Finding Funding: Where to Start

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Funding Types

- **Individual Funding**: Fellowships, Scholarships, Internships, Conference Travel, Professional Development, Sabbaticals

- **Project Resources**: Research Grant, Seed Money, Community Outreach, Artistic or Cultural Performance, Curriculum Development, Service Delivery

Funding Sources

Federal
- 26 Federal grant making agencies

State
- Various agencies, i.e. THEC and TBR

Local
- City or County Governments, local agencies

Industry
- National, regional or local

Foundations
- National, regional, or local

Starting Out | Strategies

- Funding universe
  - Starts broad but narrows quickly based on your specific research focus.
- Proactive monitoring
  - RSS feeds, email alerts, and funding aggregators to receive updates on new opportunities.
- Use of Grants.gov, Pivot-RP, Agency sites:
  - To track solicitations.
- Timing advantage
  - The earlier you identify a funding opportunity, the better your chances to submit a well-prepared proposal.
- Customizing searches
  - Define your expertise and interests to filter opportunities effectively.

Two Types of Proposals

- Solicited
  - Request for Applications (RFA)
  - Request for Proposals (RFP)
  - Funding Announcement (FA)
  - Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)

- Unsolicited
  - These make up a significant portion of research funding
    - NSF | ~50%
    - NIH | ~80%
  - Advantage
    - Flexibility to propose your ideas outside of RFP guidelines

Research Funding Spectrum

- Basic vs. applied research: Understand the distinction between basic research (e.g., NSF's focus) and mission-driven applied research (e.g., NIH's focus on human health).

    - What is the institution capable of supporting (facilities/resources)?

Key Resources

– PIVOT-RP

- o Database of Funding Opportunities

– Grants.gov

- o Access point for all federal grant making agencies

– Research Development and Grant Writing News

- o *Research Development and Grant Writing News* is published monthly by Academic Research Funding Strategies, LLC and provides information on how to compete successfully for research and education funding from federal agencies and foundations. In addition, new funding opportunities are listed. Current and archived versions of the newsletter are available on the Office of Research website under Proposal Development Resources.

Database Strategies

Active Strategies

- Keyword Searches
  - Pivot
  - Grants.gov
  - Agency websites
- Correspondence with agencies and colleagues

Passive Strategies

- Pivot emails
- Grants.gov subscriptions

PIVOT-RP

- More than a funding database

- Find Potential Collaborators
  - Find potential partners for collaboration

- Call for Papers
  - Opportunities to contribute to conferences or scholarly publications

- Previously Awarded Grants
 - Gain insights by seeing what projects were previously funded

The Pivot-RP Database

- Over 30,000 active and constantly updated funding opportunities

- More than $130 billion (U.S) in total funding across all research disciplines

- Over 20,000 potential funders

- 3 million-plus professional researcher profiles, with the ability to search your institution or outside institutions

