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Unlocking K-12 Funding Opportunities

A Quick Guide to Grant Success

Today's Presenters



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TODAY'S AGENDA

01 | The K-12 Grants Landscape

02 | What Funders Look For

03 | Strategies for Grant Success

04 | Getting Started

05 | Questions?



The K-12 Grants Landscape

K-12 Funding: Key Themes Over Time

Equity & Access

Established principle that federal funding should promote equity and access to K-12 education

National Interest & Competitiveness

Promotion of STEM learning to prepare students for modern workforce

Innovation & Reform

Improve educational outcomes and close achievement gaps with new approaches

Emergency Response & Recovery

Support for K-12 to help in response to COVID-19 pandemic

Current K-12 Funding Priorities

1

Evidence-based Literacy

Support reading instruction aligned with the “Science of Reading”, emphasizing clear, systemic, and intentional instruction in foundational reading skills.

2

Education Choice

Expand options for parents and students through school choice programs or other methods to allow families to select the appropriate education setting for their needs.

3

More Oversight to the States

States to take on more responsibility for overseeing education and making decisions about curriculum, standards, and other aspects of the education system.

Top Sources of Grant Funding



01 – Federal Government Agencies

Public Funding
$700B+ USD annually
…and more from special funding measures like CHIPS, IIJA, etc.

