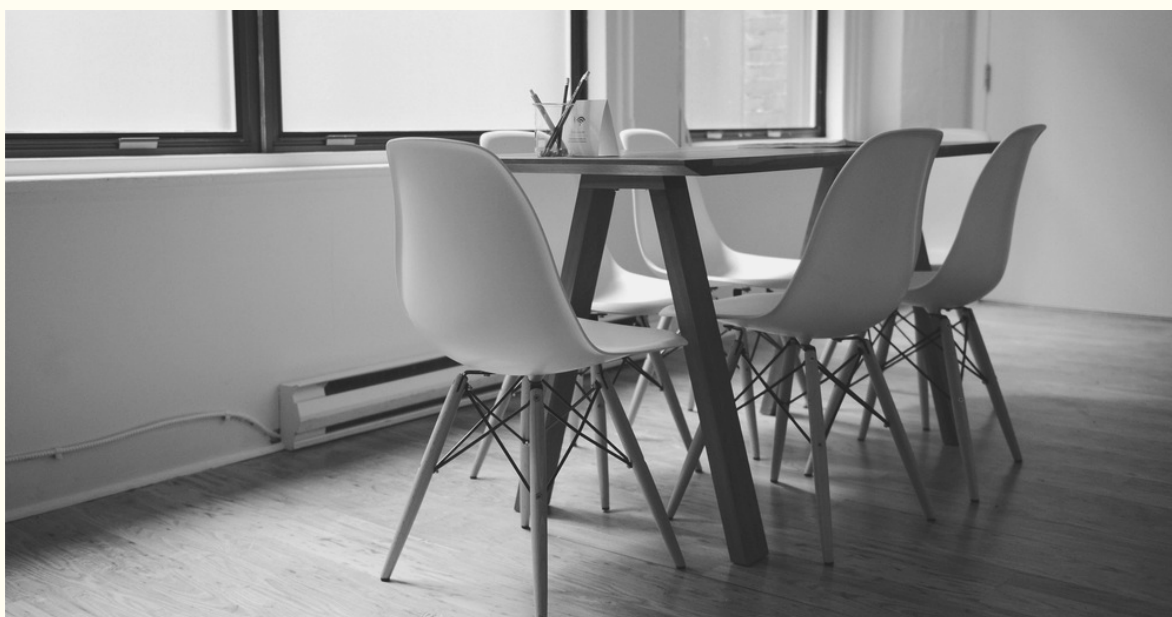


2019

Women-Owned Business GRANT GUIDE





Despite significant progress, the data connected to women and their access to capital during business formation and thereafter remains daunting. For example, per a 2016 US Department of Commerce report, there are substantial differences in financing utilized by women-owned versus men-owned businesses. The study also emphasizes that women tend to start their businesses with less capital than men. The report concludes by highlighting that when women do secure business loans, the terms tend to be less favorable.

Future Focus Consulting was founded to help small businesses grow and to create a pathway to entrepreneurship for individuals who have had limited exposure to free enterprise. Women are part of our niche market. As a result, many of the services and products we offer were developed to mitigate or eliminate common barriers women face to business ownership.

Our goal is for this guide to serve as a tool women can use to alleviate the sense of trepidation experienced when drafting a capital plan for business. We believe it will facilitate the funding of budding ideas and the realization of long deferred business dreams thereby unlocking the true power of women entrepreneurs.

Based on your decision to request this guide, I consider you to be a member of the Future Focus Consulting Family. That means I expect you to contact us with any questions that arise when reviewing its wealth of opportunities. You can also contact us if you need help drafting your grant applications and business plans as we can assist with framing your narrative in a manner that best resonates with potential funders.

Remember, excuses will not build your business; you getting to work will.

Thank-you, and best wishes!

CHAKA BLACKMAN
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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Yes, there are monies available to help women start or grow their businesses. This guide is a resource for women who are looking to access business grants and/or to participate in business idea pitching contests.

In all cases, the guidelines for each option are specific to the opportunity. All processes are competitive and require focus and preparation.

To facilitate a results-oriented approach, we structured this guide like a workbook. Feel free to print its pages out and write on them as you go about determining which opportunities are a good fit for your idea or your business.

You should note, this guide highlights opportunities that are only open to women, and it also provides a list of opportunities that are open to women and men. I strongly encourage you to apply to all prospects that potentially offer a good fit for your dream or business.

You will also notice, some opportunities target individuals and others can only be accessed through an existing legal business entity.

Lastly, you will find a significant amount of pertinent information for each opportunity in this guide. For example, detailed funder priorities including eligibility requirements, type of business, business stage, region served, and tentative deadlines are outlined. We also provide each funder's website..

It is highly recommended that once you narrow down your options, you spend time on the funder's website conducting additional research. This is because each funder provides a full summary of terms and conditions and will provide any updates to deadlines and eligibility by way of their website.

Remember, grants and pitching contests have cycles; therefore, if you missed the deadline this year, there will more than likely be a deadline around the same time next year.



