

Sources of Capital for Economic Developers and Communities

This guide is meant to provide a broad overview of possible avenues to obtain capital for economic development projects. This is not an all-inclusive list.

Here is a list of some helpful organizations, websites, newsletters, and other resources to identify grant opportunities or get other funding ideas and information.

- [Economic Development Districts in Idaho](#) provide technical assistance in grant writing, grant administration and grant management
- [Grants.gov](#) has a learning center and provides a way to search for federal grants.
- *Show Me the Money* is an Idaho Commerce newsletter you can subscribe to [here](#)
- [Idaho Public Library Directory](#) is a great place to go for research assistance
- [Grant Writing 101](#) is a helpful handout from the Idaho Commission for Libraries
- Idaho Nonprofit Center has a [Grant Opportunities page](#)
- [Idaho Community Foundation](#) is a nonprofit, public foundation serving all 44 counties in Idaho.
- [Guidestar](#) is a database to find nonprofit reports and Forms 990 to identify donors and grant makers.
- The [EPA \(Environmental Protection Agency\)](#) has resources and publications designed to help communities plan for smart growth in small towns and rural communities.
- [Idaho Association of Counties](#)
- [Association of Idaho Cities](#)
- [Idaho Economic Development Association](#)
- [Idaho Rural Partnerships \(IRP\)](#)
- [Northwest Area Foundation](#)

Federal Programs

- [EDA \(Economic Development Administration\) Loans and Grants](#)
 - EDA's grant investments in planning, technical assistance, and infrastructure construction are designed to leverage existing regional assets to support the implementation of economic development strategies that make it easier for businesses to start and grow.
- [USDA Rural Development Program in Idaho](#)
 - Grant programs in Idaho include the following:
 - [Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program](#)
 - [Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program](#)
 - [Rural Energy for America Program - Renewable Energy](#)
 - Also referred to as REAP
 - [Value Added Producer Grants in Idaho](#)

State Programs

- The [Rural Economic Development Professionals Program](#) began in 2001 under the Idaho Rural Initiative. State funds are appropriated through a competitive grant process

to help rural areas employ fulltime economic development professionals to manage locally directed economic development programs alongside a board of directors.

- [Idaho CDBG \(Community Development Block Grants\)](#)
 - Local cities with a population of 50,000 or less may receive up to \$500,000 in grants to help finance public infrastructure improvements that support business development.
- [RCIF \(Rural Community Investment Fund\)](#)
 - Local cities with a population of 25,000 or less may receive up to \$350,000 in grants to help finance public infrastructure improvements that support business development and lead to job creation.
- [Gem Grants](#)
 - Local cities with a population of 10,000 or less may receive up to \$50,000 in grants to help finance public infrastructure improvements and remediate blight conditions that support business development.
 - Communities must provide a minimum 20% funds match of either cash or in-kind donation.
- [Industrial Revenue Bonds](#) (also known as Private Activity Bonds)
 - A financing program overseen by the Idaho Department of Commerce that offers low interest rates and longer terms to incent manufacturing businesses
 - These bonds can be used to finance manufacturing production, processing, and assembly facilities as well as a limited number of non-manufacturing facilities, subject to the volume cap, including solid waste disposal, income qualified multifamily housing, and other eligible activities
 - The interest earned by individuals from these municipal bonds are exempt from federal taxes and from State of Idaho income tax.
 - These bonds are not general obligations of the local government.
- [Idaho State Department of Agriculture \(ISDA\)](#) offers grants, loans, research opportunities, technical assistance programs, guides, and other resources to assist public and private organizations. The following webpages describe these opportunities in more detail.
 - [Domestic Marketing – Idaho State Department of Agriculture](#)
 - [International Services – Idaho State Department of Agriculture](#)
 - [Financial Assistance – Idaho State Department of Agriculture](#)
 - [Marketing Publications and Resources – Idaho State Department of Agriculture](#)
- [Program Funding | Idaho Transportation Department](#)
- [Idaho Department of Transportation \(ITD\)](#) provides information about funding, projects in the planning/design/construction phases, and other resources, including:
 - Local Highway Technical Assistance Council ([LHTAC](#)) provides resources and training for maintenance and construction of Idaho’s local highway system
- [Idaho Broadband Grants](#)
 - Funds are appropriated by the legislature for financial assistance of broadband infrastructure in Idaho to promote equal access in economic development, public

safety, telehealth, and education.

- Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation provides a variety of funding programs and grants to government entities in Idaho for the provision of equipment and for the creation and renovation of outdoor recreational facilities. [Grants and Funding | Department of Parks and Recreation \(idaho.gov\)](#)

- [Wildriders Grant Program](#)
 - These funds can be used for the following purposes:
 - To promote whitewater river tourism within Idaho
 - To promote, encourage, or ensure safe use of Idaho’s whitewater rivers
 - To improve user facilities or access to whitewater rivers
 - To help clean up litter or promote good conservation practices by river users
- [Idaho Travel Council \(ITC\) Grants](#)
 - The awards provide funds to local nonprofit organizations whose primary purpose is to promote the state’s travel and tourism assets.
- Idaho’s State Historic Preservation Office has these resources to know about:
 - [Certified Local Government \(CLG\) Grant Program](#)
- The [Idaho Department of Commerce](#) is a resource to find out about economic development incentives.
 - Idaho’s Opportunity Fund may be a consideration when all other funding avenues tried are not applicable.
 - This is a “deal closing fund” at the discretion of the Director of Idaho Commerce to strengthen Idaho’s competitive ability to support expansion of existing Idaho businesses and recruit new companies to the state.
 - Funds can be used for public infrastructure improvements to a new or existing facility.

Utility Companies with Community Investment Programs

- [Idaho Power](#)
- [Avista](#)
- [Rocky Mountain Power](#)