NISN FACILITIES PROGRAM
Types of Grant Funders

Background: This document is part of a learning module for Finding Funding. This module is designed to help school leaders understand the types of funding that may be available and t match opportunities to their needs. Below are the types of funding that may be available to school leaders:

- Per-pupil base operating funds administered by the state or district;
- State or district school facilities capital funds;
- State and federal capital grant programs, which can be administered by agencies through a grant cycle or via annual lawmaker budget sessions;
- State and federal programs that support financing by reducing the cost of borrowing (e.g., tax levies, tax credits);
- State and federal programs that support financing by reducing the lender's risk (bond guarantees, loan guarantees);
- Tribal government funding allocations;
- Non-governmental grant programs;
- Private and non-profit loans from financial institutions, such financing from banks or community development financial institutions (CDFIs);
- Philanthropic donations from individuals or groups and fundraising income.

Instructions: This document focuses on competitive grants, meaning grants that are open to applicants meeting certain criteria, where an applicant is typically defining the use of funds. This contrasts with things like formula grants, where entities are typically entitled to a set amount of funds based on a formula like the number of students enrolled. There are four main types of offerors explored: Public Foundations, Private Foundations, Corporations, and Government Agencies. The following tables will help school leaders understand these types of funders better. This information is also designed to help understand what types of funders may be better suited to different facilities funding needs and how complex the process may be to access funding. _Note that this should be considered as a general planning tool and that individual funders may vary significantly from the outlined characteristics._

	Public Foundations	Private Foundations
Sub-Types	Community Foundations, United Ways	Family or individual foundations, non-operating and operating, nonprofit or trust structure
Typical Facilities Support	Public foundations typically don't fund conventional brick-and-mortar capital projects, but some will pay for facilities items that support service, shared community areas, and program-linked facility needs.	More likely to fund facilities that are program focused or specialized. Some look favorably on awards involving naming rights. They may fund equipment, and some consider donating foundation held land/buildings. Some fund facilities planning.
Project Examples	• Greenhouse • Transportation vouchers • Equipment for food service • Materials for student construction of traditional buildings on campus	• Solar panels to improve sustainability • Donation or free use of foundation property/building for a school • Construction grant to build a science lab named for the foundation founder
Money sources	Varied sources (at least 10% of funding from public)	A single or few sources (5% asset payout minimum annually)
Typical Proposal Complexity	Low to medium	Low to medium
Typical Award Sizes	Small to medium	Small to large
Common Proposal Components	• Proposal narrative • Project budget • Organization financials or budget • Tax returns/audits • Stories of impact • Target service/outcome levels • Implementation timeline	• Proposal narrative • Project budget, possibly separate budget narrative • Organization financials or budget • Proof of non-profit status • Evaluation details • Board of directors list
Typical Proposal Review	Community volunteer panels	Staff recommendations and board review

	Corporations	Government Agencies
Sub-Types	Private foundations for the corporation, in-house grant program without a foundation, or marketing/discretionary budget	Local, county, state, federal, and pass-through agencies dispersing government funds
Typical Facilities Support	Smaller cost specialized facilities and projects, sponsorships/naming rights contributions, equipment.	Land and building acquisition and development, higher cost specialized facilities, transportation, nutrition.
Project Examples	• Community/school garden and landscape project • Playground development • Computers and IT equipment • Sponsorship to create a community meeting room	• Planning grant to develop a multi-year capital plan or apply for later capital funds from the same funder • Transportation busses/vans • Kitchen equipment • Funding to construct or renovate school buildings • Broadband infrastructure and tele-education system
Money sources	Business revenue (voluntary or mandated)	Taxpayers (via congress or state lawmaker budgeting)
Typical Proposal Complexity	Low to medium	Complex
Typical Award Sizes	Low to medium	Medium to large
Common Proposal Components	• Letter or proposal narrative • Details on grant recognition, promotion, use of corporate volunteers • Project budget • Organization financials • Photos, bids, other optional project detail attachments	• Proposal narrative • Executive summary, abstract • Budget and budget narrative • Federal certifications and assurances • Staff bios, resumes, pending support • Support letters, partnership agreements, MOUs, site control documentation • Documentation of match commitment • Construction drawings and estimates • Detailed workplans, logic models, etc. • Plans for project monitoring and reporting
Typical Proposal Review	Employee committee	Expert panels (typically using a scoring rubric), agency employees/heads