Office of the Vice Provost for Research

Searching for Funding Opportunities

Quick Start

Visit the “Finding Funding” tab of the OVPR website (ovpr.indiana.edu) for internal funding programs, external funding databases, pre-filtered searches, and other resources.

Before you search

- Prepare a short research statement. Write a couple of paragraphs summarizing your research question or goal. Use the major concepts in your statement as keywords to focus and fine-tune your funding search.

Refining a search

- Start with your most general keywords, adding more specialized terms if you have too many results.
- Use Boolean operators such as AND, OR, NOT, and quotation marks to combine search terms or offer synonyms.
- Use advanced search features to increase the relevance of your results.

Other stones to turn

- Search the web.
- Talk to your colleagues.
- Check disciplinary societies’ websites.
- Look for funding acknowledgements in related publications.
- Consider crowd funding such as Kickstarter, Petridish, and RocketHub.

After you search

- Visit agency websites to find out what has been funded recently and to subscribe to email funding updates.
- Contact Proposal Development Services (ovprhelp@indiana.edu) for guidance and advice on your proposal. Learn more at ovpr.indiana.edu/pds.
- Contact the IU Foundation executive directors of corporate (jennlawr@iu.edu) and foundation (bfravel@iu.edu) relations for insight into opportunities involving private funders.

“External Funding Opportunities” highlights

Pivot Database (pivot.cos.com)
- Search across federal, foundation, and other opportunities (international, corporate, state, local, etc.).
- Members of the IU community may access the database via the IU subscription. Please claim and update your profile.
- Note the red HELP button at the top right corner, which links to useful information.

Grants.gov Database (grants.gov)
- A website for federal agencies to post discretionary funding opportunities and for grantees to find and apply to them.

Foundation Directory Online (fdo.foundationcenter.org)
- A database of private philanthropic funders.
- Basic searches are available without subscription. Advanced searches require IU’s username and password; ask for access at the Wells Library or Business/SPEA Library reference desks, or from PDS.
- When logged in, scroll down to see the useful “Getting Started” section, or to the bottom for Help Contents.

Also in “Finding Funding”

OVPR and Other Internal Funding Opportunities
- IU offers multiple programs supporting faculty research activity.

Limited Submissions
- The university runs an internal selection process whenever an agency limits the number of proposals accepted from an institution.

Weekly Opportunity Emails
- Limited Submissions and Multidisciplinary Opportunities are sent weekly to subscribers.