

Grant Basics: Project Development and Ways to Fund Your Project

05/28/24

Q&A Report

Q. As I recall from the "Before the Grant" webinar, VLCT was preparing a model grant policy for towns to use - what is the status of that?

A. We're developing a model policy and procedures, which is proving more time consuming than anticipated and will need review from our Municipal Assistance Center attorneys. We hope to have the policy available in late June.

Q. Will every municipality get these advanced notifications for grants, or is there a list we should get on?

A. There isn't a single source for advance grant notifications.

- Grants from federal agencies are required to public advance notifications on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).
- You also can sign up for newsletters from state and federal agencies through their websites.
- VLCT publishes an list of [Upcoming Funding Opportunities](#) on its website. The list is updated ~quarterly.
- If you've identified a particular grant, you can monitor the grantor's their website and/or talk to their staff to ask about upcoming grants.

Q. How do you determine a reasonable amount to include for contingencies?

A. For construction projects, the person putting together the project budget (ex. engineer, project developer) should do that for you. Certain project types, such as transportation, may have a standard contingency amount listed in the grant guidance or available through the funder. You also can ask people in the industry what an appropriate contingency amount is. It usually is a percentage of total project cost. When you've consulted a proven source, it is helpful to document this in your grant application to demonstrate the number is reliable.

Q. As a 501c(3) museum can we go to you to see who we can go to for a grant to save a town historic building?

A. Unfortunately, no. VLCT serves its member municipalities. The Preservation Trust of Vermont often assists nonprofit organizations identify funding opportunities for historic structures.

Q. Where can I find the presentation slides?

A. On VLCT's website at <https://www.vlct.org/resources/grant-basics-recordings-and-resources>.

Q. When we registered for this webinar, did we register for all of the series?

A. No. You'll need to register for each webinar. Registration information is usually available 4-6 weeks in advance.