

The Funding System for SLPs

Grants and Foundations

In some industries, applying for a grant through a government agency, nonprofit organization, private sector, or foundation is just second nature. That IS how they move the needle in their careers.

Many researchers, scientists, doctors, nurses, and other professionals look to grants FIRST when wanting to embark on a new endeavor that requires substantial resources to fund their purpose.

The reality is that there are thousands of charitable foundations with trillions of dollars to give funds to.

These grants can be used to:

- Fund educational and training programs
- Build or renovate new spaces
- Purchase new equipment
- Assist in the start-up of a program
- Fund a particular project

There's an abundance of resources out there that desire to get in the hands of people who will be good stewards of it, and medical SLPs helping their patients communicate and swallow is probably pretty high on that list, so let's dive into it!



The Funding System for SLPs

Identifying your keywords

Once you dive into the world of “grants,” you might be overwhelmed by the sheer vastness, and that’s a great thing!

But first, let’s get dialed in on what terms you might search for:

How do you identify yourself in your career?

Once you begin your search, you might find grants for all identities - women, BIPOC, medical, health professionals, etc. The more precise you are in this area, the more options will open up!



The Funding System for SLPs

What population do you wish to serve?

Most grants are given to people who are doing work for specific populations. They may be very broad in terms of public health, the aging or disadvantaged populations, or they can be as detailed as dementia or multiple sclerosis.

Take some time to identify who your new education or program would benefit. It can be a vast population; that's A-OK; let's just get brainstorming all of the options.

Where do you live?

Many grants are based on geographic location. Your state and county may have specific grants for their population. Also, consider local chapters, such as your county's Center for Aging, that may be looking to serve your exact population.

Check out any large corporations with a massive presence in your community (i.e., Zappos in Las Vegas and Publix in Florida). They often have a large percentage of their profits that have to be re-invested in philanthropic efforts due to their tax status.

Also, investigate your local banks or credit unions. They often house the grants' bank accounts and may contribute to some through their charitable organizations. (Bank of America, JP Morgan, and Chase all have local philanthropic grant programs.)



The Funding System for SLPs

Let's get searching!

Now that you've gotten super clear on who you identify as and the populations in which your new training or programs will serve in the local community, it's time to start searching!

A simple Google search might turn up some great hits for you, but many funding search engines exist.

Some search engines require a monthly subscription, so watch for free trials. Also, many public or university libraries have subscriptions to these websites, so consider accessing them that way - or just ask your friend who always knows how to navigate the library system.

Where to look:

- [Foundation Directory Online](#)
- [Grants.gov](#)
- [GrantStation](#)
- [GuideStar](#)
- [Candid](#)
- [GrantGopher](#)
- [Instrumentl](#)
- [GrantWatch](#)
- [Foundant for Nonprofits](#)
- [FoundationSearch](#)



The Funding System for SLPs

Foundations:

While most people think of foundations as only giving monetary donations to nonprofit organizations, many are set up to provide grants for specific program-related investments that closely match the foundation's funding interests.

Private foundations are usually funded by a wealthy family or corporations. Usually, you will see their names on the wall in the hospital or your facility as their interests closely align with that organization. Private foundations must spend at least 5% of their investment assets on philanthropy yearly (so the money is there!)

Public foundations can be trickier to navigate. Still, they depend on the community members to provide them with ideas and organizations that they will then present to their donors. They might have a focus or list of interests your training or program aligns with.

Searching for foundations:

- On their website
 - [GrantSpace](#)
 - [Philanthropy News Digest](#)
 - [The Foundation Center](#)
- Through existing connections with foundation staff on LinkedIn
- At your local library
- Through YOUR organization (that guy's picture hanging on the wall!)



The Funding System for SLPs

Now take action...

What key words can you use to identify yourself:

What populations and conditions are you looking to serve? Think wide and narrow!

What local organizations or chapters are aligned with your purpose?

Who can you reach out to for the next steps in your search? (LinkedIn connections, your organization's philanthropic leaders, etc.)

