



**Federal & State Grant Funding Opportunities
Available Through
March 2026**

**Senator Tammy Duckworth's Congressionally Directed Spending Application is Now Open
from now until March 24, 2026!**

The CDS process enables Congress to allocate funding for specific local projects. These projects are limited to use by units of government, nonprofit organizations and other organizations that meet strict eligibility requirements. For-profit entities are NOT eligible to participate.

Account Eligibility Note: Since the Senate Committee on Appropriations has not yet released updated instructions or guidance for the Fiscal Year 2027 appropriations process, this application guidance is based on the committee instructions from the Fiscal Year 2026 process. These accounts are subject to change as additional information is released from the committee. Should you submit an application under an account that becomes unavailable, staff will contact you directly to discuss.

In Fiscal Year 2026, Senator Duckworth successfully secured more than \$63 million for infrastructure, economic development and essential services for communities throughout Illinois. [A map detailing where funding has gone](#) throughout Illinois can be found on the Senator's website.

As she has done consistently, in an effort to ensure transparent and equitable consideration, Senator Duckworth will work with an Independent Review Board to examine and evaluate projects.

CDS is capped at 1% of all discretionary spending, and Fiscal Year 2027 project funding will be available to a limited number of projects that meet strict eligibility requirements only.

Submission of requests does not constitute a binding commitment on any party nor a guarantee that any organization will be awarded funding from any federal agency through this process. Furthermore, the submission, review and approval of CDS requests will be carried out consistent with Federal agency rules and regulations.

Research & Development

The [Innovations in Graduate Education \(IGE\) Program](#) is designed to encourage development and implementation of bold, new, and potentially transformative approaches to STEM graduate education training. The program seeks proposals that a) explore ways for graduate students in STEM master's and doctoral degree programs to develop the skills, knowledge, and competencies needed to pursue a range of STEM careers, or b) support research on the graduate education system and outcomes of systemic interventions and policies. IGE projects are intended to generate the knowledge required for the customization, implementation, and broader adoption of potentially transformative approaches to graduate education. **Deadline: March 25, 2026**

Military & Veterans

The [Department of Veterans Affairs \(VA\) National Cemetery Administration \(NCA\)](#) is awarding grants up to a maximum of \$400,000 per recipient through the Veterans Legacy Grants Program (VLGP). Grant recipients would provide tools for the public to learn about the histories of Veterans interred in national cemeteries and state, territorial, and Tribal Veterans cemeteries. There is special interest in highlighting the histories of Veterans who have significant connections to their local communities. **Deadline: March 27, 2026**

Health & Human Services

The [BJA FY25 Public Safety and Mental Health Initiatives](#) supports comprehensive service networks addressing untreated mental illness and substance use at the intersection of mental health, substance use, and justice systems. This program responds to the growing burden of endemic vagrancy, disorderly behavior and public safety threats faced by law enforcement agencies. **Deadline: March 30, 2026**

The [Nursing Home Staffing Campaign](#) is focused on helping to recruit registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses or licensed vocational nurses (LPNs) to work in nursing homes by offering financial incentives. Through this NOFO, CMS is accepting applications for cooperative agreements to entities that will administer financial incentives, such as loan repayment and stipends to RNs and LPNs, to work for three years in a qualifying nursing home or in an oversight role with a state agency. **Deadline: March 27, 2026**

Arts & Humanities

The [National Endowment for the Arts](#) offers two funding opportunities for research projects: Research Grants in the Arts, supporting research studies that investigate the value and/or impact of the arts in American life; and NEA Research Labs, funding long-term research agendas that include empirical studies and the dissemination of products or services for promoting public knowledge about the arts and their contributions to American life. **Deadline: March 23, 2026.**

[Museums Empowered \(ME\)](#) is a special initiative of the Museums for America grant program that supports projects that use professional development and training to generate change and growth within museums of all types and sizes.

Deadline: March 13, 2026.

The [National Leadership Grants for Museums](#) program (NLG-M) invests in projects that address critical needs of the museum field. NLG-M projects have the potential to advance practice in the profession to strengthen museum services for the public through the development and replication of model practices, tools, research findings, and collaborations.

Deadline: March 13, 2026.

The [Museums for America \(MFA\)](#) program invests in museums of all sizes and disciplines in project-based efforts to serve the public through educational programs and exhibits, community partnerships, and collections stewardship activities.

Deadline: March 13, 2026.

The [National Leadership Grants for Libraries Program](#) (NLG-L) supports projects that develop, enhance, or adapt replicable practices, programs, models, or tools to strengthen library and archival services for the American public. The program supports projects that serve the learning needs of the public through libraries and archives; improve community prosperity through libraries and archives; provide broad access to and preservation of information and collections through libraries and archives; or provide services to affected communities in the event of an emergency or disaster.

Deadline: March 13, 2026.

The [Museum Grants for African American History and Culture](#) (AAHC) program builds the capacity of African American museums and supports the growth and development of museum professionals at African American museums. The program supports projects that nurture museum professionals, build institutional capacity, and increase access to museum and archival collections at African American museums and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Deadline: March 13, 2026.

The [Museum Grants for American Latino History and Culture \(ALHC\)](#) program supports projects that build the capacity of American Latino history and culture museums to serve their communities and advance the growth and development of a professional workforce in American Latino cultural institutions.

Deadline: March 13, 2026.

Other Helpful Resources & Grant Opportunities

Illinois DCEO Provides Help with Seeking Federal Funds!

[Federal Grant Support Program – Round 2](#)

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's (DCEO)'s Federal Grant Support Program-Round 2 is open and will make \$16.9 million available to Illinois-based proposals seeking competitive federal grants. This match program will encourage more applicants to apply for federal grant opportunities, provide critical assistance to meet the minimum match eligibility requirements, increase the competitiveness of applications, and provide the State of Illinois with an opportunity to make a firm commitment and demonstration of support for projects that are well aligned with the State's economic development goals and priorities. For more information about the program, including links to the NOFO and application, visit this link.

[Convergent's Secure, Train Educate and Protect \(STEP\) Up for Schools Program](#)

The intent for the Step up for Schools Program is to help strengthen school security. Working with underserved schools in communities around the world, Convergent provides free interior and exterior security system installations, upgrades and assessments. To date, more than 150 schools have received security donations from Convergent through this program. **Deadline: March 20, 2026.**

Office Resources

[Grant Resources on My Website](#)

[Requesting Letters of Support for a Federal Grant](#)