

Grants Alert

July 2008



HINOJOSA ANNOUNCES \$17,000 AWARD FOR LITERACY PROJECT IN THE VALLEY

Inside this Issue:

Arts & Humanities	5
Community Dev.	8
Education	9
Health	15
Housing	16
Law Enforcement	17
Parks & Environment	17
Sports	19

Washington, DC — Rubén Hinojosa and Carol Rasco, CEO of Reading Is Fundamental were presented with a donation that will put hundreds of free new books into the hands of Rio Grande Valley school children. The Doctors Hospital at Renaissance presented a check to RIF for \$17,000, which will fund the organization's literacy efforts in the region.

RIF, which is America's oldest family literacy organization, works to improve literacy by providing children with free new books and promoting reading for fun. Last year, the organization distributed 16 million books to 4.6 million children around Amer-

ica, including more than 100,000 children in South Texas. RIF's book distribution events will allow children to choose their own books and provide an array of fun activities to help motivate children to read.

RIF is part of the ambitious new South Texas literacy coalition launched by Congressman Hinojosa last March to boost literacy rates among South Texas youth. This year, RIF will expand its programs into 42 new schools in South Texas, greatly increasing the number of free books distributed to children in the area.

"I am confident this new regional literacy initiative will spark a love for reading in our South Texas students from preschool to sixth grade," said Hinojosa. "We plan to put books into the hands of tens of thousands of our youth in this region and implement activities that will broaden their horizons and foster a joy for reading."



Congressman Hinojosa with Carol Rasco (RIF), Dr. Carlos Cardenas (DHR) and members of the South Texas Literacy Coalition

HINOJOSA ANNOUNCES \$3.6 MILLION AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT GRANT FOR BROOKS COUNTY

Washington, DC – Congressman Rubén Hinojosa (TX-15) announced that the Texas Department of Transportation, acting for and on behalf of the Federal Aviation Administration, has awarded a \$3,630,430 airport improvement grant to the Brooks County for the Brooks County Airport. The financial assistance will be used for runway extension and lighting improvements at the airport.

“As Brooks County continues to invest in and strengthen its economy, it’s important a solid infrastructure is in place

to handle these positive changes,” said Hinojosa. “These much-needed improvements at Brooks County Airport will help ensure a safer aviation environment and help the airport to become an even greater engine for future economic growth.”

Federal funds have been approved for 90 percent of estimated hangar costs, and Brooks County will be responsible for the remaining 10 percent.

HINOJOSA ANNOUNCES \$4.3 MILLION USDA GRANT AND LOAN FOR THREE RIVERS

Washington, DC – Congressman Rubén Hinojosa (TX-15) announced that the City of Three Rivers has received a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development grant for \$1,000,000 and a loan of \$3.3 million. This Rural Development loan and grant will go toward water and waste disposal construction.

“The residents of Three Rivers deserve to have a reliable, supply of clean water and efficient waste disposal and it’s important that we do all we can to make sure these communities get the water infrastructure they need,” said Hinojosa, “This critical grant will make certain that this much-needed wastewater treatment plant is finally constructed.”

Specifically, the funds will be used to construct an 8” influent force main that will be connected to the existing force main. This line will intercept flow from the lift station at Martin Street and Oakville Road and will transport sewage to the proposed wastewater treatment plant. The proposed wastewater treatment plant will consist of a mechanical screen, a .40 million gallons per day looped aeration basin, two 35’ diameter final clarifiers, chlorine contact chamber or Ultraviolet Disinfection, parshall flume, plant piping, life station and electrical work. The city currently has 796 connections.

HIDALGO COUNTY’S SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT RECEIVE FEDERAL FUNDS TO BUY 6 NEW VEHICLES

Washington, DC – Congressman Rubén Hinojosa (TX-15) announced that Hidalgo County has received a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development grant for \$46,308 and a loan for \$225,000. The loan and grant will be used to purchase a fully equipped 2010 Chevrolet 4x4 F150 Crime Scene Investigation Unit and two equipped 2009 4x4 Ford F150 Crew Cabs.

The Hidalgo County Sheriff’s Department responds to areas along the Rio Grande River and other secluded areas where the terrain is often unpredictable. Some of these areas of have steep banks and ditches that cannot be driven on with

the current fleet of vehicles. The purchase of these six vehicles will allow the Sheriff department to respond to all calls throughout rural Hidalgo County. The population served by this project is 6,822.

“We must do everything we can to guarantee that our first responders have the equipment they need to protect our communities,” said Hinojosa. “This grant and loan will provide our Sheriff’s Department the tools they need so they can best do their job and protect the rural residents of Hidalgo County.”

CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA AT THE UTPA FESTIVAL FOR INTERNATIONAL BOOKS AND ARTS (FESTIBA) - CONGRESSIONAL READING DAY WITH READING IS FUNDAMENTAL AT DONNA ISD AND EDINBURG ISD





SOUND NONPROFIT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR A SOUND NIGHTS SLEEP

When asked what about their organization keeps them awake at night, most nonprofit executive directors and senior managers will give the short and simple answer: money. While most bring financial management experience to their job, many have less expertise in this area than they would like. All, however, are aware that sound financial management is linked with every function of the nonprofit and is essential for organizational success.

Macro Level Oversight - First, look at the "kind" of money your nonprofit organization has available to provide programs.

For example, foundation and government funding may restrict the type and amount of advocacy your organization can do. Unrestricted funds from individual donors provide more opportunities for advocacy. Similarly, most grants and even government contracts don't cover all program costs.

Your nonprofit needs a mix of private and public grant money and other sources of funding to deliver the financially healthy, viable programs that you want in ways that are best for the communities you serve.

- **Investing for the Future** Sound financial management also requires that you broaden your focus beyond having a fund balance large enough to finance cash flow (typically, three to 12 months of operating expenses). Figure out how to manage self investment, whether through an endowment, a major donor campaign or an annual fund. That will allow you to invest in your infrastructure (evaluation, marketing, IT, etc.) and connect your current situation to where your organization wants to be.

- **Understanding Financial Position** Lastly at the macro level, make sure you understand your balance sheet, known as the Statement of Financial Position in the nonprofit sector. The information on the balance sheet can give you excellent insights on a number of important areas of financial management, including:

- Short/Long-term cash-flow needs
- An ability to fund expansion
- Funds needed for future equipment maintenance
- The soundness of your cash-management strategy (or if you need one!)
- Future debt payment requirements

Operational Level Oversight - On a more operational level, are you "in the mix" when it comes to financial systems and information? Can you get details from your finance professionals in a format that you can understand? Would you be embarrassed if anything in your expenditure or

salary base made the day's headlines? Know what's going on. Look at the details, systems, and checks and balances. Make sure you can defend your budget to your board, supporters and colleagues.

- **Budgeting for Programs** It is crucial that managers receive the information they need to understand their programs' financial viability – information that shows them whether or not programs are paying their way, including overhead and administrative costs. Financial reports must clearly show the restricted and unrestricted funds. This is critical for knowing what can and cannot be changed if the budget should require adjustment. Similarly, your development professionals need to know how much it takes to raise a dollar, including personnel time. This way they ensure that their costs are at an appropriate level as they support program work – something donors and funders also need and want to know.