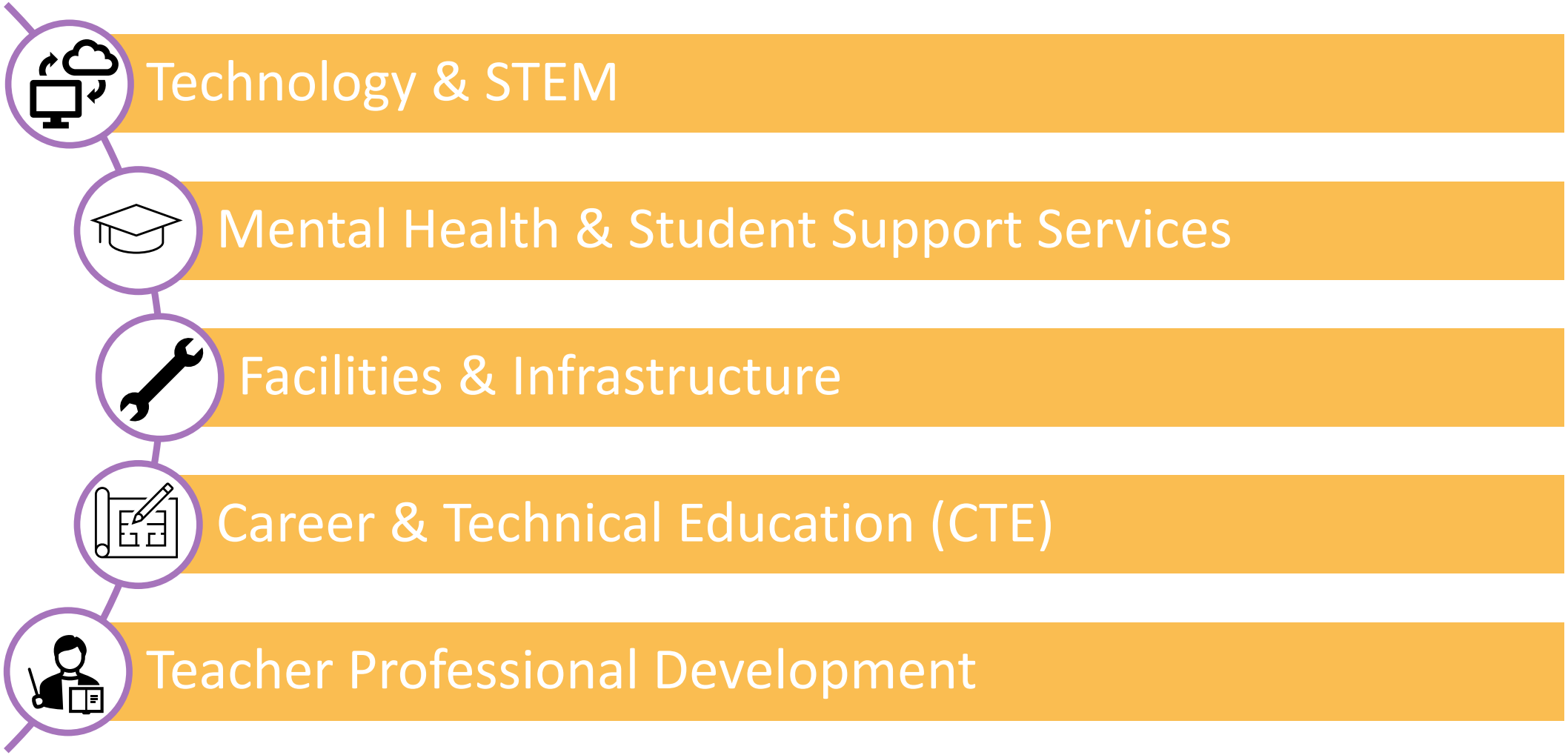
02 – State Government Agencies

Public Funding
$100B+ USD annaully

03 – Family, Community, & Corporate Foundations

Private Funding
$70B+ USD annually

Popular K12 Grant Focus Areas



Where to Look for Grants?













