

# SCHOOLGRANTS BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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## NEWS AND RESOURCES FOR GRANT WRITERS

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### SchoolGrants Update

<http://www.schoolgrants.org>

Welcome to all of the new subscribers! I hope you'll find the information in the newsletter helpful!

I apologize for not getting this newsletter done by March 1. My mother had knee replacement surgery that day so my time has been spent at the hospital! Your prayers and good wishes for her recovery are much appreciated!

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### Did You Know?

<http://www.schoolgrants.org/newsletter2.htm>

Did you know that the content in the free newsletter appeared several months ago as a small portion of an issue of [SchoolGrants Biweekly Newsletter](#)? If you are a serious grant writer, you should consider subscribing to the *Biweekly Newsletter* so that you will receive timely information twice each month. The subscription price is only \$45/year.

The online sample of the SchoolGrants Biweekly Newsletter includes the information in the December 15, 2004 issue. Although some links have been removed in the sample copy, it will give you an idea of the types of information you will receive twice each month. If you'd like to see it, go to <http://www.k12grants.org/sbn.pdf>. You must have the latest version of Adobe Acrobat Reader to access it.

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### **President's 2005 Budget Request**

A brief summary about how the President's FY 2006 budget request will impact education is available at <http://tinyurl.com/4r86w>. Some new programs have been added (mainly designed to increase high school student achievement) and several will be funded at a higher level (Title I, Part A, Math and Science Partnerships, Advanced Placement...) On the other hand, the budget request, if approved by Congress, will terminate 48 programs.

Over the past 25 years, every Administration has proposed to eliminate or consolidate funding for programs that have achieved their original purpose, that duplicate other programs, that may be

carried out with flexible State formula grant funds, or that involve activities that are better or more appropriately supported through State, local, or private resources. This budget request is not an exception! A few of the programs that the President has not requested any funding for include:

- Arts in Education
- Community Technology Centers
- Comprehensive School Reform
- Educational Technology State Grants
- Elementary and Secondary School Counseling
- School Dropout Prevention
- Smaller Learning Communities

Please keep in mind that many of the more popular programs may not actually be eliminated. Congress must approve the budget and popular programs have traditionally received funding regardless of what the President requests.

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### **[Signing Up with Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)**

<http://www.grants.gov>

Signing up with grants.gov is time-consuming and somewhat frustrating as you must cut through layers of bureaucratic red tape. Unfortunately, however, in the future, we will be required to use the grants.gov system to apply for federal grants. Already, the U.S. Department of Education is requiring its use for some programs. According to a notice in the February 10, 2005 *Federal Register*, certain fiscal year (FY) 2005 grant competitions will require applicants to submit applications electronically through grants.gov instead of through USDE's e-Application system – a much easier system to use than grants.gov.

Just to register with grants.gov, you must:

- Have a DUNS number;
- Register with Central Contractor Registry (CCR);
- Register with a Credential Provider; and finally
- Register with grants.gov

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### **[Important Changes to Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program](http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpclatters/GEN0414.html)**

<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpclatters/GEN0414.html>

The Taxpayer-Teacher Protection Act (P.L. 108-409) authorizes up to \$17,500 in loan forgiveness to highly qualified teachers of math, science and/or special education, as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and employed full-time for five years in an elementary or secondary school that meets the standards for inclusion in the annual *Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools*. This represents an increase of \$12,500 above the previous loan limits for the program. The increased amount of teacher loan forgiveness is available to new borrowers (teachers with no outstanding loan balances prior to Oct. 1, 1998, who borrow eligible loans prior to Oct. 1, 2005). Note: borrowers who commenced teaching service under the requirements that existed under the prior law, and who continue to meet those requirements, will remain eligible for up to \$5,000 in loan forgiveness without meeting the highly qualified teacher standard.

The purpose of the program is to ease the shortage of teachers in key subject areas. The additional loan forgiveness will provide substantial relief for existing teachers and an incentive for prospective teachers to teach in subjects and schools that have difficulty hiring highly qualified candidates.

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### **[Fiduciary Responsibility – Board Members Beware!](http://tinyurl.com/4f2v5)**

<http://tinyurl.com/4f2v5>

The link above takes you to an article in the Washington Post that details how WorldCom directors are being sued personally for the misdeeds of the company. The directors are angry and appalled that they may have to ante up personal funds to settle their part of a shareholder lawsuit.

Fiduciary responsibility can be defined as a "relationship imposed by law where someone has voluntarily agreed to act in the capacity of a "caretaker" of another's rights, assets and/or well being. The fiduciary owes an obligation to carry out the responsibilities with the utmost degree of "good faith, honesty, integrity, loyalty and undivided service of the beneficiaries' interest."

According to *An NGO Training Guide for Peace Corps Volunteers*, "Fiduciary responsibility requires exercising a higher degree of care than one normally would for one's own personal affairs. A person who holds something in trust for others acts in a fiduciary capacity as a trustee. For example, the governing board of an NGO holds in trust funds donated or provided by others and has a fiduciary responsibility to both donors and program beneficiaries of protecting and using the funds for their designated purpose."

Fiduciary responsibilities are imposed on board members, directors, and trustees of public, nonprofit, and for-profit businesses. The purpose is to protect against fraud and other improprieties.