- **Passing the Logic Test** - Do your financial statements pass the "logic test"? If, for example, you have a government contract that requires certain services be performed by a specific staff member, do the financials show a portion of that person's salary apportioned to those contract funds? If financials are not easily understood, take steps to rectify the problem through a change in format or additional training for those reading the statements. Addressing Problems Are reports, reimbursements or billings going out late or have consistent errors? A different timeline could make a difference, or you may need to provide additional training for those preparing the reports. In some instances, a change in personnel may be in order. Whatever is needed, you've got to address the problem. Tolerating it is just a house of cards. The Forest for the Trees— To make sure your nonprofit organization is financially healthy, you need to know the details, ask questions, demand answers and understand the big picture.

The benefits? You will be able to be more entrepreneurial. You will understand where you can be creative, how you can invest, and where you have or can get the freedom to pay for programs or activities not covered by most funders. You will better meet your mission and be doing the most with the funds – and the public trust – you receive as a nonprofit organization.

Certainly, having a firm grasp on your finances on a regular basis will help you understand your organization on a deeper, more holistic level. And this knowledge – and power – should help you sleep a whole lot better.

Article by Bonnie McFarlane at About.com

Website:

<http://nonprofit.about.com/od/nonprofitmanagement/a/inmgmt.htm?nl=1>



WORD-OF-MOUTH MARKETING IS PERFECT FOR NONPROFITS

In a news story about the recent conference on nonprofit marketing, we learned that there is now an association for word-of-mouth marketing.

The World of Mouth Marketing Association is a natural extension of the interest in recent years in "alternative" marketing methods. These include the new "social marketing," and the interest in targeting opinion leaders. "Buzz" is now the "buzzword" as marketers attempt to get beyond the clutter of traditional marketing channels.

Of course, nonprofits have long depended on word-of-mouth marketing for practical reasons, such as the lack of a "product" to sell and the dearth of resources to sink into advertising and promotion.

Interesting points made by at the AMA conference included:

- People are twice as likely to trust the advice of friends and family members than advertisements.
- 53 percent of Americans are highly likely to believe in the credibility of recommendations from friends and family; 51 percent are highly likely to pass along to others what they have heard; and 48 percent are highly likely to make a purchase or donation based on such recommendations.
- People tend to pass along positive comments about organizations or people, and make the recommendations in face-to-face conversations, rather than by telephone, email, or other approaches.



- Nearly 40 percent of word-of-mouth recommendations occur in conversations that start with a reference to a newspaper article, television or radio show, or advertising--suggesting that you can't ignore the usual channels of getting the word out.

Recommendations passed along to nonprofits included:

- Create close bonds with people who have extensive social networks and create opportunities for them to encourage friends and associates.
- Encourage recipients of email messages to forward the mailings to others.
- Look for ways to reward supporters who recruit donors and volunteers to your cause.
- Make sure your website has an "action center" that tells people how to get involved in your cause through specific acts, such as telling others, contacting newspapers, and making speeches at local events.

You are, undoubtedly, engaging in word-of-mouth marketing in an informal way. It may be time to get serious about it and actually develop it into a major part of your marketing plan.

Article by JoAnn Fritz at About.com

Website: <http://nonprofit.about.com/b/2006/07/25/word-of-mouth-marketing-is-perfect-for-nonprofits.htm?nl=1>

Funding Opportunities

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Grants for Nonprofit Music Programs

Deadline: Open/Rolling

The Guitar Center Music Foundation's mission is to aid nonprofit music programs across America that offer music instruction so that more people can experience the joys of making music. Maximum Award: \$5000.

Eligibility: 501(c)(3) organizations. Qualifying applicants are established, ongoing and sustainable music programs across the United States that provide music instruction for people of any age who would not otherwise have the opportunity to make music.

Website: <http://www.guitarcentermusicfoundation.org/grants/index.cfm?sec=info>

ASCAP Foundation Announces New Grant Guidelines

Deadline: 08/01/2008

The ASCAP Foundation is a publicly supported charitable organization dedicated to supporting American music creators and encouraging their development through music education and talent development programs. As part of this mission, the foundation annually provides grants to nonprofit organizations engaged in educational programs for aspiring songwriters and composers. The foundation is accepting Letters of Inquiry from U.S.-based nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations engaging in music education and talent development programs that are consistent with the mission and objectives of the ASCAP Foundation and that support music education programs for aspiring songwriters and composers. The foundation's average grant is between \$3,000 and \$5,000, and is made on an annual one-time basis. The foundation does not consider requests for general operating or administrative support or annual giving campaigns, capital purposes, endowments, deficit operations, recordings, marketing efforts or performance and production funding. The foundation does not purchase advertisements, sponsor events, or donate equipment. Full grant applications are by invitation only. Those interested in applying for a grant must first submit a Letter of Inquiry Form by August 1, 2008. Applicants will hear within one month of receipt of their Letter of Inquiry whether their organization will be invited to submit a full grant application. Letters of Inquiry should be submitted to the ASCAP Foundation as early as possible. Full grant applications for 2009 funding must be received by October 1, 2008.

Website: <http://www.ascapfoundation.org/grants.html>

Mockingbird Foundation Offers Support for Children's Music Education Programs

Deadline: 08/01/2008

The Mockingbird Foundation, Inc. offers competitive grants to schools and nonprofit organizations to support music education for children. Mockingbird is particularly interested in music projects that encourage and foster creative expression in any musical form (including composition, instrumentation, vocalization, or improvisation), but also recognizes broader and more basic needs within conventional instruction. The foundation encourages applications associated with diverse or unusual musical styles, genres, forms, and philosophies. Education may include the provision of instruments, texts, and office materials, and the support of learning space, practice space, performance space, and instructors/instruction. Mockingbird is particularly interested in projects that foster self-esteem and free expression. Mockingbird is interested in targeting children eighteen years or younger, but will consider projects which benefit college students, teachers, instructors, or adult students. Mockingbird is particularly (though not exclusively) interested in programs which benefit disenfranchised groups, including those with low skill levels, income, or education; with disabilities or terminal illnesses; and in foster homes, shelters, hospitals, prisons, or other remote or isolated situations.

Maximum Grant Size: \$5,000

Eligible Applicants: Grants are made across the United States, and are typically made only to nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations, or those who have a sponsoring agency with 501(c)(3) status, or to public schools.

Website: <http://www.mockingbirdfoundation.org/funding/guidelines.html>

Folk & Traditional Arts: Access to Artistic Excellence - Priority #2: Heritage, Preservation, and Services to the Field

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

Deadline: 08/11/2008

Access to Artistic Excellence encourages and supports artistic creativity, preserves our diverse cultural heritage, and makes the arts more widely available in communities throughout the country. While projects in this category may focus on just one of these areas, the Arts Endowment recognizes that many of the most effective projects encompass both artistic excellence and enhanced access. Support is available to organizations for projects that do one or more of the following: 1) Provide opportunities for artists to create, refine, perform, and exhibit their work, 2) Present artistic works of all cultures

Funding Opportunities

and periods, 3) Preserve significant works of art and cultural traditions, 4) Enable arts organizations and artists to expand and diversify their audiences, 5) Provide opportunities for individuals to experience and participate in a wide range of art forms and activities, 6) Enhance the effectiveness of arts organizations and artists, 7) Employ the arts in strengthening communities.

