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**Funding Guide**

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Securing sustainable funding is a critical step in supporting the basic needs and

academic success of STEM students on your campus. This funding guide is designed

to help you brainstorm, identify, and pursue a diverse range of funding opportunities,

from institutional and federal grants to corporate and philanthropic contributions.

Whether you are launching new initiatives or strengthening existing programs, this

guide provides practical tools and strategies to align funding opportunities with

your campus goals, guide your conversations with colleagues, and help you make

strategic decisions. This resource is yours to edit, adapt, and expand to best fit your

needs.

## Compendium of Funding Opportunities

**Background/Context:** The following list of possible funding sources was adapted in part from EAB’s compendium of funding opportunities from their [“Addressing College Students’ Basic Needs: Food and Housing Insecurity on Campus”](https://attachment.eab.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/26713A3A77EB4D48B10871016E879575-1.pdf) Implementation Toolkit.

**Instructions:** Use the table below to help brainstorm about funding options for your basic needs and STEM student support work.

**Tips:** Think about your funding portfolio as a whole and what combinations of funding sources can support long-term sustainability. It is unlikely that a single funding source will meet all of your needs. Nor is it likely that any given funding source is guaranteed to be available at consistent (let alone growing) levels long-term.

**Adapted from the toolkit:** Tool #7 Compendium of Funding Opportunities

**Purpose of the Tool:** As campus resources are increasingly limited, funding presents a significant barrier to expanding support for students’ basic needs and academic success. Use the compendium of funding opportunities below and subsequent discussion questions to identify the best-fit options for your campus and guide your conversations with colleagues.

**Step 1:** **Brainstorm Possible Funding Opportunities.**

* Below is a list of possible funding opportunities for basic needs and other student supports. Each opportunity has a link to an example or funder webpage.
* On the right, rate your institution’s level of feasibility and interest for each opportunity.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Funding Opportunity** | **We are already doing this** | **We should prioritize this idea now** | **We should explore this in the future** | **Not a good fit at this time** |
| **Institutional funding sources** | | | | |
| [Alumni donations](https://news.oregonstate.edu/news/oregon-state-alumnus-makes-gift-student-basic-needs-challenges-community-join-him) |  |  |  |  |
| [Annual fund designation](https://mtsacfoundation.org/donation-pages/basic-needs-fund) |  |  |  |  |
| [Class gift campaign](https://www.psu.edu/news/development-and-alumni-relations/story/class-2024-votes-establish-upua-basic-needs-endowment) |  |  |  |  |
| [Donation boxes across campus](https://csusignal.com/8061/news/socialjustice/students-and-staff-band-together-against-hunger-and-homelessness-crises/) |  |  |  |  |
| [Faculty and/or staff contributions](https://www.smsu.edu/resources/webspaces/campuslife/civicengagement/mustang_market/payroll-authorization_food-pantry.pdf) |  |  |  |  |
| [Foundation grants](https://sites.rowan.edu/deanofstudents/forms/emergencyfunds.html) |  |  |  |  |
| [Fraternity or sorority philanthropy partnership](https://myfraternitylife.org/2019/11/11/pi-kappa-phi-9/) |  |  |  |  |
| [Institutional budget allocation](https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/about-the-csu/budget/Documents/fy-budget-coded-memos/B_2022-03_Final_Budget_Allocations_Memo.pdf) |  |  |  |  |
| [Student fees](https://caas.usu.edu/ndfs/snac/snac_student_fee) |  |  |  |  |
| [Work-study funds](https://careers.insidehighered.com/job/3309364/food-pantry-worker-federal-work-study/) |  |  |  |  |
| Other: |  |  |  |  |
| **Federal funding sources for STEM supports** | | | | |
| [National Science Foundation (NSF)](https://www.nsf.gov/focus-areas/broadening-participation-stem/portfolio) |  |  |  |  |
| [National Institutes of Health (NIH)](https://researchtraining.nih.gov/career/undergraduate) |  |  |  |  |
| [Institute of Education Sciences (IES)](https://ies.ed.gov/about/national-center-education-research-ncer) |  |  |  |  |
| **State and federal funding sources for basic needs supports** | | | | |
| [Basic Needs for Postsecondary Student Program (Basic Needs Grants)](https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/grants-higher-education-institutions/improvement-of-postsecondary-education/basic-needs-postsecondary-students-program) |  |  |  |  |
| [Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) Program](https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/grants-special-populations/economically-disadvantaged-students/child-care-access-means-parents-in-school-program) |  |  |  |  |
| [Congressionally Directed Spending and Community Projects (Earmarks)](https://abc7.com/southwest-college-recieves-funds-funding-student-programs-maxine-waters-gives-money/11677709/) |  |  |  |  |
| [Garrett Lee Smith (GLS) Campus Suicide Prevention Grant](https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/sm-24-004) |  |  |  |  |
| [Hunger-Free Campus Grant](https://www.swipehunger.org/hungerfree/) |  |  |  |  |
| [Postsecondary Student Success Program](https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/grants-higher-education/improvement-postsecondary-education/postsecondary-student-success-program) |  |  |  |  |
| Other: |  |  |  |  |
| **Nonprofit and community funding sources** | | | | |
| [Community donations](https://www.evergreen.edu/academics/centers-institutes/community-based-learning/basic-needs-center/donate) |  |  |  |  |
| [Corporate donations](https://www.aramark.com/newsroom/news/2023/october/working-to-ease-food-insecurity-on-campus) |  |  |  |  |
| [Day of Giving](https://givingday.pointpark.edu/giving-day/94261/department/94272) |  |  |  |  |
| [Matching campaign](https://www.stcloudstate.edu/advancement/make-a-gift/matching.aspx) |  |  |  |  |
| [Matching funding for staff salary from a government agency or community partner](https://hope.temple.edu/newsroom/hope-blog/spotlight-how-grand-rapids-community-college-investing-student-basic-needs-security) |  |  |  |  |
| Other: |  |  |  |  |

