



7 tips for bringing IT funding home

Technology demands across the public sector are growing. Fortunately, grant funding from federal and state sources is also expanding to help you meet these new demands. Explore our tips for ways to tap into all the tech-friendly funding that is available for your organization.

1. Define your project

Whether you're considering applying for new, competitive funding or advocating within your organization for a share of the formula funding you've been allocated, you'll need a clear idea of what you want to do with a grant.

Start with an assessment of what technology your organization needs, beyond your existing budget, how the technology you're considering will support your organization's mission, and how it will impact the community you serve.

2. Put it in writing

A concise summary of your project will help you present the fundamental elements of your project concept to others, which is essential to bringing together the resources you'll need to move your project forward.

Your project summary can be short, as short as half a page or so, and it should include a high-level overview of the what you plan to accomplish, how technology will help make your project work, and approximately how much the project will cost. The costs don't need to be specific – just enough to give readers a sense of the scale of what you're looking to achieve.

3. Get executive support

Not only will the senior executive of your organization eventually sign off on your eventual grant request, (s)he may also be able to identify matching funds that the organization can commit to the project, if cost sharing is required by the funder.

If your request is for a share of formula funding that is already available to your organization but isn't earmarked for specific projects yet, advocating for your project internally will start with sharing your project summary with your agency's leadership.

4. Assemble a team

Great results are rarely achieved alone, and the more people and ideas you can integrate into planning your project, the more likely you'll be to end up with a comprehensive initiative that will inspire funding decision makers to approve your grant request.

In addition to your Dell Technologies team, who will help ensure your project will include all the technical elements it needs to function correctly and provide budget information for your eventual proposal, consider engaging members of the community both within and outside your organization who will be impacted by the project.



5. Survey the funding landscape

Now, you're ready to start looking for funding options to support your project. Cast the net broadly, and consider both competitive and formula funding opportunities from a wide range of sources that support the goals of your project and your (and your collaborators') type of organization.

The Dell Grants Support Program provides free funder research that can quickly deliver a relevant group of funding prospects for you to consider, including federal, state, and foundation funding opportunities representing ongoing annual funding as well as additional stimulus programs that are only available this year. Contact your Dell representative to access the Dell Grants Support Program resources.

6. Make an action plan

A number of factors, including the amount of funding you need, your timeline for deployment, matching funds you have available, and how you're using existing funding streams, will determine which funding source is best for your project.

Grants Development Consultants working with the Dell Grants Support Program are also available to help you sort through the grant programs that are out there and determine which opportunities are worth serious consideration by your team.

7. Develop and submit your request for funding

With a clear-eyed definition of your project and promising grant(s) identified, you're ready to develop grant requests. A compelling proposal articulates all the relevant details of your project and takes into account the requirements and interests of the funder.

Government funders generally have very specific proposal requirements. Be sure to read any guidance the funder provides and follow their directions as precisely as you can.

Check back on this page often for resources and materials to help you navigate technology-friendly funding opportunities!



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