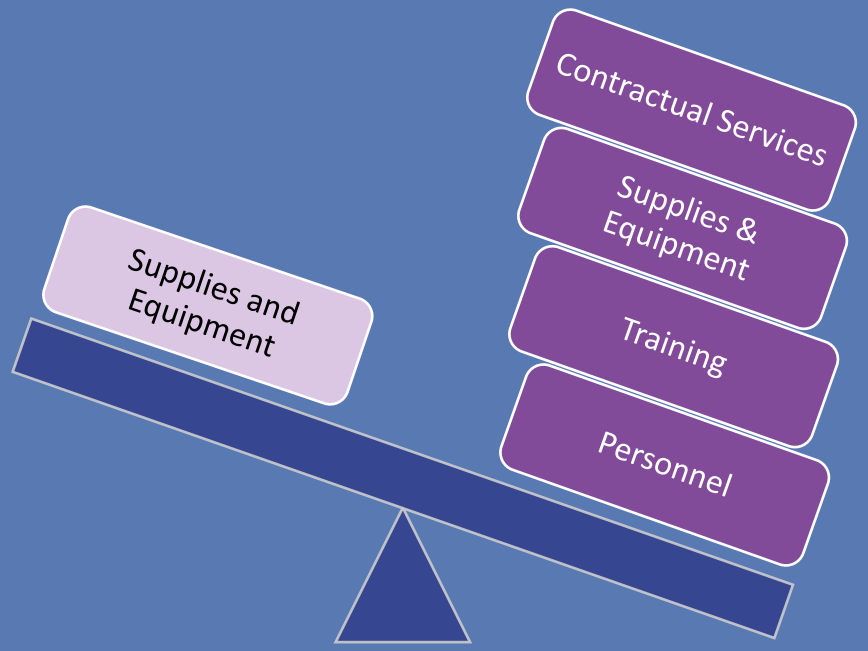


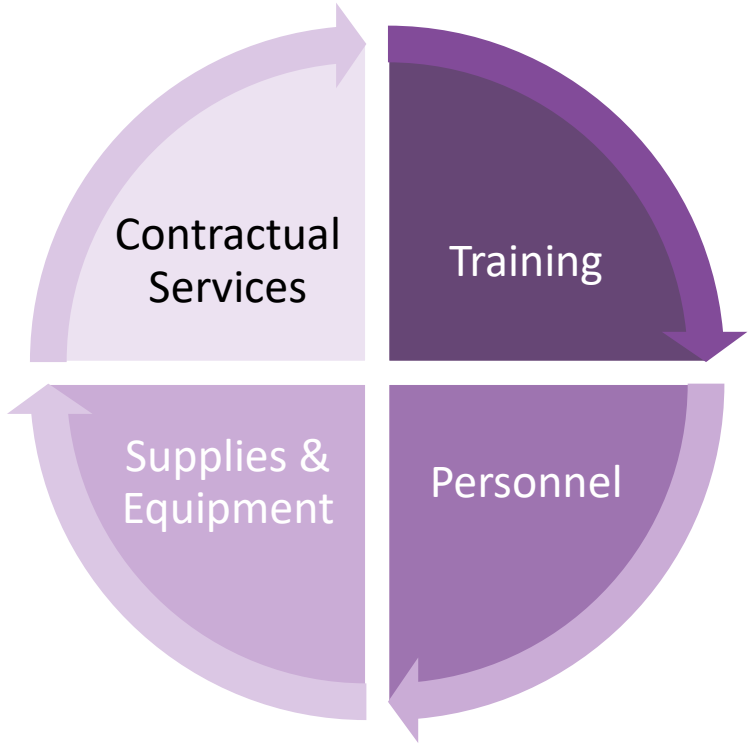
What Funders Look For

What do Grants Actually Fund?

Grants created to fund one off purchases

Grants created to fund comprehensive projects





Emphasizing overall social benefits, in addition to desired specific needs



What K-12 Funders Look For

1 Alignment with funding priorities & goals

Demonstrate a deep understanding of the funder's mission and explain how the project supports those goals.

2 Strong Evidence of Need

Address a clearly documented need, including quantitative and qualitative data.

3 Clear, measurable impact on students

Define how student experiences, learning, safety, or well-being will improve – including metrics to track progress.

4 Organizational capacity to manage funding

Assurance that the grant team can responsibility manage the grant.

5 Sustainability plans

How will the project be continued? How will it be scaled? Include capacity building and training to maintain impact.

Examples of K-12 Grant Funding

1

Education Innovation & Research (EIR) Program

Supports development, implementation, and scaling of evidence-based innovations to improve student achievement and close opportunity gaps

Amount available: $251M in FY25

Deadline: Anticipated August 2025

2

Title IV-B: 21st Century Community Learning Centers

Provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for students in high-poverty and low-performing schools to help them meet state and local academic standards

Amount available: $1.3B in FY25

Deadline: Varies by State

3

Strengthening CTE for the 21st Century (Perkins V)

Expand and improve high-quality career and technical education programs that prepare students for high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand careers.

Amount available: $1.4B in FY25

Deadline: Varies by State

Strategies for Grant Success

Establish a Grants Team

- Include diverse roles and expertise
- Define clear roles and responsibilities
- Engage key stakeholders early
- Establish regular communication and check-ins
- Provide training and resources





Build Strong Partnerships

- Collaboration with external partners demonstrates broad support, increases project impact, and can improve sustainability
- Can provide matching resources, expertise, or access to target populations
- Letters of support or formal MOUs strengthens credibility and commitment to shared outcomes

Proposal Development Tips

Tip #1

Remember, grants fund comprehensive projects, not just products.

Tip #2

Let your project's needs and objectives determine what you require and the team you build.

Tip #3

Learn as much as possible about the grant program's post-award requirements before you apply.