Maximum Grant Size: \$150,000

Eligible Applicants: Nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3), U.S. organizations; units of state or local government; or federally recognized tribal communities or tribes may apply. Applicants may be arts organizations, local arts agencies, arts service organizations, local education agencies (school districts), and other organizations that can help advance the goals of the Arts Endowment.

Contact: Folk & Traditional Arts Specialist, Phone: 202-682-5678, Email: mansfieldw@arts.gov.

Website: www.nea.gov

The Arts on Radio and Television

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

Deadline: 09/05/2008

Through this category the National Endowment for the Arts seeks to make the excellence and diversity of the arts widely available to the American public through nationally distributed television and radio programs. Grants are available to support the development, production, and national distribution of radio and television programs on the arts. Priority will be given to artistically excellent programs that have the potential to reach a significant national audience, regardless of the size or geographic location of the applicant organization. Only programs of artistic excellence and merit, in both the media production and the subject, will be funded. Projects may include high profile multi-part television and radio series, single documentaries, performance programs, or arts segments for use within an existing series. Programs may deal with any art form (e.g., visual arts, music, dance, literature, design, theater, musical theater, opera, film/video/audio art, folk & traditional arts). Programs targeted to children and youth are welcome. All phases of a project -- research and development, production, completion and distribution costs -- are eligible for support. We welcome proposals that include ancillary activities that are intended to increase public knowledge, understanding, and access to the arts. Such activities might include the use of related radio and television programming; interactive Web sites; DVDs or other digital applications; educational material; collaborations with arts organizations, educators, and community groups; video/audio distribution to schools, libraries, and homes; and other public outreach activities.

Eligible Applicants: Nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3), U.S. organizations; units of state or local government; or federally recognized tribal communities or tribes may apply.

Contact: Media Arts Staff, Phone: 202-682-5738, Email: welshl@arts.gov

Website: www.arts.gov

American Heritage Preservation Grants

Institute of Museum and Library Science (IMLS)

Deadline: 09/15/2008

The purpose of the American Heritage Preservation Grants program is to raise awareness and fund preservation of treasures held in small and mid-sized museums, libraries and archives that convey the essential character and experience of the United States. These artifacts can be of diverse origin, but should have significance in the heritage of the community in which they are now held. Priority will be given to smaller institutions, but all libraries, archives, and museums that meet IMLS institutional eligibility criteria are eligible to apply. Grants will provide funds to preserve specific items, including works of art, rare books, scientific specimens and historical documents (photographs, maps, deeds, etc.) that are in need of conservation. These funds are not intended to fund a small portion of a larger project, but are aimed at completing a stand-alone conservation project. Applicants will build on completed conservation assessments of their collections, to ensure that the American Heritage Preservation Grants go towards projects that represent best practices in the field and underscore the importance of assessment planning (Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) grants, NEH Preservation Assistance grants (PAG) state grant programs, or other internal or external strategic assessments). All eligible institutions may apply for projects in the following areas: Treatment of library, museum and archival collections, Improvement of collections storage, Environmental improvement of collections.

Eligible Applicants: public or private libraries and museums, or a unit of state or local government or a private not-for-profit organization that has tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code (see specifics on RFP).

Contact: Christine Henry, Phone: 202-653-4674, Email: chenry@imls.gov.

Website: www.imls.gov

Funding Opportunities

Picturing America: School Collaboration Projects

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

Deadline: 10/01/2008

The National Endowment for the Humanities invites proposals for projects that foster collaboration between K-12 educators and humanities scholars to encourage engagement with the rich resources of American art to tell America's story. The Picturing America School Collaboration grant opportunity is designed to help teachers and librarians whose schools display the Picturing America images form connections with courses in the core curriculum. These projects will be grounded in the great works of art included in Picturing America, which is part of the Endowment's We the People program. Information about Picturing America, including a Teachers Resource Book, can be found by visiting the Picturing America Web site. The images in Picturing America reflect a variety of media and talents spanning several centuries, ranging from the work of early American Indian artists to painters such as Mary Cassatt and Jacob Lawrence, from photographers such as Dorothea Lange to architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright. These images will help students better understand America's diverse people and places and connect them to our nation's travails and triumphs. Half of the initial distribution of high-quality reproductions (through NEH's partner, the American Library Association) has gone to schools and school libraries in communities with a population of up to 25,000.

Eligible Applicants: Any U.S. nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status is eligible, as are state and local governmental agencies and tribal governments.

Contact: Barbara Ashbrook, Phone: 202-606-8380, Email: education@neh.gov

Website: www.neh.gov

A Room Of Her Own Foundation Invites Applications for Literary Gift of Freedom Award

Deadline: 10/31/2008

A Room Of Her Own Foundation is dedicated to helping women artists achieve the privacy and financial support necessary to pursue their art. Toward this end, the foundation annually provides an award of \$50,000 to a woman writer. The foundation's 2009 Literary Gift of Freedom Award will be given to an American woman writer who is a U.S. citizen and will be living in the U.S. during the grant period. Acceptable genres for this grant are poetry, playwriting, creative nonfiction, and fiction. Visit the foundation's Web site for complete program guidelines. (Please note: The program requires an application fee.)

Website: http://www.aroomofherown.org/giftfreedom_application.php

COMMUNITY, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Grants For Wealth-creation Strategies for Low-Income Families

Deadline: Open

The F.B. Heron Foundation provides grants to and investments in organizations that promote five wealth-creation strategies (home ownership, enterprise development, child care, access to capital, and community development) for low-income families in urban and rural communities in the U.S. , including: increasing access to capital, supporting enterprise development, advancing home ownership, reducing the barriers to full participation in the economy by providing quality childcare, and employing comprehensive community development approaches with a strong focus on wealth-creation strategies.

Website: <http://www.fbheron.org/programs/index.html>

Grants for Organizations that Serve Disadvantaged Communities

Deadline: 08/01/2008

The Public Welfare Foundation supports organizations that address human needs in disadvantaged communities, with strong emphasis on organizations that include service, advocacy and empowerment in their approach: service that remedies specific problems; advocacy that addresses those problems in a systemic way through changes in public policy; and strategies to empower people in need to play leading roles in achieving those policy changes and in remedying specific problems. The Foundation provides both general support and project-specific grants. Maximum Award: \$50,000.

Eligibility: public and private entities, including nonprofit organizations and for-profit organizations. The foundation is currently focusing on three program areas: criminal and juvenile justice, health reform and workers' rights.

Website: <http://www.publicwelfare.org/ApplyGrant/Guidelines.aspx#deadlines>

Funding Opportunities

The Kresge Foundation Capital Challenge Grant Program

Deadline: n/a

There are no deadlines for online letters of intent. The Foundation's six major areas of interest are health, environment, arts and culture, education, human services, and community development. Through, the Foundation supports organizations' immediate capital needs, such as building construction or renovation, the purchase of real estate, and the purchase of major equipment. Grants are awarded on a challenge basis, usually one-third to one-fifth of the amount an organization has to raise to complete its campaign goal.

