

Do You Know How & Where to Get Federal Funding?



Illinois ResourceNet: A Funding Access Initiative (IRN) is a university-based resource providing Illinois organizations a unique approach to proposal development and funding access centered on accessing information and resources based on an interactive website, working with experienced technical assistants on designing high caliber proposals, and connecting with a diverse group of partners to meet proposed project goals.

Illinois ResourceNet Technical Assistance Tailored Services

IRN's team of Technical Advisors (TAs) are located throughout the state and have expertise in the technical aspects of federal grant development as well as knowledge of federal policies and programs. Our TAs are qualified in a range of policy areas including workforce development, community development, housing, environmental sustainability, information technology, health, and hazard mitigation.



The TA Model

This model works one-on-one with individual organizations and partnerships on single proposal opportunities. Specific assistance includes;

- Assistance registering for grants.gov or obtaining a DUNS number
- Assistance in developing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) or other partnership agreements
- Research on key demographic information
- Review of the proposal and attachments for their adherence to the requirements outlined in the request for proposal (RFP) with particular attention to point criteria as well as for clarity and completeness
- Final review of the full proposal and all attachments
- Facilitation of the proposal submission process
- Referral (s) to additional capacity building opportunities

Hazard Mitigation Model

IRN's hazard mitigation model works with cities and counties to help them apply for funding to safe guard against natural disasters by providing training and technical assistance around hazard mitigation planning and long term recovery. In addition, our technical advisors also identify and map additional federal funding opportunities based on approved hazard mitigation plans throughout the state.

Brokering Model

IRN's technical assistance also takes on an intermediary role . IRN acts like a broker creating a strong community bridge between the federal and state agencies and the communities by serving as a conduit for more specialized information and data, and identifying and cultivating the right partnerships for a successful proposal.

IRN's Signature Continuous Place-Based Proposal Development Model

Federal proposal development is a cumulative process

IRN's continuous proposal building strategy builds on previously submitted proposal documents for new proposal submissions. Collaborations and community plans provide place-based initiatives with the opportunity to engage in long-term resource development. Continuous proposal building uses the plans created by communities, including background information on the organizations' accomplishments, cost estimates and budgets, program designs, and research on community demographic data, to develop federal grants matrices that layer federal funding streams across policy areas to further place-based development. Groups participating in the process of continuous proposal development strengthen relationships between partners and through these relationships, have access to additional resources.



Illinois ResourceNet advisors work with organizations to prepare for future funding opportunities by creating a two-year timeline of expected release dates of Federal grant programs relevant to the organization or collaboration working with IRN. Illinois ResourceNet develops a plan-of-action for groups to identify grants that match the needs of the organization. Advisors will also locate future funding for existing programs and potential new programs, and examine the resources offered by Federal Agencies. In addition, the IRN advisor will review proposals to ensure that the organization meets the eligibility requirements, and has the necessary management and programmatic capacity.

Products for Partnerships

IRN provides its partners with a detailed timeline outlining three available grants, indexed by their relevancy to the organizations and their strategic plans. Additionally, IRN supplies the partnerships with a written summary of the identified grants, unique details about each program, including matching requirements, necessary partners, and pre-application requirements.

Capacity Building Training

IRN's course development is demand-driven and customized for unique programs. The core IRN courses include the topics of collaboration, federal grant writing, reporting and monitoring, building federal budgets, and understanding federal grants. IRN advisors use the IRN curriculum as a foundation for the creation of customized training sessions that meet the needs of the organizations approaching IRN for assistance. IRN advisors present on a variety of topics, including sustainability, proposal team building, and organizational development.

Grants Mapping Service

Pre-planning and preparation help increase the competitiveness of an organization's application.

OPEN ACCESS TO A SELECTION OF TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



Face-to-Face Workshops

Based on the direct needs of each unique community area, Illinois ResourceNet is adapting and tailoring our online curriculum so that it can be delivered face-to-face in communities around the state of Illinois.

Free Webinars

Webinars allow our technical advisors to disseminate information and resources about available grant opportunities to potential grantees throughout the State of Illinois from the comfort of their work/office computers.

Learn on Demand

The “Learn on Demand” mini-courses have been created to provide quick tips to those who are already familiar with the information being presented but need a reminder or refresher. These courses are about five to fifteen minutes and include multiple downloadable formats that can be viewed or listened at any time.

The courses include power point presentations and audio or video recordings of instructors delivering key pieces of curriculum. Course topics include navigating Grants.gov and how to submit a federal proposal electronically.

www.illinoisresource.net/ www.uicni.org

Online Curriculum

Course participants will benefit from a successful university-designed educational training platform and curriculums, while learning how to:

- Successfully find and submit proposals via Grants.gov
- Build partnerships and collaborations to acquire federal funding
- Write federal proposals focused on point criteria
- Prepare federal budget justifications with cost sharing
- Utilize training sessions to create working proposals

The presentations include materials from one-on-one training sessions lead by an expert Technical Advisor that is available to answer your specific questions on the multiple website forums.

Regional and Statewide Conferences

IRN programs regional conferences throughout the State of Illinois and holds an annual statewide conference that provides an opportunity for nonprofit organizations and local government officials to network with potential funders, including state and federal agency representatives.

The conferences focus on sharing knowledge about funding trends, best practices for proposal development, and resources as well as research of interest to organizations about federal funding policies and practices.



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