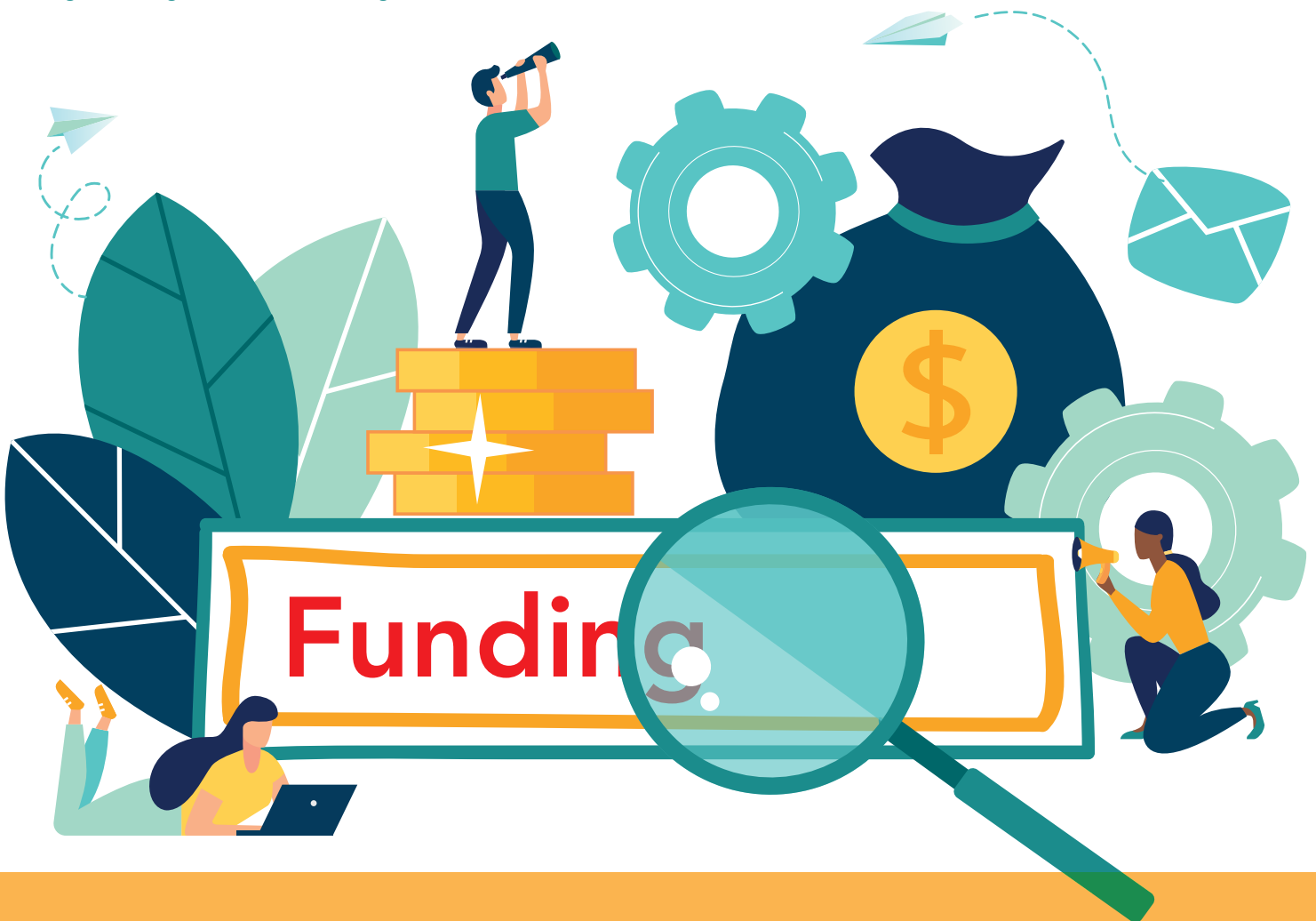INFOBASE INFO YOU CAN USE

Effective Grant Writing for Today's Educators

By Kelly M. Mathey

PART 2 Locating Collaborators & Finding Funding

Effective Grant Writing for Today's Educators

PART 2: LOCATING COLLABORATORS & FINDING FUNDING

When budgets are tight, grants can be an effective tool for funding supplemental educational resources. Taking the time to do the necessary research and planning will increase the odds of your grant being approved.

Assembling a good team to help shape your grant proposal makes the process easier.

The second part of our new three-part eBook series on winning grants will help you tackle two key steps in the process: locating collaborators and finding funding. Use these tips to help get the resources your school needs.

THE COMPLETE EBOOK SERIES

PART 1: General Grant Writing Suggestions

PART 2: Locating Collaborators and Finding Funding

PART 3: Writing an Effective Grant Proposal

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PART 2 — Locating Collaborators and Finding Funding

LOCATING COLLABORATORS

Consider who would make the best partner for you:

◆ **Teachers at your grade level** who will benefit from the resources you are interested in

◆ **Teachers above and below your grade level**—explain how the resources will improve learning gaps and ease transitions between grade levels

◆ **Department chairs**—having department chairs support and advocate for you reinforces that the proposed resources are approved by personnel who have the scope and sequence of the district's best practices in mind

◆ **District curriculum and instruction directors**

◆ **School librarians**

◆ **Public librarians**

◆ **Parents**

◆ **Students**

◆ **Special education teachers**—show how the resources you will acquire through this grant will benefit special education teachers by allowing them to use their time more effectively

DON'T GO IT ALONE!

To increase your grant competitiveness, it can be very effective to team up with others who may benefit from the resources you're trying to fund.

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FINDING FUNDING

Use these helpful tips to help jump-start your search for funds:

◆ **Many districts have their own foundation.** If your district has one, start there. This is an ideal situation because the money being given away is meant specifically for your district.

◆ **Collaborate with your school librarian AND your community's public librarian,** especially if your proposed resources meet the needs of a wide audience for both research and instruction. Consult with librarians to find organizations that will fund these types of resources.

Identify those who might benefit from the funding or who have a similar need.

◆ **Request money from the PTO/PTA.** First, get to know the members of your PTO/PTA board. Why are they serving? Who are their children? What do their children love about school? Talk to them about the amazing ideas you have and the ways they would benefit the students.

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!

Knowing where to look for funding can be tricky, but if you do your research, you'll be able to find foundations that are giving free money away.

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◆ **Ask your local Rotary Club**—Rotary Clubs are always looking for ways to help their communities. Offer to bring a few students to help you with your presentation. Local service clubs LOVE it when their youth are involved and invested in their education. This is also a great opportunity for parents, staff, and the community to get to hear about teachers and students collaborating together on their learning and infusing technology into it.

◆ **If you are willing to pay for it, FoundationSearch is the best way to find foundations that offer grants.** This comprehensive search engine allows searches to be narrowed by criteria such as due date, state, type of funding, names of foundations, websites, requirements, and addresses.

FOUNDATIONSearch

◆ **Work with your county education board**—explain what type of funding you are looking for and ask for help finding funders. You will be surprised at what may be available at your county level.

◆ **Work with your state education board**—use the resources available to talk to people, explain what you are looking for, and ask what resources would be available that align with your classroom needs.

BE SOCIAL!

Network and build relationships with educators who have successfully applied for grants or any other funding. Reach out to grant administrators to pick their brains and get advice.