Website: <http://www.kresge.org/content/displaycontent.aspx?CID=89>

Interpreting America's Historic Places Planning Grants

Deadline: 08/15/2008

Interpreting America's Historic Places grants support public humanities projects that exploit the evocative power of historic places to address themes and issues central to American history and culture, including those that advance knowledge of how the founding principles of the United States have shaped American history and culture for more than two hundred years. Interpreting America's Historic Places planning grants support planning that leads to the interpretation of a single historic site or house, a series of sites, an entire neighborhood, a town or community, or a larger geographical region. The place taken as a whole must be significant to American history, and the project must convey its historic importance to visitors. Website:

http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/IAHP_Planning.html

Union Pacific Offering Community-Based Grants

Deadline: 08/15/2008

The Union Pacific Foundation's mission is to improve the quality of life in the communities served by Union Pacific Railroad, primarily in the midwestern and western United States. Through the Community-Based Grant Program, the Foundation provides grants in the following areas of interest: Community and Civic, Fine Arts, and Health and Human Services. Organizations in the railroad's service area are invited to submit a one-page preliminary application form online. Selected organizations will then receive a link to the website containing the online application form. Website:

<http://www.up.com/found/grants.shtml>

ORCA Planning & Capacity Building Grant

Deadline: 09/30/2008

The Planning and Capacity Building Fund is a competitive grant program for local public facility and housing planning activities.

Maximum grant award: \$50,000

Eligible Applicants: cities under 50,000 in population and counties that have a non-metropolitan population under 200,000

Website:

<http://www.orca.state.tx.us/index.php/Community+Development/Grant+Fact+Sheets/Planning+%26+Capacity+Building+%28PCB%29+Fund#Application%20PDF>

Shade Structure Program Accepting Grant Applications

Deadline: 04/10/2009

The American Academy of Dermatology Shade Structure Program provides grant awards for the purchase of permanent shade structures designed to provide shade and ultraviolet ray protection for outdoor areas. The academy also provides a permanent sign to be displayed near the shade structure promoting the importance of sun safety. The program is open to 501(c)(3) organizations that serve children and teenagers, age 18 and younger. To be considered, applicants must be sponsored by an academy member dermatologist and demonstrate a commitment to sun safety within their organization.

Maximum Grant Size: \$8,000

Website: <http://www.aad.org/public/sun/grants.html>

EDUCATION AND CHILDRENS PROGRAMS

Scholastic Lexus Environmental Challenge

Deadline: Open/Rolling

The Scholastic Lexus Environmental Challenge program is designed to educate and empower students to take action to improve the environment. The program encourages middle and high school students to develop and implement environmental programs that positively impact their communities. Middle

Funding Opportunities

and high school teams comprised of 5 to 10 students and one teacher advisor are invited to participate in four initial challenges, each addressing a different environmental element -- land, water, air, and climate.

Maximum Award: \$75,000.

Eligibility: students in grades 6-12 and their teachers.

Website: <http://www.scholastic.com/lexus/>

Dollar General Accepting Applications for Youth Literacy Grant Program

Deadline: Open/Rolling

The Dollar General Youth Literacy Grants program provides funding to schools, public libraries, and nonprofit organizations to help with the implementation or expansion of literacy programs for new readers, below grade-level readers, and readers with learning disabilities. Organizations requesting funds must provide direct services to one of the groups of readers defined above, and instruction must be designed to meet the varying learning preferences and needs of the defined target population. Applicants must be located in Dollar General's 35-state operating territory and must be within 20 miles of the nearest Dollar General Store. (A store locator is available at the Dollar General Web site.)

Website: <http://www.dollargeneral.com/community/communityinvestments.aspx?Category=Community&SubCategory=Grant%20Programs#YouthLiteracy>

Lego Systems Establishes Lego Children's Fund to Support Youth Creativity Programs

Deadline: Quarterly

Lego Systems Inc., the Americas (North America and Latin America) division of the Lego Group, a privately-held, family-owned firm based in Billund, Denmark, has announced the formation of the Lego Children's Fund, a nonprofit foundation established to support organizations and programs dedicated to inspiring and encouraging youth creativity, thereby improving their quality of life and preparing them for the future. The Lego Children's Fund was incorporated with an initial corporate contribution of \$1.2 million dollars. The fund will make cash grants to nonprofit organizations in the United States with programs dedicated to a child's exploration of creativity that cater to children ages birth to 14, with priority consideration for disadvantaged or at-risk youth. The fund's cash grants will generally range between \$500 and \$5,000 each. Additionally, the fund aims to make one \$100,000 grant per year to a single organization identified and selected by the fund's board of directors. The fund will provide grants quarterly. Applicants are invited to submit proposals any time throughout the year; however, to ensure that a request is considered for a particular trustee meeting, proposals must be received by the following dates: February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1.

Eligible Applicants: The fund will award grants to qualified 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations including educational organizations with specific, identifiable needs primarily in these areas of support: early childhood education and development; technology and communication projects that advance learning opportunities; and sport or athletic programs that concentrate on underserved youth.

Website: <http://www.legochildrensfund.org/>

National Geographic Society Offers Young Explorer Grants

Deadline: Open/Rolling

The National Geographic Society's Young Explorers Grants offer opportunities to individuals between the ages of 18 and 25 to pursue research, exploration, and conservation-related projects consistent with National Geographic's existing grant programs, including the Committee for Research and Exploration, the Expeditions Council, and the Conservation Trust. The Young Explorers Grants Program supports a variety of projects and an age-range of applicants generally not covered by other sources of funding. Applicants are not required to have advanced degrees. However, a record of prior experience in the fields of research, conservation, or exploration should be submitted as it pertains to the proposed project. Funding is not restricted to citizens of the United States, and foreign nationals are invited to apply. Researchers planning work in countries abroad should make great effort to include at least one local collaborator as part of their team. Young Explorers Grants vary in amount depending on the significance of the project, though most will range between \$2,000 and \$5,000 each. Because National Geographic Society funds often serve as complementary support, the program encourages applicants to seek additional funding from other sources.

Website: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/yeg/apply-for-grant.html>

Funding Opportunities

AEP Funding for Education & Human Services

Deadlines: Open/Rolling

The American Electric Power (AEP) Corporate Giving Program supports nonprofit organizations in communities in AEP's service territory. Funding is provided in such areas as education (preference is given to grades Pre-K-12 in the fields of math, science, and technology); and human services (hunger, housing, health and safety).

Eligible applicants: Nonprofit organizations in Texas, this includes Corpus Christi, Laredo, Victoria, McAllen, Abilene, San Angelo and Longview.

Website: <http://www.aep.com/go/corpgiving> <<http://www.aep.com/go/corpgiving>>

Grants for Math Mentoring Programs Using Actuaries

Deadlines: Open/Rolling

The Actuarial Foundation Advancing Student Achievement Mentoring Program awards grants to schools and groups to develop a viable mentoring program involving actuaries in the teaching of mathematics to children in private and public schools. Collaboration among school systems, local actuarial clubs, corporations and other stakeholders in education is encouraged in order to enhance the chances of success, particularly on a long-term basis. Maximum Award: \$30,000. Eligibility: All schools and groups willing to undertake a math mentoring program that involves local actuaries as volunteers.

<http://www.actuarialfoundation.org/grant/bestpractices.html>

Comcast Grants for Diversity-Oriented Programs

Deadline: n/a

The Comcast Foundation is awarding grants to maximize the impact of community investments so they yield tangible, measurable benefits to the neighborhoods Comcast serves and the people who live there. The Foundation's primary focus is in funding diversity-oriented programs that address literacy, volunteerism, and youth leadership development.

