Finding and Understanding Foundation Funding

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Research Funding & Development Services
What is a foundation?

A foundation is a non-governmental entity established as a nonprofit corporation or a charitable trust, with a principal purpose of making grants to unrelated organizations, institutions, or individuals for scientific, educational, cultural, religious, or other charitable purposes. “Foundation” is not a legal term, so if an organization has the word in its name, do not assume that it is a grantmaking organization.

Acknowledgement: The Foundation Center
Two Types of Foundations

Private foundations
A private foundation derives its money from a family, an individual, or a corporation—e.g. the Ford Foundation.

Grantmaking public charities
A grantmaking public charity (sometimes referred to as a "public foundation") derives its support from diverse sources, which may include foundations, individuals, and government agencies—e.g. the Medical Research Foundation

Acknowledgement: The Foundation Center
And two types of funding

Charitable Gifts

Applications

And two kinds of applications:

- open calls
- invited
Why apply to a foundation?

- For early career support or pilot funding (e.g. Collins Medical Trust, Medical Research Foundation)
- For high-risk, high-reward projects (e.g. Keck)
- For disease-specific research (e.g. Michael J. Fox Foundation)
### Pluses and Minuses

#### Foundation Funding

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<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
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<tr>
<td>• More likely to focus on emerging issues, new needs, populations not yet evolved into special interest groups</td>
<td>• Average grant size is smaller</td>
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<td>• Some make large grants</td>
<td>• Priorities can change rapidly, making continued support harder to predict</td>
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<td>• Better source of funds for start-up or experimental projects</td>
<td>• Applicants have little influence on the decision-making process</td>
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<td>• Proposals are not as complex or lengthy</td>
<td>• Some unwilling to pay all project costs; most won’t pay full indirects</td>
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<td>• Often more flexible to unique needs, circumstances and time frames</td>
<td>• Limited staff size lessens opportunities for preliminary discussions</td>
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<td>• Usually have fewer applicants</td>
<td>• May not explain a rejection, making resubmissions difficult</td>
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<td>• Often better sources for more local needs</td>
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Sources of Foundation Funding

Research Funding and Development Services webpage
[link to Funding Portal]

Databases with info on Foundation Funding:

- [GrantScoop](#)
- [SciVal Funding](#)
- [OHSU Internal Database](#)
- [Foundation Center](#)
The President’s List

• The OHSU President's List comprises corporations and private foundations that require internal coordination with the OHSU Foundation.
• Many organizations on the list are reserved for top institutional priorities and projects (as defined by the OHSU President and other senior leadership).
• Other organizations have an open RFP process and while investigators are encouraged to apply, the OHSU Foundation still must be notified in these cases.
The President’s List

- OHSUF’s goal is to increase the likelihood of your project being funded by providing comprehensive institutional information about OHSU's relationship with the organization.
- If you would like to contact any of the organizations on the list or if a corporation or foundation on this list contacts you requesting a proposal or other information/resources, please submit a **Notice of Intent form**.
- Funders who restrict the number of applications that can be submitted by an institution require **additional** coordination via the **Limited Submission process**.
But wait a minute—what about the OHSU Foundation?

• Raises money for OHSU
• Gives out money via the Medical Research Foundation and Doernbecher Children’s Hospital Foundation
• Manages the President’s List
• In some cases may assist faculty with applications
• Identifies, cultivates, solicits and stewards private foundations
  – Research
  – Program
  – Capital
• Promotes and advances university goals and priorities
OHSU Foundation Development Officers

- Usually involved in gifts, not grants
- Support key initiatives in assigned areas
- Provide resources for prospect research
- Meet with department chairs
- Engage faculty in donor visits
- Facilitate clearance to individuals and private foundations
Corporate and Foundation Relations

- Works with applications related to the President’s List
- Receives and manages Notices of Intent
- May provide assistance with writing
- Will provide background
- Manages the Collins Medical Trust process
Collins Medical Trust
- Local, family foundation that provides up to $30,000
- OHSU Foundation submits on your behalf
- Due 3x per year, but only 15 investigators may submit per deadline.
- Reviewed by non-expert scientific professionals
- Funds a wide variety of research, open to postdocs.

Medical Research Foundation of Oregon
- Early Clinical Investigator
- New Investigator
- Emergency Funding
Processes

• Determine eligibility and project fit
• Note whether it is a limited submission
• Get sign-off from your department*
• Complete OHSUF Notice of Intent Form and/or Limited Submission process
• Complete ePPQ – work with your OPAM contact!
• Prepare proposal/letter of intent
• Seek guidance from RFDS/OHSUF
• Submit
Keys to Success

• Most important: you must understand the foundation and its interests
• You also should understand the extent to which the OHSUF/investigator/foundation relationship is important
• Write to the reviewing audience (lay? Experts?)
• Have a coherent project
• Understand the budget
Common Pitfalls

• Quality or eligibility of applicant
• Project doesn’t match funding interests
• Project scope too large for timeline and budget
• Project need is unclear, not compelling, or does not consider all audiences (e.g. lay audiences, patients affected etc.)
Contact Us

Research Funding & Development Services

http://www.ohsu.edu/funding

Email us: funding@ohsu.edu