

The Federal Grant Fit Guide

One of the first steps to success in accessing federal grant dollars is applying for the right grant opportunity. The Federal Grant Fit Guide is a tool to support entities in strategically selecting federal grant opportunities that align with their needs, goals, resources and capacity. You can use the questions in this document to help guide the review a federal Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for strategic alignment before dedicating resources to the application process.

Before you begin, review all minimum requirements in the NOFO.

Confirm that your organization meets the minimum requirements outlined in the NOFO before reviewing for strategic alignment. You can reference our guide for [Navigating a NOFO](#) if you are unsure where to start. Below are some examples of minimum requirements you should look for:

- Is your organization type listed as an eligible entity?
- Is there a cost-sharing or match requirement? If yes, does your organization have the funds to meet the required amount?
- Does the grant require a partnership with other entities? If yes, is your organization already connected to the entity(s)?
- Does the application require a Letter of Intent (LOI) or pre-application? If yes, can you meet the deadline for the required documents?

Guiding Questions

Goal Alignment

- How does the grant align to your organization's strategic plan, mission/vision or statutory authority?
- Will the funding from this grant adequately support the needs of the project and/or beneficiaries?
- Does the scale and scope of your project or program align with the intended scale and scope of the funding opportunity?

Capacity and Resources Alignment

- Does your organization have sufficient resources to coordinate the planning, development, and submission of a competitive application? (See the [Federal Funding Application and Management Readiness Guide](#))
- Does your organization have sufficient resources and expertise to implement the project or program, as well as manage federal grant reporting throughout the lifetime of the grant? ([See the Federal Funding Application and Management Readiness Guide](#))

- Will the project or program, if funded, require capacity or financial support for additional areas of your organization (e.g. HR, Finance, Communications) and is the capacity/support feasible?
- Will your project or program require your organization to commit to ongoing funding beyond the lifetime of the grant? How will the project or program be sustained when the grant ends?

Contextual Alignment

- What other factors could impact the ability of your organization to implement the award (e.g. leadership transition, vacant positions, budget changes)?
- What makes your organization's project or program positioned to be competitive for this federal grant (e.g. previous success, funding scope, alignment with federal priorities, etc.)?