Maximum Award: \$500,000

Eligibility: 501(c)3 organizations operating within communities that Comcast serves.

Website: <http://www.comcast.com/foundation>

Access for Educators to C-SPAN Archival Footage

Deadline: Open

The C-SPAN Archives Grants awardees are granted the videotapes of their choice from the extensive collection in the C-SPAN Archives for creative proposals for using the network's programming in the classroom or in research projects.

Eligibility: middle and high school teachers, college/university professors. Maximum Award: N/A.

Website: <http://www.c-span.org/classroom/grants.asp>

Award For Design and Educational Excellence in Schools

Deadline: 07/25/2008

KnowledgeWorks Foundation and the American Architectural Foundation seek submissions for the Richard Riley Award, which recognizes design and educational excellence in "schools as centers of community" — schools that serve as centers of community and provide an array of social, civic, recreational, and artistic opportunities to the broader community and to students, often clustering educational and municipal buildings together. Maximum Award: \$10,000. Eligibility: all existing elementary and secondary public schools.

Website: <http://www.nationalschoolsearch.org/en/Index.asp>

Motorola Grants to Commemorate the 200th Anniversary of Lincoln's Birth

Deadline: 07/30/2008

The Motorola Foundation and the Chicago History Museum are commemorating the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth by identifying projects developed by civic, educational and cultural organizations that actively engage the public in lessons from Lincoln's life. The grant program will focus on the themes of Bringing History into the Future, Engaging in Current Events, and Leadership Skills. Maximum Award: \$25,000. Eligibility: schools and school systems; community organizations; arts and culture organizations; museums; universities; and, other non-profit organizations with programming on diversity, freedom, history and leadership.

Website: <http://www.motorola.com/content.jsp?globalObjectId=8772>

Funding Opportunities

Grants for Math and Science

Deadline: 08/01/2008

The Toshiba America Foundation makes grants for projects in math and science designed by classroom teachers to improve instruction for students in grades K-12. Maximum Award: \$10,000. Eligibility: Grades K-12. Deadline: Decisions about grants under \$5,000 (K-6: \$1,000) are made on a rolling basis and applications are accepted throughout the year.

Website: <http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/home/default.jsp>

NWA Grants to Improve Education in Meteorology

Deadline: 08/01/2008

National Weather Association Sol Hirsch Teacher Grants are given to improve students' education in meteorology. Teachers selected will be able to use the funds to take an accredited course in atmospheric sciences, attend a relevant workshop or conference, or purchase scientific materials or equipment for the classroom. Maximum Award: \$500. Eligibility: K-12 teachers.

Website: www.nwas.org/solhirsch.html

Grants for Projects Led by and Benefiting Women and Girls

Deadline: 08/15/2008

The Open Meadows Foundation funds projects that are led by and benefit women and girls; reflect the diversity of the community served by the project in both its leadership and organization; promote community-building; promote racial, social, economic and environmental justice; and have limited financial access or have encountered obstacles in their search for funding. Maximum Award: \$2000. Eligibility: 501(c)3 organizations with an organizational budget no larger than \$150,000. Projects must be designed and implemented by women and girls.

Website: <http://www.openmeadows.org/>

Challenge 20/20 Partnership

Deadline: 08/15/2008

The National Association of Independent Schools has created Challenge 20/20, a program that brings together two schools: one from the United States and one from outside the country. Teacher-student teams from both schools work together throughout the fall 2008 school semester to come up with a solution to a global problem. Challenge 20/20 is based on Jean Francois Rischard's book, High Noon: 20 Global Problems, 20 Years to Solve Them. Maximum Award: n/a. Eligibility: All U.S. schools, elementary and secondary, public or private.

Website: <http://www.nais.org/resources/index.cfm?ItemNumber=147262>

Disney Grants for Youth-Led Service Projects

Deadline: 08/30/2008

The Walt Disney Company and Youth Service America, through Disney Minnie Grants, are supporting youth-led service projects that are planned and implemented in communities. Service can take place between October 15 and November 15, 2008, and projects can address the environment, disaster relief, public health and awareness, community education, hunger, literacy, or any issue that youth identify as a community need. Maximum Award: \$500. Eligibility: teachers, older youth (15-25), youth-leaders, and youth-serving organizations that engage younger youth (5-14) in planning and implementation.

Website: <http://ysa.org/AwardsGrants/tabid/58/Default.aspx>

Samsung's Hope for Education Technology Program Invites Essay Entries

Deadline: 08/31/2008

Hope for Education was created by Samsung in 2004 to provide U.S. K-12 schools with the latest technology products to assist in the educational process. Each year the program challenges students, teachers, parents, or anyone who knows of a school in need to write an essay regarding the importance of technology in education, and how it can benefit a school in their community. In the past four years, through a partnership with Microsoft Corporation, the Hope for Education program has provided more than \$7 million in Samsung technology and software to K-12 schools in the United States. This year the program has added another partner, DIRECTV, Inc., who will provide cash grants and educational television programming packages to the winning schools. Students, parents, teachers, administrators, and community members can enter the contest by going to the program's Web site and submitting a 100-word essay about their school, answering the question: "How has technology educated you on helping the environment, and how or why has it changed your behavior to be more environmentally friendly?" Essay entries may be written in either Spanish or English. Schools that submit essays are entered for the opportunity to win the grand prize of over \$200,000 in Samsung technology, Microsoft software, a cash grant from DIRECTV, as well as the

Funding Opportunities

School Choice educational television programming package. Samsung will also be working with NEADS (Dogs For Deaf and Disabled Americans) to provide a classroom assistance dog to a special education teacher at the grand prize winning school. In addition, 30 first prize schools will each be awarded over \$60,000 in Samsung technology, Microsoft software, and cash grants from DIRECTV, as well as the School Choice package.

Website: <http://www.hopeforeducation.com/>

Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy

Deadline: 09/05/2008

The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy's grantmaking program for 2009 seeks to develop or expand projects supporting development of literacy skills for adult primary caregivers and their children.

Maximum award: \$65,000

Eligibility: organizations with current nonprofit or public status that have been in existence for at least two years on the date of the application.

Website: <http://www.barbarabushfoundation.com/nga.html>

Mini-grants for Public Schools and Public Libraries

Deadline: 09/15/2008

Ezra Jack Keats Mini-grant Program for Public Schools and Public Libraries supports educators, parents and children in their efforts to spread literacy and love of learning. Maximum Award: \$500. Eligibility: public schools and libraries anywhere in the United States and its protectorates.

Website: <http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/programs/minigrant.html>

Tommy Hilfiger Education Grants

Deadline: 10/01/2008

Tommy Hilfiger Corporate Foundation Education Grants support programs/partnerships that promote educational opportunities for diverse populations in the United States. Maximum Award: \$25,000. Eligibility: 501(c)(3) organizations. Website:

<http://www.tommy.com/opencms/opencms/corporate/foundation/aboutthefoundation.html/>

Best Buy Awards for Interactive te@ch Programs

Deadline: 10/12/2008

The Best Buy te@ch program rewards schools for successful interactive programs they have launched with available technology. Winning te@ch programs focus on kids using technology to learn a standards-based curriculum, rather than on teaching students to use technology or educators using technology that children aren't able to use hands-on.