Tip #4

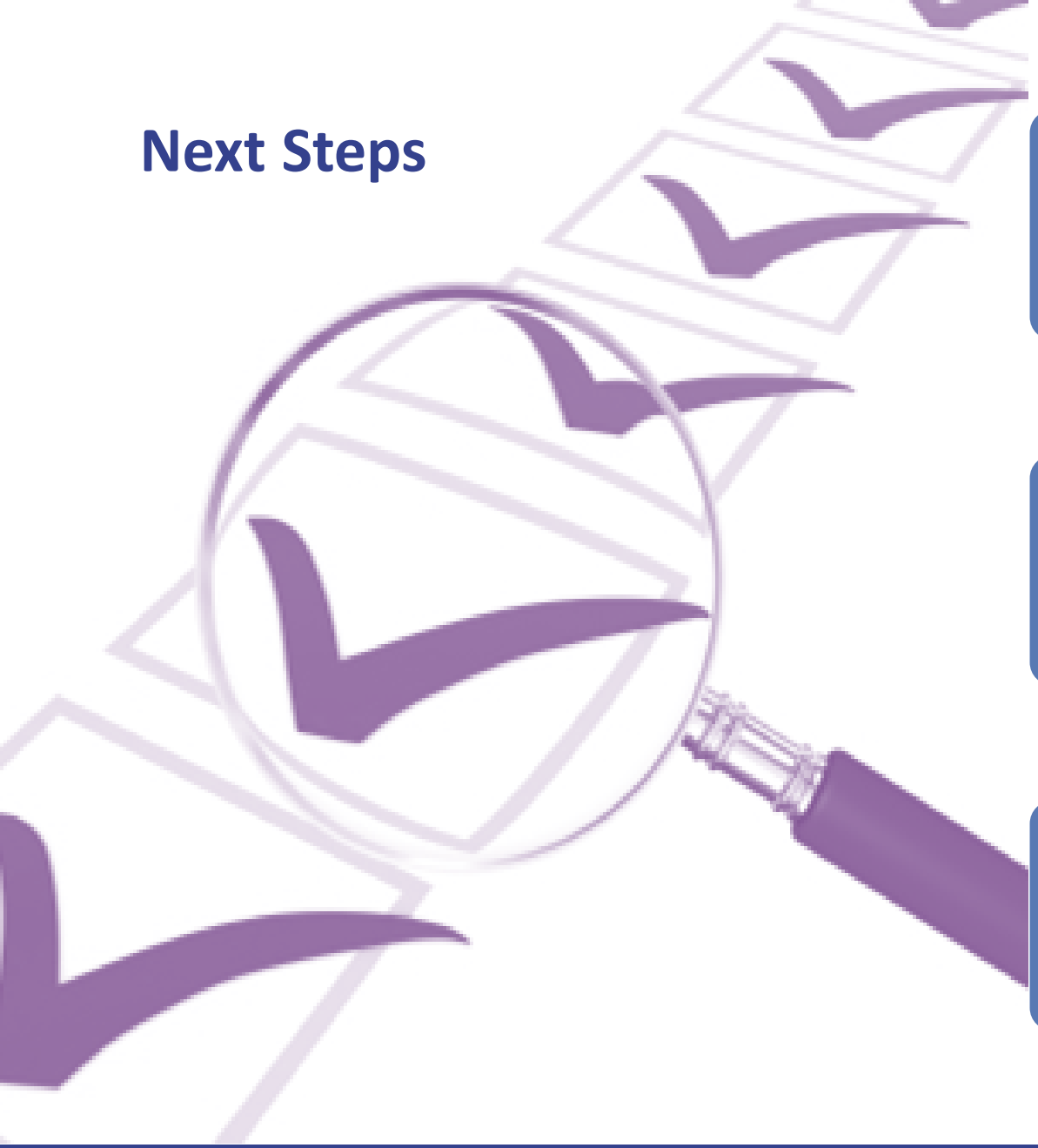
Include SMART goals: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Results-focused, and Time-bound.

Tip #5

Get an outside set of eyes to edit your final proposal before submitting.

