

Grants and Non-Profits

Introduction

While Perkins V is actually a Federal grant program to the states, other types of grants could impact your WBL programs and courses. These grants are made up of three types of grants; other publically funded government grants, private non-for-profit sector grants, and educational non-for-profit grants. Working with your district grants personnel to identify opportunities to grow and sustain a well developed WBL program brings about positive social, educational and economical value to your community. There are also differences in the types of activities that grants will offer. For example some grants will purchase only specific items such as equipment, whereas others could focus on materials, professional development, books and supplies. Finding creative ways to fund your programs can play a major role in the success of your WBL initiatives.

Here are some examples of how some grants are funded:

- A Tech company has a grant specifically for classroom equipment
- A large nonprofit organization has grants for overarching ideas on College and Careers regarding teacher professional development, management, support services, etc.
- A local government agency offers support with transportation costs through a Human Services grant or local grant
- Your local school district has a non-for-profit entity closely associated with the district that provides grants for various projects or WBL initiatives

Public Grants - State of Illinois

These grants use public tax dollars to fund various goals around the state of Illinois. Completing research on these grants and seeking information prior to applying is recommended as some of the grants have very clear requirements, tracking procedures and accountability standards connected to them. Not fulfilling the grant procedures can place your district in “hot water” and can lead to legal action. Please consult your grants manager for the district prior to applying or seeking grants from state government entities.

Community Partnerships Grant

Through the development or expansion of relationships, applicants, utilizing data from an evidenced-based needs assessment, will develop an action plan that addresses the following:

- Integrated Student Wellness Supports: Address out-of-school barriers through partnerships with community social and health service agencies. Including, but not limited to: social-emotional learning; trauma; conflict resolution; restorative justice practices; access to mental health services; decreasing bullying; and punitive disciplinary actions.

- Expanded Learning Time & Opportunities: Includes after school, weekend, and summer programs to provide additional academic instruction and support, enrichment activities and opportunities for real-world learning.
- Active Parent/Guardian & Community Engagement: Bring into schools as educational partners and make schools a neighborhood hub for learning.
- LGBTQ Populations
- Additionally, the plan must address how the following will be engaged in the process:
 - Student Voice
 - Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment
 - Early Childhood
 - LGBTQ populations
 - Homeless and youth-in-care
 - Marginalized communities

[Click here to find out more about Community Partnership Grants.](#)

Illinois Arts Council Grants

While the Illinois Arts Council grants are utilized with participating Arts Council agencies, it does not negate the fact that a well developed partnership with your local arts council would benefit your students. We recognize the importance of arts programming, workplace initiatives and WBL practices in arts education. A recent economic analysis by [Winnebago County Arts Report \(IL\)](#) suggests that arts are a major economic driver in their region. They reported that the arts created \$144 million in economic output (FY2021) for the region. Working with your local Illinois Arts Council could provide students a more intentional way to improve WBL initiatives and expand mentorship opportunities, career development, and skills development with local artists.

Private Grants

These types of grants often have varying levels of funding, procedures, and requirements that can span a scale of little oversight of the grant funding to intensive levels of funding oversight with procedural accountability tasks shown throughout the grant cycle. Private grants can, oftentimes, provide gap funding for major projects, programs, equipment, or one time use items. In some cases, they can provide institutional support for longer projects and periods of time dependent on the grant rollout. The two examples below give to varying degrees on how a private grant might work:

Grant A: Gotham High School applied for a private grant from the Joker Institute of Comedy to help with its performing arts WBL programming. The grant provided a one time payment of \$5,000.00 to the school to assist the arts teachers in professional development funding for the next 3 years.

Grant B: Metropolis Middle School applied for a grant from the Lex Luthor Foundation, a foundation that has deep pockets. The foundation promised \$150,000.00 over five years for various projects, equipment, and other resources provided that the district follow a process where they draw up goals, meet once a month with

the foundation, use specific software to track goals, and provide intense feedback on the improvements of the school. If the school district does not fulfill its end of the grant by providing the proper information, the grant relationship is severed.

Witnessing the two separate grants, school districts have different approaches to these types of situations. First, make sure you are in communication with your grants department or appropriate administration before signing any grant documents. One reason for this is because the district may have to provide financial information to the IRS, or under some circumstances, in order for the grant to be accepted, the school board will have to approve the grant application. It makes absolutely no sense to apply for a grant that a school board may not want to approve. Do your research and have conversations with your principal, grants department, and any other pertinent personnel.

Illinois Foundations Resource

- [OpenGrants Website](#)

Common Illinois Foundations

- [Illinois Toolworks Foundation](#)
- [McCormack Foundation](#)

National Foundations

- [Charles Stewart Mott Foundation](#)
- [Motorola Foundation](#)
- [ConnectEd](#)
- [Ford Foundation Just Films Grant](#)

Educational Non-for-Profits and Funding

As school districts have seen increasing regulations of federal and state grants combined with local problems that need to be addressed from a local lens, many community school districts have relied heavily on organizations local to their needs. Educational Non-for-Profits are nonprofit organizations that have district leadership representatives serving on a local non-for-profit whose main goal is to address key educational and/or social problems facing the community. In many cases, these organizations form off a need of literacy and numeracy, equity, Work-Based Learning, College and Career readiness, high school graduation, or a combination of these issues.

An example of a local school non-for-profit that has brought about institutional change in New York (and numerous communities around the United States) is the Pencil Organization. Pencil has organizations throughout the United States, but the example below is one impacting the city of New York Public Schools.

“Almost two decades later, the department’s plan, the New York City Teaching Fellows program, has transformed the city’s public schools. With nearly 19,000 talented teachers recruited, who now make up 12 percent of the city’s teachers, the program has placed effective teachers throughout the city. While New York

City has more goals to achieve, on-time graduation rates for black and Hispanic students have moved from 40 percent to 60 percent since the teaching fellows program started.”

(Top Education Nonprofit Organizations Helping Shape Schools, Students & Teachers, 2019)

In the example above, Pencil was the organization that organized a strategic plan to recruit teachers and provided in-kind support, combined with education dollars from its foundation to help the local school district address a problem. These organizations have logistical dollars and in kind resources usually provided by corporations and local philanthropic organizations that want to see a difference in their local communities. For school districts interested in this work, it may make sense to investigate where CTE , College and Careers, and WBL play a role in this work

Organizations around the country that have been significant resources include:

- <https://pencil.org/>
- <https://nashville-hub.webflow.io/collaboration-hub>

The Education Trust

While the organizations have a wealth of resources, school districts looking to form a local non-for-profit may consider forming their own non-for-profit organization at first and align their work to the organizations at a later date. It is fairly common for districts to have local non-for-profit organizations established that review needs and provide grant monies to educators and schools based on requests. Oftentimes, these are referred to as the district's Education Foundation. Education Foundations, at the local level, typically accept requests and grant funds at least once per year. The amount of funds granted depends on the available funds of your local foundation, the impact to students, and other needs at the time.

DISCLAIMER This course is not promoting these organizations, nor do we suggest making the call to these organizations without thoughtful consideration with community stakeholders. The idea of forming an Education Non-for-profit takes years of planning and coordination from community members. However, this idea is a great opportunity to discuss with school and district leaders, your advisory, and other stakeholder groups on how WBL plays a role in the overall benefit to your community and students.