Maximum Award: \$5,000

Eligibility: Accredited K-12 public, private, parochial, and nonprofit charter schools in the United States.

Website: <https://bestbuyteach.scholarshipamerica.org>

Healthy Sprouts Awards

Deadline: 10/15/2008

The National Gardening Association recognizes outstanding youth programs via the Healthy Sprouts Awards. The awards support school and youth garden programs that teach about nutrition and the issue of hunger in the United States. Maximum Award: \$500 gift certificate to Gardener's Supply. Eligibility: schools or organizations that plan to garden with children between the ages of 3 and 18.

Website: <http://www.kidsgardening.com/healthysprouts.asp>

American School Board Journal Magna Awards

Deadline: 10/15/2008

The American School Board Journal is accepting nominations for its 2009 Magna Awards, which recognize programs that have been important in promoting the district's mission and advancing student learning; capable of being replicated by other school boards with similar conditions and resources; and the result of collaboration between the school board and others. Maximum Award: \$3,500. Eligibility: programs developed or actively supported by school boards.

Website: <http://www.asbj.com/magna>

Funding Opportunities

Five-Day Math and Science Camp for Teachers

Deadline: 10/31/2008

The Mickelson ExxonMobil 2009 Teachers Academy offers a five-day program, with camps in New Jersey, Texas and Louisiana, designed to provide third-through fifth-grade teachers with the knowledge and skills necessary to motivate students to pursue careers in science and math. Maximum Award: all expenses paid five-day program in July 2009. Eligibility: third- through fifth-grade teachers from all over the United States.

Website: <http://www.sendmyteacher.com/>

Verizon Grants for Literacy

Deadline: 11/01/2008

The Verizon Foundation is now accepting proposals from eligible institutions for Literacy Grants. Maximum Award: \$10,000. Eligibility: 501(c)3 organizations, including elementary and secondary schools (public and private) that are registered with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Website: <http://foundation.verizon.com/grant/guidelines.shtml>

National Gardening Association and Home Depot Announce 2009 Youth Garden Grants Program

Deadline: 11/01/2008

The National Gardening Association has announced that Home Depot will return as the Youth Garden Grants sponsor for 2009. NGA awards Youth Garden Grants to schools and community organizations with child-centered garden programs. In evaluating grant applications, priority will be given to programs that emphasize one or more of the following elements: educational focus or curricular/program integration; nutrition or plant-to-food connections; environmental awareness/education; entrepreneurship; and social aspects of gardening such as leadership development, team building, community support, or service-learning. Schools, youth groups, community centers, camps, clubs, treatment facilities, and intergenerational groups in the United States are eligible. Applicants must plan to garden with at least fifteen children between the ages of 3 and 18. Previous Youth Garden Grant winners who wish to reapply may do so but must wait a year (e.g., if an organization won in 2008, it can apply again in 2010) and have significantly expanded their garden programs. For the 2009 grant cycle, 125 grants are available. Packages are as follows: five programs will receive gift cards valued at \$1,000 (a \$500 gift card to Home Depot and a \$500 gift card to the Gardening with Kids catalog and store) and educational materials from NGA; seventy programs will receive a \$500 gift card to Home Depot and educational materials from NGA; and fifty programs will receive a \$250 gift card to Home Depot and educational materials from NGA. Each award package also includes twelve months of NGA Supporter benefits.

Website: <http://www.kidsgardening.org/YGG.asp>

Books Across America

Deadline: 11/07/2008

The National Education Association's Books Across America Library Books Awards Program enables public school libraries serving economically disadvantaged students to purchase books. Maximum Award: \$1,000. Eligibility: Practicing pre-kindergarten through grade 12 school librarians, teachers, or education support professionals in a U.S. public school in which at least 70 percent of the students are eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program.

Website: http://www.neafoundation.org/grants/NEA-Grants_bro-web.pdf

Grants for Native Plant Landscaping

Deadline: 11/15/2008

The Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant Program gives small monetary grants to schools, nature centers, or other non-profit educational organizations for the purpose of establishing outdoor learning centers. Funds will be provided only for the purchase of native plants and seed. Eligibility: Schools, nature centers and other non-profit and not-for-profit places of learning including houses of worship with a site available.

Website: <http://www.for-wild.org/sfecvr.html>

2008 Nestle Very Best In Youth Program

Deadline: 11/20/2008

The Nestlé USA Very Best in Youth Program honors young people ages 13 to 18 who have excelled in school and who are making their community and the world a better place. Maximum Award: \$1000. Eligibility: youth ages 13 and 18 years of age who demonstrate good citizenship, a strong academic record, and can show how they have made a special contribution to their school, church or the community. Entrants must have permission from a parent or legal guardian to submit the nomination. Website: <http://www.nestle-verybestinyouth.com/>

Funding Opportunities

National Schools of Character Awards

Deadline: 12/08/2008

The National Schools of Character Awards program identifies exemplary schools and districts to serve as models for others and helps schools and districts improve their efforts in effective character education.

Maximum Award: \$2,000

Eligibility: To be eligible, a school must have been engaged in character education for a minimum of three full years, starting no later than December 2006 for the 2009 awards. Districts need to have been engaged in character education for a minimum of four full years, starting no later than December 2005. Smaller administrative units that maintain a separate identity within a large district may apply in the district category -- for example, a school pyramid or cluster.

Website: <http://www.character.org/site/c.iplJKTOEJsG/b.3937991>

Do Something Announces "Increase Your Green" School Competition

Deadline: 12/15/2008

Awards of up to \$1,500 will be given to middle and high schools working to reduce the environmental impact of their school during an eight week competition where students will showcase how their school saved energy, reduced waste, and raised awareness.

<http://www.dosomething.org/increaseyourgreen>

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Ronald McDonald House Grants for Children's Health and Well-Being

Deadline: 09/08/2008

Ronald McDonald House Charities Grants support programs that help children read, provide nutritious after-school meals, offer life-changing surgeries, or help prevent life-threatening disease. Ronald McDonald House Charities Board of Trustees is most interested in national and/or international organizations that have a specific program related to children's health and well-being. Maximum Award: varies. Eligibility: 501(c)(3) organizations.

Website: <http://www.rmhc.com/rmhc/index/grants.html>

Targeted Approaches to Weight Control for Young Adults

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Deadline: 9/10/2008 Letter of intent, 10/10/2008 Final applications

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) issued by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), National Institutes of Health, solicits cooperative agreement (U01) applications from institutions/ organizations that propose to conduct two-phase clinical research studies to develop, refine, and test innovative behavioral and/or environmental approaches for weight control in young adults at high risk for weight gain. Weight control interventions can address weight loss, prevention of weight gain, or prevention of excessive weight gain during pregnancy. The first phase will consist of formative research to refine the proposed intervention, recruitment, retention, and adherence strategies tailored to young adults. The second phase will consist of a randomized controlled trial to test the efficacy of the intervention. For the purpose of this FOA, young adults are defined as 18-35 years of age.