All board members or trustees should be aware of what their fiduciary responsibilities are. It is also important to realize that insurance may not cover all expenses if a lawsuit is filed against the organization that is overseen. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/5nmqd> to review a publication by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta that offers guidance to nonprofits related to fiduciary responsibilities and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

The Foundation Center also emphasizes the importance of understanding fiduciary responsibilities. A [September 2002 publication](#) by the Atlanta branch defines limited liability as follows:

Under the law, creditors and courts are limited to the assets of the nonprofit organization. The founders, directors, members, and employees are not personally liable for the nonprofit's debts.

The definition goes on, however to warn about the exceptions to the limited liability law. It says, "directors have a fiduciary responsibility; if they do not perform their jobs in the best interests of the nonprofit, and the nonprofit is harmed, they can be held liable."

As grant writers and managers, we also have a responsibility to ensure that the programs we propose can be implemented and that the funds we receive are properly spent based upon the terms of the grant award. While we may not be personally liable for instances

where activities or use of grant funds are questionable, we owe it to the future of the program and its beneficiaries to ensure that funds are spent ethically, legally, and according to the individual requirements of each grant awarded.

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **[3-A-Day of Dairy Nutrition Education Grants](http://www.nationaldairyCouncil.org/health/resources/grant.asp)**

<http://www.nationaldairyCouncil.org/health/resources/grant.asp>

America's low calcium intake is recognized as a major public health problem. The 3-A-Day of Dairy Nutrition Education Grants program supports projects that help children ages 9-18 improve their overall diet, by including three servings a day of milk, cheese or yogurt and by adopting a healthy, active lifestyle.

Grants are open to all groups or individuals in the U.S., including those self-employed, commissioned by or employed by organizations of local government, state and local health departments, regional and state agencies and schools, medical facilities and extension specialists.

Grants in the amount of \$5,000 each will be awarded on a **state/regional basis**. You should download the [Dairy Council Directory](#) to find the person to contact for your state/region. [Please note California, Wisconsin, Hawaii and Puerto Rico are not participating in the 2005 grant program.]

Applications must be postmarked by **May 13, 2005**.

## SCHOOLGRANTS SERVICES

### 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 quality information on a continuing basis.

#### [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 a 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.

#### [Coming Up Taller Awards](#)

[http://www.cominguptaller.org/downloads/CUT\\_application\\_2005.pdf](http://www.cominguptaller.org/downloads/CUT_application_2005.pdf)

Coming Up Taller Awards honor excellence in after-school and out-of-school arts and humanities programs for underserved children and youth.

Nominated programs must:

- Operate as a program for children and youth outside the school day.
- Have been operational since January 2001.
- Use one or more disciplines of the humanities or the arts as the core content of its program(s).
- Concentrate on children and youth who live in family and community circumstances that limit their opportunities – underserved children and youth are the primary participants in the program.
- Involve children and youth as active participants in the arts or humanities experience.
- Provide participants regularly scheduled sessions on an ongoing basis.
- Integrate arts or humanities programs with youth development goals.

Eligible applicants include museums, libraries, performing arts organizations, universities, colleges, arts centers, community service organizations, schools, businesses and eligible government entities. Nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations, units of state or local government, and federally recognized tribal communities or tribes are eligible to apply.

Awardees receive \$10,000 each and an individualized plaque.

Nominations must be postmarked by **March 24, 2005**.

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### **[Grants To Reduce Alcohol Abuse](#)**

<http://tinyurl.com/5vbyt>

This program provides grants to LEAs to develop and implement innovative and effective programs to reduce alcohol abuse in secondary schools.

Local educational agencies (LEAs) are the only eligible applicants.

An estimated 57 awards ranging from \$300,000 to \$500,000 will be made. The U.S. Department of Education may reserve up to 25 percent of funds to award grants to low-income and rural LEAs. In addition, awards may be made in FY 2006 from the non-funded applications from this competition.

Completed applications must be transmitted by no later than **March 28, 2005**.

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### **[Adolescent Family Life \(AFL\) Demonstration Projects](#)**

<http://tinyurl.com/3we8s>

Title XX of the Public Health Service Act authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants for demonstration projects to provide services to pregnant and nonpregnant adolescents, adolescent parents, and their families. These Title XX grants should clearly and consistently establish comprehensive and integrated approaches to the delivery of care services to pregnant adolescents, adolescent parents, their children, their extended family members, fathers of their children, and/or male partners to whom they are married or in a long-term relationship.

Under this announcement, funds are available for care projects only. The OAPP encourages services that involve not only the young fathers and/or male partners, but also the parents and families of the pregnant and/or parenting adolescent. The primary purpose of care programs is to establish innovative, comprehensive, and integrated approaches to the delivery of care services for pregnant adolescents and adolescent parents under 19 years of age at program entry, with primary emphasis on unmarried adolescents who are 17 years old or younger. There are 10 core services that must be provided directly or by referral by all applicants.

Any public or private nonprofit organization or agency is eligible to apply for a grant. Faith-based organizations are encouraged to apply however AFL funds may not be used for inherently religious activities, such as worship or religious instruction.

Under this program announcement, the OAPP intends to make available approximately \$5 million to support an estimated 15-20 new care demonstration grants, up to a maximum of \$375,000 each per year. (This is a very competitive program. In FY 2001, OAPP received 142 applications; 19 of which were funded.) A 30% match is required in the first and second years; 40% in the third year; 50% in the fourth year and 60% in the fifth year.

To receive consideration, applications must be received by the Office of Public Health and Science (OPHS) Office of Grants Management no later than **April 4, 2005**.

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### FINAL DETAILS

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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.

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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.