Getting Started

Next Steps



1. Review district's strategic plan, school improvement plan, or technology plans

2. Identify real need with data

3. Engage key staff early

Next Steps

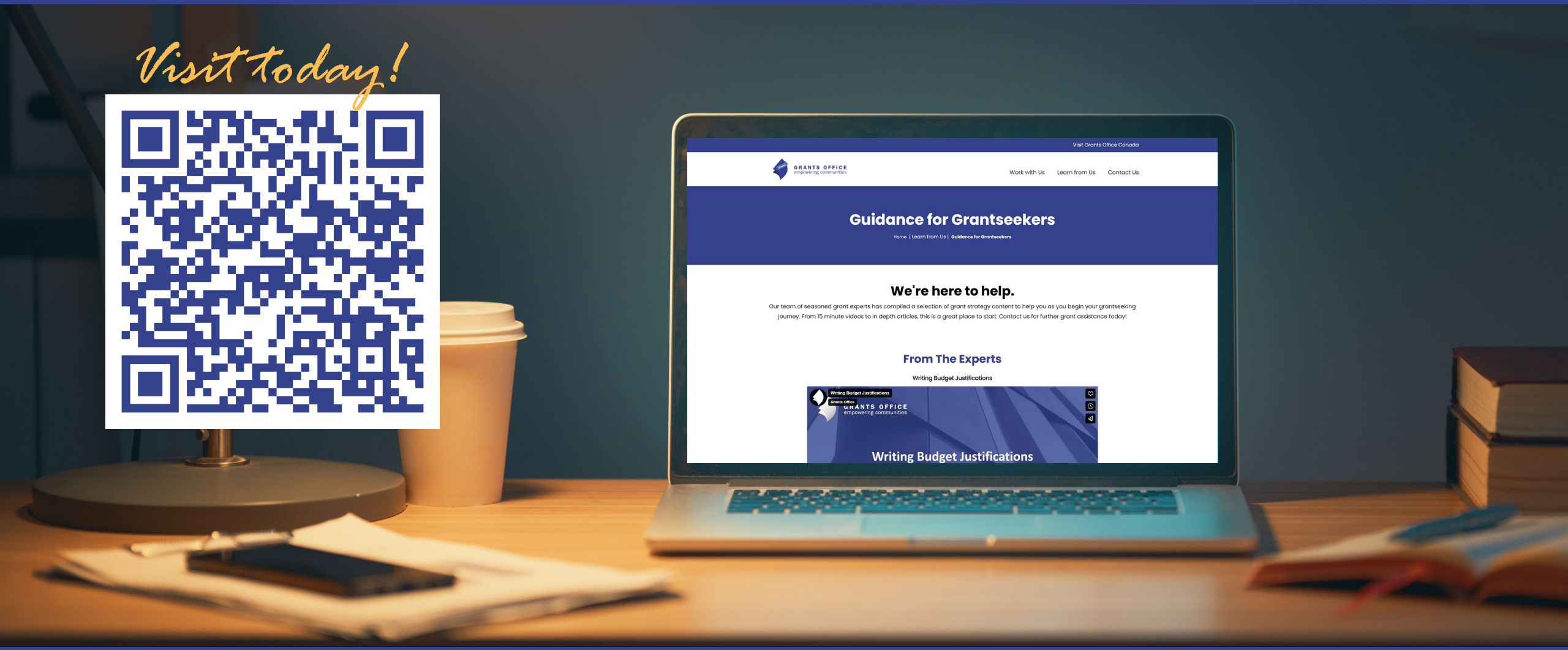


4. Clarify what is to be funded

5. Draft a project summary or outline

6. Create a calendar and task list

FREE RESOURCES: Guidance for Grantseekers



Questions?

Engage with Grants Office

Step 1

‘Contact Us’

Fill out an Information Collection Tool to engage with the Grants Office Helpdesk.

Step 2

Initial Meeting

Meet with a Grants Office Consultant to discuss your project goals and technology needs.

Step 3

Funding Opportunity Report

Your Grants Office Consultant will provide you with a report detailing applicable grants.

Step 4

Consultative Call

Meet with your Grants Office Consultant to plan and prepare your application.

Step 5

Submit Application

Once completed, you submit your grant application and let us know when you win!

Start here!

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