



Grant Guidance

Thomas-Forbes & Kester, LLC

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“The skill of writing is to create a context in which other people can think.”

—Edwin
Schlossberg

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Contact us!

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Congratulations and Good-bye

As most of you have already heard, our associate, Melanie Palmer, left Thomas-Forbes & Kester in December to become the Director of Development for the Northwest Arkansas Women’s Shelter. She will remain active in the grants profession and will serve as President of the Arkansas chapter of the Grant Professionals Association in 2011. She has been a valuable member of this firm, and we wish her well.

There is Still Time to Complete a FEMA Fire Safety & Prevention Grant

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced on January 6 its competition for 2011 Fire Prevention and Safety Grants. The deadline is February 4, 2011. This program funds projects that reduce fire-related injury and prevent death among high-risk populations. It also funds research on the same topic.

A broad range of organizations qualify for FPS grants, including volunteer fire departments, professional departments, colleges and universities, and community service agencies such as the Red Cross.

As long as you are implementing a fire prevention and/or safety program (research projects are also allowed) you are potentially eligible.

A benefit of FEMA’s fire grants is that they allow grant writing fees to be included in the budget. Yes, you can be reimbursed for any fees incurred to prepare the proposal if your grant is awarded!

Pass this information along to a fire department or other organization in your community whom you think might benefit and ask them to give us a call. We love helping fire departments win funds to improve safety in their communities.

Interested applicants should visit www.firegrantsupport.com for the details of allowable activities and to sign up for the agency’s free newsletter. This valuable newsletter gives readers a heads up when competitions are about to open and discusses other program issues throughout the year.



Few foundations expect the recession to have a long-lasting impact on their giving priorities.

Foundation Giving Projected to Grow in 2011

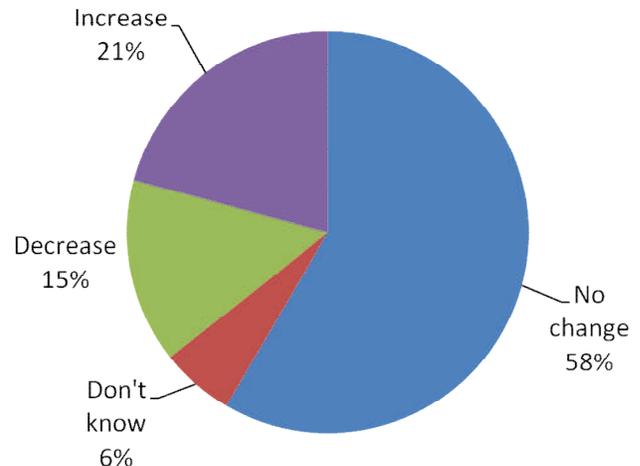
Finally! Some good news for those of us who seek foundation grants.

U.S. foundations project that their giving in 2011, will grow “modestly,” according to a survey conducted and published by the Foundation Center (foundationcenter.org).

Of foundations surveyed, 59% projected steady giving in 2011, while 21% projected an increase in giving. Only 15% anticipated to decrease their giving. Corporate foundations will likely experience the largest increases in giving.

The Foundation Center study also discovered that although many foundations (40%) made changes to their giving priorities as a result of the economic downturn, few of them (less than 8%) expected the recession to have a long-lasting impact on their giving priorities and operations.

Even though giving is not expected to return to its 2008 peak levels for several years, the report brings good news to those of us feeling the strain of reduced foundation giving during the last two years.



SOURCE: The Foundation Center, 2010. 714 responses



Quick Tips

1. *Proactively identify foundation prospects*
2. *Cultivate relationships with foundations*
3. *Follow foundations' guidelines carefully*
4. *Manage foundation funds responsibly*

To position your organization to take advantage of increased giving, we recommend sticking with the fundamentals: research, cultivation, following guidelines, managing funds responsibly, and maintaining constant open communication with existing funders.