Maximum Grant Size: \$650,000

Number of Awards: 3-4

Eligible Applicants: Public/State Controlled Institutions of Higher Education, Private Institutions of Higher Education, Hispanic-serving Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs), Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions, Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) IRS Status (Other than Institutions of Higher Education), Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) IRS Status (Other than Institutions of Higher Education), For-Profit Organizations (Other than Small Businesses), Indian/Native American Tribal Governments (Federally Recognized), Indian/Native American Tribally Designated Organizations, Eligible Agencies of the Federal Government, Faith-based or Community-based Organizations, Indian/Native American Tribal Governments (Other than Federally Recognized), Regional Organizations

Contact: Catherine (Cay) Loria, Phone: 301-435-0702, Email: loriac@nhlbi.nih.gov

Website: www.nih.gov

Funding Opportunities

Healthy Sprouts Awards to Support Awareness of Nutrition and Hunger

Deadline: 10/15/2008

As a way to encourage the growth of health-focused youth gardens, the National Gardening Association recognizes outstanding programs via the Healthy Sprouts Awards. Sponsored by Gardener's Supply Company, the awards support school and youth garden programs that teach about nutrition and the issue of hunger in the United States. To be eligible for the 2008 Healthy Sprouts Awards, a school or organization must plan to garden in 2009 with at least fifteen children between the ages of 3 and 18. The selection of winners is based on the demonstrated relationship between the garden program and nutrition and hunger issues in the United States. In this year's program, twenty schools or organizations will each be selected to receive gift certificates toward the purchase of gardening materials from Gardener's Supply Company (the top five will each receive a certificate valued at \$500; fifteen more will each receive a \$200 gift certificate); NGA's Eat a Rainbow Kit, containing a series of engaging taste education and nutrition lessons; twenty-five packets of seeds; a literature package from NGA; and NGA Supporter benefits for one year.

Website: <http://www.kidsgardening.com/healthysprouts.asp>

HOUSING

Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Program

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD)

Deadline: 09/15/2008

This notice of funding availability (NOFA) establishes the funding criteria for the Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Assistance Program. HUD is making available approximately \$1.42 billion in Fiscal Year 2008 for the program. The purpose of the CoC Homeless Assistance Program is to reduce the incidence of homelessness in CoC communities by assisting homeless individuals and families to move to self sufficiency and permanent housing.

Eligible Applicants: States, Units of general local government, Special purpose units of local government, e.g. private nonprofit organizations, Community mental health centers that are public nonprofit organizations, PHAs.

Website: www.hud.gov

Home Depot Housing Impact Grants

Deadlines are: 09/15/08/ & 12/15/08

The program supports affordable housing projects built or preserved with environmentally friendly, efficient, and durable materials that increase energy and water efficiency, improve indoor air quality, and reduce maintenance costs.

Maximum Grant Size: \$500 and \$3,000 each

Website: <http://corporate.homedepot.com/wps/portal/Grants>

Applications Invited for Donald Turner Prize for Innovation and Leadership in Affordable Housing

Deadline: 08/18/2008

The I. Donald Turner Prize, a biennial award, recognizes successful and innovative affordable housing projects and their leadership teams. The prize is administered by the Center for Community Innovation at the [University of California, Berkeley](http://www.berkeley.edu). Applications will be judged according to the following primary criteria: design and construction quality, number of affordable housing units produced, income-levels and social needs served by the projects; positive impact on the lives of residents and the community; and innovation (e.g. mix of income levels, creative financing techniques, partnership arrangements, use of density to increase project impact and affordability, mix of land uses). An application may be submitted by anyone involved in the planning, development, or operation of a project, but must include the approval of the original project sponsor, developer, and the architect. Eligible projects must be located in the United States, and have been in operation for a sufficient amount of time to demonstrate success. The program will provide a First Prize Award of \$25,000 as well as five finalists awards of \$5,000 each.

Website: <http://www.communityinnovation.berkeley.edu/turnerprize>

Funding Opportunities

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Seed Money for Fire Control Efforts Worldwide

Deadline: Open

The FM Global Fire Prevention Grant Program offers seed money to fire departments and related international, national, state, regional, and local organizations for a wide array of fire prevention, preparedness, and control efforts. Grants of up to \$5,000 are available for pre-fire planning for commercial, industrial, and institutional facilities; fire and arson prevention and investigation; and fire prevention education and training programs. Examples of funded projects include: preventive juvenile fire setter programs, continuing education courses, digital and specialized cameras, and community outreach initiatives and workshops. Requests may be submitted throughout the year and are reviewed quarterly.

Website: <http://www.fmglobal.com/page.aspx?id=01060200>

PARKS AND ENVIRONMENT

Outdoor Recreation Grants

Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD)

Deadline: 07/31/2008

This program provides 50% matching grant funds to municipalities, counties, MUDs and other local units of government with a population less than 500,000 to acquire and develop parkland or to renovate existing public recreation areas. There will be two funding cycles per year with a maximum award of \$500,000. Eligible sponsors include cities, counties, MUDs, river authorities, and other special districts. Projects must be completed within three years of approval. Application deadline for special call for proposals is April 1st, 2008 in addition to the regularly scheduled July 31st, 2008 deadline (master plan submission deadlines are 60 days in advance of application deadlines). Award notifications occur 6 months after deadlines. For complete information on this land acquisition/park construction grant, please download the Outdoor Recreation Grant Application.

Website: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/grants/trpa/#outdoor>

Indoor Recreation Facility Grants

Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD)

Deadline: 07/31/2008

This program provides 50% matching grant funds to municipalities, counties, MUDs and other local units of government with a population less than 500,000 to construct recreation centers, community centers, nature centers and other facilities (buildings). The grant maximum will increase to \$750,000 per application. The application deadline will be July 31st each year (with master plan submission deadline 60 days prior to application deadline). Award notifications occur the following January. For more information on this land acquisition/facility construction grant, please download the Indoor Facility Recreation Grant Application.

Website: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/grants/trpa/#indoor>

Hiking Society Seeks Applications for Trail Grants

Deadline: 08/15/2008

The American Hiking Society 2009 National Trails Fund is open for applications. The National Trails Fund is the only privately funded, national grants program dedicated solely to building and protecting hiking trails. Now in its eighth year, the fund has awarded nearly \$382,000 to 105 grassroots organizations all over the United States working to establish, protect, and maintain foot trails in America. American Hiking will be awarding two different types of National Trail Fund grants in 2009: 1) American Hiking Society Trail Grants, which will range from \$500-\$4,999 each; and 2) Nature Valley Trail Grants, which will be for \$5,000 each. Twenty applicant organizations for the Nature Valley Trail Grants will be selected as prospective grant recipients and will be featured on Nature Valley's Web site. Nature Valley Trail Grant award winners will be chosen by public vote from October 1 through 31, 2008. The top ten projects will each receive \$5,000. Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. Projects that will be considered for the 2009 grants are as follows: projects that have hikers as the primary constituency, though multiple human-powered trail uses are eligible; projects that secure trail lands, including acquisition of trails and trail corridors and the costs associated with acquiring conservation easements; projects that will result in visible and substantial ease of access, improved hiker safety, and/or avoidance of environmental damage; and projects that promote constituency building surrounding specific trail projects — including volunteer recruitment and support. Visit the American Hiking Society Web site for complete program guidelines and the online application system.