**Step 2:** **Develop a Plan.** Which sources can fund which needs?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Funding Opportunity** | **What could it fund?**  (e.g., general operating budget, specific programs/initiatives, staff effort, supplies, gift cards/items/grants distributed to students) |
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**Step 3:** **Discuss Immediate Priorities with Key Campus Partners.** Colleagues in the development office will be important partners in this work. Use the questions below to guide your discussion with senior leaders, development officers, and other key partners.

* Are we working with any foundations or corporations in the area that we could engage for gifts, grants, or in-kind donations?
* Would any top campus leaders (e.g., president, board member) be interested in taking on this cause to raise awareness and promote giving?
* Are we aware of any major donors whose interests would closely align with basic needs support?
* Could we add basic needs as a cause into existing efforts or plans (e.g., Giving Day, employee fund drive)?
* How else might we work together to advance basic needs support on our campus?

**Step 4:** **Develop collateral.** As you pursue new avenues of funding to support your students, it is helpful to have brief proposal documents on hand that you can share with administration and leaders on your campus, foundation, and alumni office contacts, and the funders themselves. On the next page, there is a template for this type of document.

## Project Description Template

*Although every fundraising document is a little different, depending on the project and audience, below are some all-purpose categories of information you will likely include.*

**Title**

*(Descriptive title that reflects the topic and purpose of the project)*

**Purpose:**

*(2-3 sentences that very briefly describe the purpose)*

**Context and Rationale:**

*(Provide 1 - 2 succinct paragraphs that situate the problem—in the literature, in current practice, etc.—and identify the gap that we intend to fill through the research, service, program, new hire, infrastructure, etc.)*

*\*\*This is a great place for displaying data you’ve collected, student quotes, etc. \*\**

**Description of the Project/Program/Study:**

*(Briefly outline what we will do. If it is research can be a brief description of the methods, a list of proposed activities/deliverables, etc. If it is a project/program, a list of the components and how they fit the needs of the students/institution.*

**Timeline:**

*(Briefly describe the overall timeframe for the study/project. Dates/number of years)*

**Impact:**

*(What will be different when we finish? What will we have learned, what will we share? With which constituencies? Why/how does this help students, advance the field, and/or move the needle on student success and institutional transformation?)*

*\*\*This is a great place for a theory of change or process model\*\**

**Projected Costs:**

*(Overall project cost [total] and some brief categories [personnel, travel, software, consultants, etc.]. Depending on the audience, you might want to provide a few different scopes—larger and smaller budget options that would be more/less ambitious toward your ultimate goal.)*

**Personnel on the Project:**

*(Short list of the key players with their names, title, and 1 - 2 sentences about their role and expertise for this.)*

\*\*This is where you brag about how awesome you are, in a low-key, very humble way, of course\*\*

**About Your Institution:**

*(Depending on the project and audience, this might highlight your infrastructure, student populations, leadership, etc.)*

\*\*This is another place where you brag about how awesome you are, in a low-key, very humble way, of course\*\*

**Contact Information:**

*(The PI or Lead for this proposed project should list their contact information here, as well as anyone at the institution who would need to be directly involved in receiving funds – e.g., institutional advancement or business office.)*

*It’s worth your time to make the document professional and a little pretty – use institutional/department stationary; include your logo and a bit of color; adding a picture or two is nice.*

**Suggested Citation**

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**About the INTuitN-STEM Hub**

With support from the [National Science Foundation](https://nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=2137824&HistoricalAwards=false) (NSF), the INTuitN-STEM Hub (Investigating Non-Tuition Needs among community college STEM students) **(a) conducts collaborative research with S-STEM programs to understand and address basic needs insecurity and student access to non-tuition supports and resources and (b) creates a broader community of institutions interested in building knowledge around supporting students’ basic needs. Join our community by emailing us at** [hopestem@temple.edu](mailto:hopestem@temple.edu?subject=Please%20add%20me%20to%20your%20listserv)**.**

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