To read the entire report from the Foundation Center, you may download it for free from: http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/pdf/researchadvisory_economy_201011.pdf

Upcoming Workshops!

Once again, TFK is beginning to fill out the spring training schedule. Workshops are open to any non-profit /county/ municipal representatives looking to hone their grantseeking skills.

Priority registration and discount available to pairs of board/staff members.

To register, please e-mail Cheryl at ckester@cox.net or call (479) 582-1053.

Our website has the most current list of speaking and training opportunities and complete course descriptions:

<http://www.tfkgrants.com>

The classes listed at right meet at the beautiful Compton Gardens just off the Bentonville square (312 Main St.).

Grantseeking 101

Tues., March 8, 2011 8:30 am-12:30 pm
Beginning grant seekers: learn how to find funders, read guidelines, and get your projects funded.

Class size limited: 18 participants

Registration Fee: \$50

Registration Deadline: March 1, 2011

Grantseeking Academy

Tuesdays, April 4-May 9, 2011, 3-5 pm
Six-week course. Learn all steps of grant writing and leave with a completed proposal.

Class size limited: 15 participants

Registration Fee: \$425, includes textbook and CD of sample proposals

Registration Deadline: March 28, 2011

Grants Questions Answered

Q. A funder's guidelines have asked us for a lot of information but have given us a very short page limit. How do we fit in all of the required information?

A. Having to squeeze a lot of information into a small space is a common challenge for grant writers. Using tables can help, since you are often allowed to single-space tables even if the narrative must be double spaced. Refer back to other sections of the proposal—"(see page 10 for a more detailed program description)"—instead of repeating information.

Take out unnecessary adverbs and adjectives. Cut prepositional and possessive usages. Try to cut a line from each paragraph if you are over your page limit. Put subheadings on the same line with the start of the paragraph (set them apart by bold or italicized font and punctuation) instead of giving them their own line. Make very sure that any photographs or charts/graphs add enough to your proposal to justify giving them the amount of real estate they take up. If not, delete them.

Have a question?
Send it to Cheryl at
ckester@cox.net to
include in the next
newsletter!

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We are members of and follow the
Codes of Ethics of :



Thomas-Forbes & Kester, LLC is committed to serving non-profits through grant writing, training, strategic planning and program design and evaluation. The principal and associates have been employed by non-profit organizations, been volunteers and served as board members. We know you and are committed to your mission.

Please visit our website for more information: www.tfkgrants.com.

You may request to be removed from our newsletter mailing list at any time by sending an email to ckester@cox.net.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

The Brown Foundation

PO Box 130646
Houston, Texas 77219-1646
(713) 523-6867
bfi@brownfoundation.org

Grant Range: unknown

Deadline: none

Giving primarily to programs in education, the arts, and community service

For more information and to apply, visit the [Brown Foundation](http://www.brownfoundation.org) online.

Sunderland Foundation

PO Box 25900
Overland Park, Kansas 66225
sunderlandfoundation@ashgrove.com

Grant range: approx \$5,000-\$250,000

Deadline: none

Giving for capital projects to higher education, youth services, arts and culture, and health care and hospitals.

For more information and to apply, visit the [Sunderland Foundation](http://www.sunderlandfoundation.org) online.

Dr. Scholl Foundation

1033 Skokie Boulevard, Suite 230
Northbrook, Illinois 60062
Tel: (847) 559-7430

Grant Range: \$5,000-\$25,000 (average)

Deadline: March 1, 2011

Giving for education, social service, health care, civic & cultural projects, and environmental projects

For more information and to apply, visit the [Dr. Scholl Foundation](http://www.dr-scholl.org) online.

Suder Foundation First Scholars Program

3701 E. Plano Parkway, Plano, TX 75074
Tel: (469) 429-2200

Email: info@suderfoundation.org

Grant Range: unknown

Deadline: March 15, 2011

Giving to universities to establish a First Scholars Program to assist first-generation college students

For more information and to apply, visit [First Scholars Program](http://www.suderfoundation.org) online.