches (must be conducting a project that benefits the community at large), and government agencies.

To learn more about receiving a grant from your local Wal-Mart or SAM'S CLUB, you should contact the Community Involvement Coordinator at the location closest to you.

E-RATE DISCOUNTS

<http://www.sl.universalservice.org/ContentInc/overview/>

The Schools and Libraries Support Mechanism, popularly know as the "E-rate," makes technology such as phone service and the Internet affordable for every library and school in the U.S. by providing discounts on eligible services. Libraries and schools in low-income urban communities and rural areas qualify for the highest discounts to assure that every American, regardless of age, income, or location has access to the essential tools of the Information Age.

INCOME Measured by % of students eligible for the National School Lunch Program	URBAN LOCATION Discount	RURAL LOCATION Discount
If the % of students in your school that qualifies for the National School Lunch Program is...	...and you are in an URBAN area, your discount will be...	...and you are in a RURAL area, your discount will be...
Less than 1%	20%	25%
1% to 19%	40%	50%
20% to 34%	50%	60%
35% to 49%	60%	70%
50% to 74%	80%	80%
75% to 100%	90%	90%

Who is eligible for the e-rate program? Public libraries as well as many private, nonprofit libraries accessible to the public and all K-12 public schools are eligible to apply for e-rate discounts. Nonprofit K-12 private and parochial schools with endowments of under \$50 million are also eligible applicants.

The process of applying for e-rate discounts is very bureaucratic. If your school or district is eligible for the program and interested in applying but dread dealing with all of the red-tape you must contend with to receive the discounts, considering hiring [SchoolGrants](#) to help you through the process.

The list of services eligible for e-rate funding can be found at <http://www.sl.universalservice.org/ContentInc/reference/eligible.asp>

Deadlines:

Form 470s must be filed by **no later than January 7, 2004.**

(The filing window is open now and you should consider getting your Form 470 filed ASAP.)

Form 471s must be filed by no later than **February 4, 2004.**

**EARN \$\$ FOR YOUR SCHOOL
WHILE SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT**

THE FUNDINGFACTORY

<http://tinyurl.com/mizf>

The FundingFactory offers two ways that schools can earn leading edge technology, sports and recreation equipment (including playground equipment), or even cash by recycling empty printer cartridges and used cell phones. Schools collect empty printer cartridges and used cell phones and send them to The Funding Factory. Over 20% of US schools currently participate in the program that is "the recognized gold standard for innovative fundraising."

There's more! You can solicit area businesses to send their used cartridges and cell phones to FundingFactory with credit going to your organization. FundingFactory provides free collection boxes and pays all shipping costs to schools and businesses.

This program has received very positive comments on the Bring Home the Bacon listserv from participating schools. Be sure to check it out!

AVAILABLE THROUGH SCHOOLGRANTS

[BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER](#)

If you do much grant writing for PK-12 schools or children, you will not find a better value for your money. Those who make the switch from the free Bimonthly Newsletter to the value-priced Biweekly Newsletter frequently write to tell me how glad they are to be getting so much more quality information than available here.

[LET'S WRITE A GRANT INTERACTIVE CD](#)

Whether you are new to grant writing or an experienced veteran, the *Let's Write a Grant* CD is a valuable addition to your library. Dr. Sigrid Trombley, Grants Specialist at Wichita Public Schools said (in part), "If you're serious about learning to write grants, you won't find a better resource than the "Let's Write a Grant" CD that was created by and is marketed and sold by Donna Fernandez." Check out her comments and those of the NASSP at <http://www.schoolgrants.org/WriteGrant.htm#review>.

GRANT WRITING CONSULTING SERVICES

I have the expertise you need in accessing state and federal grant funds for your students. Services available range from helping you plan your program and writing the proposal that reflects your program plan to providing an independent review and critique of a proposal you've written.

HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS

Consider providing your teachers and administrators with a hands-on one or two day workshop to teach them how to find funding opportunities and write competitive proposals. Past clients have included Performance Institute, BellSouth, Sandersville Technical College and, one of the regional education centers in Georgia.

The expected timing for a SchoolGrants workshop to be held in Dallas, TX is the early spring of 2004. Stay tuned for more information about that workshop! Registration will be limited to only 40 participants so that every attendee can receive personal attention.



FINALLY...

SchoolGrants Bimonthly Newsletter is copyrighted. You are welcome to forward the newsletter in its entirety but you may not cut and paste information out of it to forward without credit to SchoolGrants. You should also not cut and paste the information from the newsletter onto your own Web page without express permission. Write to me if you wish to publish the content in the SchoolGrants Bimonthly Newsletter.

Did you know you can reach thousands who are vitally interested in K12 education by advertising in SchoolGrants Newsletter? Contact me for more information if you are interested.

You can SUBSCRIBE to or UNSUBSCRIBE from the free electronic SchoolGrants Bimonthly Newsletter by going to <http://netpals.isoft.com/archives/schoolgrants.html>. Click on the "Join or Leave the List" link and follow the steps given by the listserv software.

Thank you for subscribing to the free SchoolGrants Bimonthly Newsletter! Suggestions and comments are always welcome. Thanks to each of you who has helped spread the word among your friends and colleagues about the SchoolGrants site and this newsletter.

Happy Grant seeking!
Donna Fernandez
<http://www.schoolgrants.org> ... for the kids