Website: <http://www.americanhiking.org/NTFApp.aspx>

Funding Opportunities

Entries Invited for Budweiser Renewable Energy and Wildlife Conservation Research Prize

Deadline: 08/15/2008

Budweiser and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation are accepting applications for the 2008 Budweiser Renewable Energy and Wildlife Conservation Research Prize. The prize will recognize and support a single innovative project that advances new technologies or practices that contribute to making renewable energy a practical energy alternative. The \$100,000 total prize will be awarded in consideration of a project's ability to develop or evaluate new cost-effective renewable energy technologies for industrial application while demonstrating the measurable benefits such practices can have in advancing wildlife conservation. Consideration will be given to the degree of innovation, cost-effectiveness, and transferability of the practice. Projects that demonstrate additional financial commitment in the form of cash or in-kind matching funds at a ratio equal to 1:1 are strongly encouraged. Eligibility for the research prize is open to accredited postsecondary academic institutions, public agencies, and nonprofit organizations working collaboratively on advancing renewable energy and wildlife conservation research. Funds may be used for items such as salaries and benefits, student stipends, travel, publication expenses, and supplies. Applications will be reviewed by a committee of experts from government, academia, the conservation community, and industry. Visit the NFWF to download the complete Request for Proposals. Website:

http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Browse_All_Programs&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=9503

Open Rivers Initiative

U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Deadline: 10/31/2008

The NOAA Open Rivers Initiative (ORI) provides funding to catalyze the implementation of locally-driven projects to remove dams and other river barriers, in order to benefit living marine and coastal resources, particularly diadromous fish. Projects funded through the Open Rivers Initiative have strong on-the-ground habitat restoration components that foster economic, educational, and social benefits for citizens and their communities in addition to long-term ecological habitat improvements for NOAA trust resources. Through the ORI, NOAA provides funding and technical assistance for barrier removal projects. Proposals selected for funding through this solicitation will be implemented through a cooperative agreement. Funding of up to \$7,000,000 is expected to be available for ORI Project Grants in FY 2009. The NOAA Restoration Center (RC) within the Office of Habitat Conservation will administer this grant initiative, and anticipates that typical awards will range from \$50,000 to \$250,000. Although a select few may fall outside of this range, project proposals requesting less than \$30,000 or greater than \$1,000,000 will not be accepted or reviewed.

Maximum Grant Size: \$250,000

Number of Awards: 10-20

Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, non-profits, industry and commercial (for profit) organizations, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, international organizations, and state, local and Indian tribal governments whose projects have the potential to benefit NOAA trust resources. Applications from federal agencies or employees of federal agencies will not be considered. Federal agencies are strongly encouraged to work with states, non-governmental organizations, national service clubs or youth corps organizations and others that are eligible to apply. The Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (DOC/NOAA) is strongly committed to broadening the participation of historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, tribal colleges and universities, and institutions that work in under-served areas. The ORI encourages proposals from or involving any of the above institutions

Contact: Tisa Shostik, Phone: 301-713-0174, Email: Tisa.Shostik@noaa.gov

Website: www.noaa.gov

Small Community Grants

Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD)

Deadline: 01/31/2009

This grant program was created to meet the recreation needs of small Texas communities with a population of 20,000 and under. The grant provides 50% matching grant funds to eligible municipalities and counties. The maximum award will be \$75,000. Funds must be employed for development or beautification of parkland. Eligible projects include ball fields, boating, fishing, and hunting facilities, picnic facilities, playgrounds, swimming pools, trails, camping facilities, beautification, restoration, gardens, sports courts and support facilities. The deadline for this program is January 31st each year.

Website: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/grants/trpa/#small>

Funding Opportunities

SPORTS

Bikes Belong Offers Funding for Bicycle Advocacy and Facilities

Deadline: end of every quarter

Bikes Belong is a national coalition of bicycle suppliers and retailers working together to put more people on bicycles more often. Bikes Belong welcomes grant applications from organizations and agencies within the United States that are committed to "putting more people on bicycles more often." The Bikes Belong Grants Program funds projects in two categories: 1) facilities; and 2) advocacy.

Maximum Grant Size: \$10,000

Number of Awards: 15

Eligible Applicants: Bikes Belong will accept applications from nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and departments at the national, state, regional, and local levels. For the advocacy category, Bikes Belong will only fund organizations whose mission is expressly related to bicycle advocacy. New organizations that are not yet legally nonprofit organizations may submit an application with the assistance of another nonprofit that has agreed to serve as fiscal agent. Bikes Belong will not fund individuals. Because of the program's limited funds, it rarely awards grants to organizations and communities that have received Bikes Belong funding within the last three years.

Website: <http://bikesbelong.org/page.cfm?PageID=21>

Baseball Tomorrow Fund Offers Support for Youth Baseball and Softball Programs

Deadline: Open/Rolling

The Baseball Tomorrow Fund is a joint initiative between Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association designed to promote and enhance the growth of youth participation in baseball and softball around the world by funding programs, fields, coaches' training, uniforms, and equipment. Grants are intended to finance a new program, expand or improve an existing program, undertake a new collaborative effort, or obtain facilities or equipment necessary for youth baseball or softball programs. The Baseball Tomorrow Fund supports projects that meet the following evaluation criteria: increase the number of youth participating in baseball and softball programs; improve the quality of youth baseball and softball programs; create new or innovative ways of expanding and improving baseball or softball programs; are able to match funds for programs; provide programs for children aged 10-16; support existing programs that have demonstrated success in providing a quality youth baseball/softball experience; and address opportunities for minorities and women. Applicants are invited to submit a Letter of Inquiry. Letters of inquiry are accepted throughout the year. Selected applicants are invited to submit a full application. Grants are awarded on a quarterly basis.

Eligible Applicants: Nonprofit and tax-exempt organizations involved in youth baseball programs are encouraged to apply.

Website: http://mlb.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/mlb/official_info/community/bf.jsp

Nike Accepting Applications for Bowerman Track Renovation Program

Deadline: Open/Rolling

A philanthropic initiative of Nike Inc., the Bowerman Track Renovation Program provides matching cash grants to community-based, youth-oriented organizations that seek to refurbish or construct running tracks. Administered by Nike's Community's Affair department, this ten-year, \$2 million program provides matching funds of up to \$50,000 to youth-oriented nonprofit organizations anywhere in the world. The program distributes approximately \$200,000 in matching grants each year. Organizations applying for the grant must demonstrate a need for running track refurbishment or construction. Grant recipients will provide track access to neighboring communities. Bowerman Track Renovation Program funds must be matched in some amount by other contributors by an agreed-upon deadline. Recipients of a Bowerman Track Renovation grant are encouraged, but not required, to use Nike Grind technology to resurface their track. Nike Grind material is made of recycled athletic shoes sliced and ground into rubber granules, providing a superior, environmentally conscious all-weather track surface.

Eligible Applicants: S. applicants should be exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) or 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and be defined as a public charity or a unit of government. Athletic booster clubs, schools, and school districts are considered public charities and are eligible to apply. Applicants outside the United States should be charitable in purpose and nongovernmental organizations. To be eligible, applicants must employ at least one full-time staff person and maintain a viable track program serving boys and girls, ages 14-18.

Website: <http://www.nike.com/nikebiz/nikebiz.jhtml?page=26&item=bowerman>

Funding Opportunities



For information on these and other funding opportunities, please contact:

Desirée Mendez-Caltzontzint, Grants Coordinator

Edinburg District Office

2864 W. Trenton Road

Edinburg, Texas 78539

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