

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The Executive Office for Weed and Seed (EOWS) has prepared this guide to help implement the Weed and Seed strategy in your community. It is organized by topical keyword within each of the elements of the strategy:

*Law Enforcement/Community Policing;
Prevention, Intervention and Treatment;
Neighborhood Revitalization*

The keywords cover many activities within a Weed and Seed community—from *after-school* to *volunteer services*—and are linked to websites with further details. EOWS will also post this guide on our website so that you can link to the listed website resources.

Many federal programs distribute formula grants to states, which then make funding available for local needs. Other programs make discretionary grants available directly to communities or eligible applicants. Federal agencies can also make technical assistance, training, research or evaluation information available to communities. This guide, while not exhaustive, will assist you in learning about federal programs and funding sources that can serve as a resource in implementing the Weed and Seed strategy. Be sure to visit the agency's website to check for updated information about any of the program's listed in this guide. An excellent website for consumers or businesses looking for a range of information about government, including funding sources, can be found at <http://www.firstgov.gov/>

If you are a faith-based or community-based organization you may also want to visit the Department of Justice's Task Force on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives for general guidance on applying for federal programs: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/faithbased/apply.html> The on-line tutorial at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/seahome/grants.html> may also assist you in your efforts to apply for federal programs.

The federal budget year runs from October 1st to September 30th. Federal agencies generally make announcements about upcoming grants or programs through the Federal Register, which is published daily. See http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html#frbrowse for more information. The Federal Register is an important source of information about federal government activities. To subscribe to the Federal Register Table of Contents LISTSERV electronic mailing list, go to <http://listserv.access.gpo.gov/> and follow instructions.

When the federal budget is finalized, agencies make funds available for grants. This generally begins in January, with deadlines through Spring and Summer until the next federal fiscal year begins.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance is a regularly updated publication that contains information about federally funded, or sponsored programs, benefits, grants, or business opportunities. This is a good resource to learn more about programs you are interested in, including projected grant funding in the next fiscal year. See <http://www.cfda.gov/>.

Finally, it is a good idea to periodically visit the websites of individual federal agencies for up-to-date grant announcements, guidelines, solicitations and instructions for submitting a proposal, and contact information.

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