GRANTS: FOR WOMEN & WOMEN- OWNED BUSINESSES



GIRL BOSS FOUNDATION

Website: <http://www.girlboss.com/foundation/>

About: The Girl Boss Foundation's (GBF) mission is to empower the next generation of entrepreneurs within the creative community. GBF fulfills its mission through distinctive grant programs and by providing women in the worlds of design, fashion, music, and the arts with financial endowments to achieve their goals.

Award Total: \$15,000

Deadline: Rolling

Eligibility Requirements: The Girl Boss Foundation awards grants to individuals in the worlds of design, fashion, music, and the arts.

Type of Business: N/A

Business Stage: N/A

Region: [x] National



BLACK WOMEN FOR BLACK GIRLS (BW4BG)

Website: www.bw4bg.org/grant-application

About: BLACK WOMEN FOR BLACK GIRLS (BW4BG) is a giving circle composed of Black women from the greater New York area that support organizations, causes, and initiatives that seek to enhance the lives of Black girls throughout the five boroughs.

Award Total: \$2,500

Deadline: Proposals must be submitted by March 18th, 2019

Eligibility Requirements: The grants issued by BW4BG are issued to programs and organizations that have demonstrated both the ability and the capacity to improve the lives of Black girls in the New York area. In addition, grant recipients must demonstrate that the programs for which they are being awarded funds for make a tangible impact on the BW4BG programmatic prongs.

Type of Business: ☐ For Profit ☐ Non Profit

Business Stage: ☐ Start-Up ☐ Existing

Region: ☐ Regional (NYC)



AMBER GRANT

Website: <https://ambergrantsforwomen.com/get-an-amber-grant/>

About: Amber Grants began in 1998. It was launched by Womens.net to honor the memory of a young woman (Amber) who died at the age of 19, unable to fulfill her entrepreneurial dreams. Today the Amber Grant helps women achieve the dreams of growing their businesses with the micro-grants program.

Award Total: Each month, one winner is selected for a \$2,000 grant award. All winners are then eligible to win a \$25,000 grant in December 2019.

Deadline: Applications are accepted every month

Eligibility Requirements: Women Entrepreneurs

Type of Business: ☒ Start-Up ☒ Existing

Business Stage: ☒ Start-Up ☒ Existing

Region: ☒ National



GRANTS: FOR SMALL BUSINESSES



THE AWESOME FOUNDATION

Website: <http://www.awesomefoundation.org>

About: The Awesome Foundation is a global community advancing the interest of awesome in the universe, \$1,000 at a time. Each fully autonomous chapter supports awesome projects through micro-grants, usually given out monthly. These micro-grants, are given on a no-strings-attached basis to people and groups working on awesome projects.

Award Total: \$1,000

Deadline: Applications are accepted every month

Eligibility Requirements: Individuals, groups, and organizations.

Type of Business: ☐ For Profit ☐ Non-Profit

Business Stage: ☐ Start-Up ☐ Existing businesses

Region: ☐ National



THE BURT WILLIAMS MEMORIAL VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS AWARD

Website: <http://go.streetshares.com/foundation/veteran-small-business-award>

About: The Streets Shares Foundation is committed to creating opportunities for veteran entrepreneurs. The grant program allows the foundation to boost veterans small businesses in a big way by providing opportunities for access to capital.

Award Total: 1st place \$25,000; 2nd place \$15,000; 3rd place \$10,000

Deadline: March 8th, 2019

Eligibility Requirements: Applicant must be a honorably discharged veteran, reserve or transitioning active duty member of any of the United States Armed Forces and also be a U.S. Citizen

Type of Business: ☒ For Profit ☒ Non-Profit

Business Stage: N/A

Region: ☒ National



FEDEX SMALL BUSINESS GRANT CONTEST

Website: <http://smallbusinessgrant.fedex.com/>

About: The FedEx Small Business Grant Contest is a grant program by FedEx to award ten small businesses with grants up to \$25,000 and up to \$7,500 in FedEx Office print and business services.

Award Total:

1 grant of \$25,000

1 grant of \$15,000

8 grants of \$7,500

Timeline: Enter by March 25th, 2019

Eligibility Requirements: The contest is only open to legal residents of the fifty (50) United States and who at the time of entry are independent owners/operators of a for profit small business.

Type of Business: ☒ For Profit

Business Stage: ☒ Start-Up

Region: ☒ National



PITCHING CONTESTS



WOMENS FOUNDATION NETWORK ANNUAL FAST PITCH COMPETITION

Website: <https://www.womenfoundersnetwork.com/>

About: Women Founders Network (WFN) is a virtual accelerator that connects women building high-growth businesses with the tools and resources needed to achieve business success.

Award Total: Up to \$45,000 in cash

Deadline: 2019 Fast Pitch applications are accepted from April 1, 2019-June 1, 2019.

Eligibility Requirements: Founder/CEO must be a woman or business must be majority-owned by a woman.

Type of Business: ☒ For Profit

Business Stage: Businesses must be beyond the idea stage and have generated revenue. (revenue and proof of concept)

Region: ☒ National