- Details for 3.8 million previously awarded grants

Pivot-RP | Discovery

Browse by Keyword
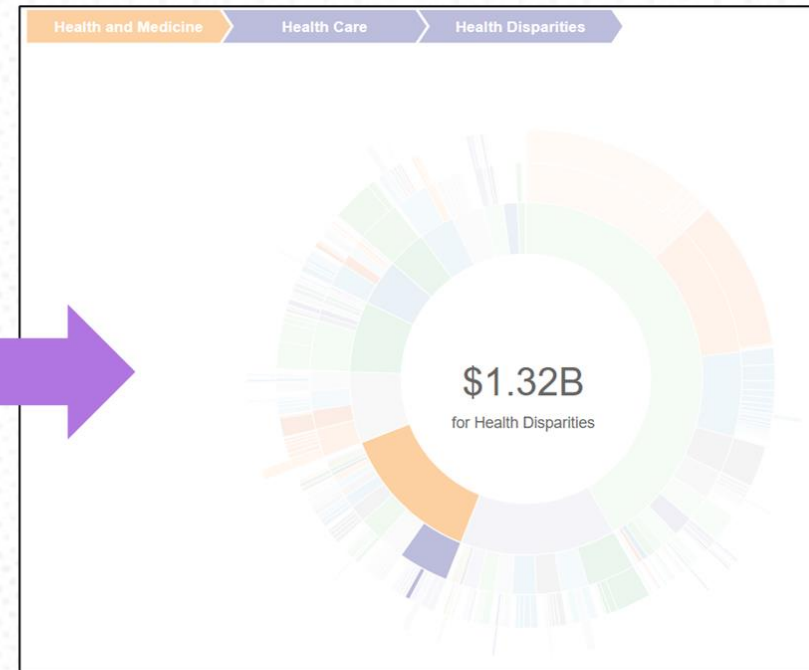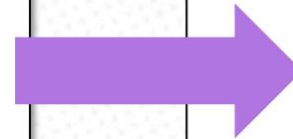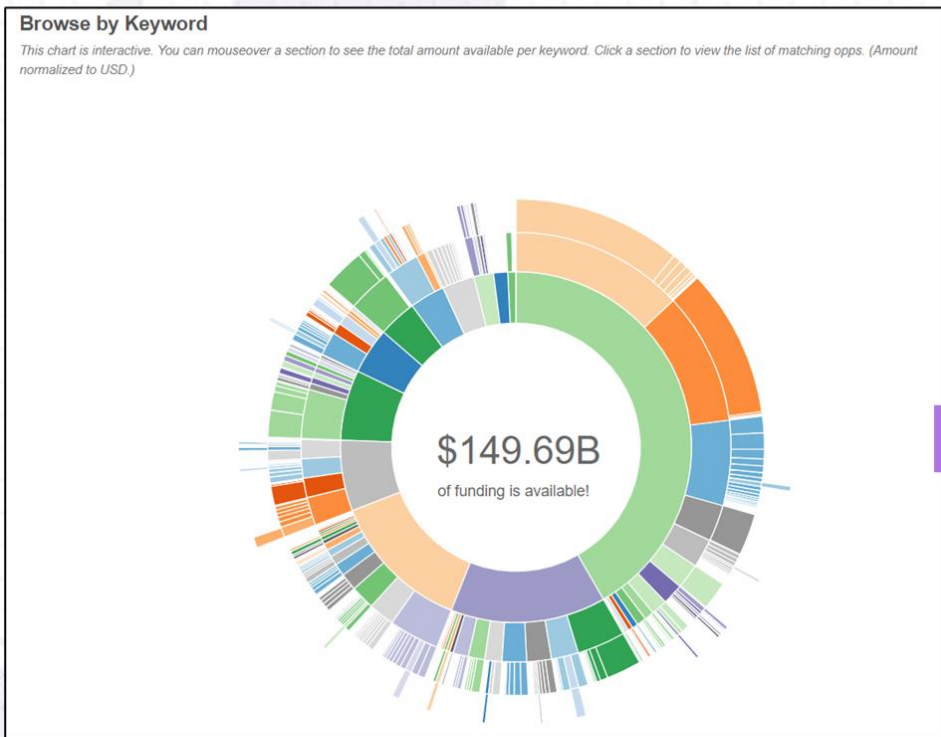
Interactive discovery feature that allows you to browse available funding opportunities by discipline

Grants.gov

– Single access point for more than 1,000 grant programs offered by all federal grant making agencies

– Grants Learning Center (Learn Grants tab)

– Training videos offered (Applicants tab) on topics including "How to Search for a Federal Grant on Grants.gov" and "What's in a Grant Opportunity on Grants.gov?"

Grants.gov Summary

- GREAT resource for learning about grants
- Easily search for Federal funding opportunities
  - **Best starting point for Federal funding**
- Register for the ability to save your searches and be notified of changes & new funding opportunities

Other Resources

- If your research is in areas less well supported—
  - Partner with colleagues to open up new funding opportunities.
    - Multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary research often attract large-scale grants.
    - Example: Collaborations on center-level proposals with broader programmatic components (e.g., ethics, public outreach, societal impacts).
  - Business and industry: Explore funding through partnerships with the private sector or consulting firms.
  - Foundations and NGOs: Target smaller regional or national foundations and professional