



JAMES J. HILL CENTER GUIDE TO FINDING FUNDERS

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INTRODUCTION

To take your small business to the next level, you may need to find a source of outside funding. This can come in the form of small business loans, grants, and venture capital funding.

The James J. Hill Center has the practical resources you need to find the appropriate funding for your small business. For further information and other sources, call our front desk at 651-265-5500, or email us at info@jjhill.org.

SMALL BUSINESS LOANS

Small business loans can be a good way to finance your small business. Loans will have varying interest rates and terms. Many banks offer small business loans, but one of the best ways to find them is by going through the Small Business Association.

U.S. Small Business Administration: Loans & Grants

<https://www.sba.gov/loans-grants/see-what-sba-offers/sba-loan-programs>

The SBA guarantees major portions of some loans made to small businesses, enabling its lending partners to provide financing when funding is otherwise unavailable on reasonable terms. This web site provides information on loan programs, forms, lending statistics, and various studies. Some information about grant programs is also provided.

SBA Loans: A Step-By-Step Guide

Book at the Hill Library; Small Business Resources HG4027.7.O43 2002

This book discusses the process of finding and applying for small business loans from the SBA.

GRANTS

Grants can help you find business funds that you don't need to pay back. There are several places to find reliable grant information.

Foundation Directory

Subscription database available at the Hill Library

The Foundation Directory can be used to search for grantmakers by field of interest, geographic locations served, type of support offered, and more. Grantmaker profiles tell you about the grantmaker's interests, giving history, and how to apply.

For more information on using the Foundation Directory, check out Guide to Using the Foundation Directory.

State of Minnesota Office of Grants Management

<http://www.grants.state.mn.us/public/>

Learn about all grants offered by the State of Minnesota, including application instructions and requirements.

How to Write a Grant Proposal

Book at the Hill Library; General HG177.N49 2003

This book will walk you step by step through the process of researching grants and writing effective grant proposals.

VENTURE CAPITAL FUNDING

PrivCo

Subscription database available at the Hill Library

PrivCo can be used to search for venture capital groups, angel investors, and other private market investors. Searches can be limited by field of interest, business stage, business size, and more. Investor profiles include contact information, investment interests, and investment history.

For more information on using PrivCo, check out our Guide to Using PrivCo.

U.S. Small Business Association: Directory of SBIC Licensees

<https://www.sba.gov/sbic/financing-your-small-business/directory-sbic-licensees>

The SBA's Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program works with private investment funds to provide growth capital to small businesses. The directory provides contact information needed to learn more about the SBIC Licensees in your state.

Raising Venture Capital for the Serious Entrepreneur

Book at the Hill Library; Small Business Resources HG4751.B468 2008

This book discusses all aspects of venture capital and how to make it work for your small business.

Questions?

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