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SUSTAINING THE INDUSTRIAL **WORKFORCE PIPELINE**

A Funding Source Guide of Education, Training,
and Workforce Funding Opportunities

DRIVING RESULTS TODAY, BUILDING THE PIPELINE FOR TOMORROW

Sustaining a strong industrial workforce pipeline requires intentional investment in education and training. This guide highlights education, training, and workforce funding opportunities relevant to schools, educators, and education partners, and includes practical tips and strategies to support successful planning, applications, and implementation.

STRATEGY	DESCRIPTION
Use Specific Keywords	Start with broad keywords and then narrow your search with more specific terms. For example, “Manufacturing” > “Advanced Manufacturing” > “Additive Manufacturing” or “Digital Twin”
Filter Your Search	Use the filtering options on grants.gov to narrow down opportunities by agency, category, and eligibility. For example, you could filter for grants specifically from the Department of Defense.
Check Opportunity Status	You can search for both “forecasted” and “posted” opportunities to see what’s currently available and what’s coming up.
Explore Agency Websites	Many federal agencies, such as the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Maritime Administration (MARAD), have their own grants pages with additional information.
Use State-Specific Search Portals	To find them, search for “Your State” grant portal or “Your State” funding opportunities. For example, “Virginia Grant Portal.”
Look for “Matching Fund” Opportunities	To find them, search for “Your State” federal grant match program. For example, “Virginia Federal Grant Match Program.” If you’ve already identified a federal grant you want to pursue, securing a state matching grant can make your federal application much more competitive.

IDENTIFY THE RIGHT STATE AGENCIES

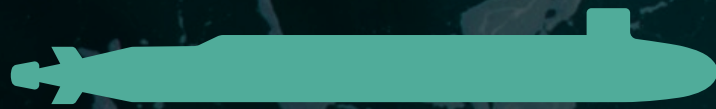
AGENCY NAME	WHAT THEY FUND
Economic Development Corporation/Agency	Business expansion, job creation, technology commercialization, capital investments. This is often the primary source for business grants.
Department of Commerce/Business	Similar to economic development, but may also have specific programs for industry sectors, exports, and innovation.
Department of Labor/Workforce Development	Training programs, apprenticeships, incumbent worker training, and certifications. Excellent for grants to upskill your employees.
State-Level DOT or Port Authority	Specific to maritime and logistics, these agencies fund port infrastructure, freight mobility, and waterway improvements.
Environmental Protection/Energy Office	Grants for green manufacturing, energy efficiency upgrades, emissions reduction, and coastal resilience projects.



SOURCE / GRANT TITLE	DESCRIPTION	BEST FOR	LINK
Grants.gov	Central clearinghouse for all federal grant opportunities across education, workforce, manufacturing, defense, rural, and infrastructure sectors.	K-12, CC, Employer, Supplier	https://www.grants.gov
National Science Foundation (NSF)	Competitive research, education, STEM, and technician-level workforce grants.	K-12, CC, Employer	https://www.nsf.gov/funding/
U.S. Department of Education	Official list of current and upcoming competitive federal education grants.	K-12, CC	https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/apply-grant/available-grants
ED Grants & Programs Overview	K-12, postsecondary, teacher preparation, special populations, research, and formula grants.	K-12, CC	https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs
Perkins V – Career & Technical Education	Formula funding supporting secondary and postsecondary CTE programs, equipment, curriculum, and instructor development.	K-12, CC	https://cte.ed.gov/legislation/perkins-v
Employment and Training Administration (DOL-ETA)	Primary source of federal workforce development funding, including training, apprenticeships, and sector partnerships.	CC, Employer, Supplier	https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/grants
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)	Supports regional workforce systems, sector partnerships, and training providers; used for credentials and employer-driven pipelines.	CC, Employer, Supplier	https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/wioa
Youth Build	Workforce training and education credentials for opportunity youth (ages 16–24).	CC, Employer	https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/youthbuild
State Workforce Agencies	State administrators of WIOA and related workforce programs.	CC, Employer, Supplier	https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/wotc/contact/state-workforce-agencies
Registered Apprenticeship	National system supporting employer-driven, earn-and-learn Registered Apprenticeships.	Employer, Supplier	https://www.apprenticeship.gov

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State Apprenticeship Offices	State and federal apprenticeship agency contacts.	Employer, CC, Supplier	https://www.apprenticeship.gov/about-us/state-offices
Reentry Employment Opportunities (REO)	Workforce pathways for justice-involved individuals through employer partnerships.	Employer, CC	https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/reentry
Economic Development Administration (EDA)	Regional economic development funding supporting manufacturing growth, supply-chain resilience, and workforce pipelines.	Supplier, Employer, CC	https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities
United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Workforce Programs	Workforce and training funding tied to rural manufacturing, infrastructure, and community facilities.	Supplier, Employer, CC	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services
Lumina Foundation	Focuses on postsecondary attainment, credentials, workforce-aligned education, and community college transformation.	CC, State Systems	https://www.luminafoundation.org
Gates Foundation	Funds postsecondary innovation, credentialing, career pathways, and equity-focused education initiatives.	CC, K-12 Systems	https://www.gatesfoundation.org/about/how-we-work/grant-opportunities
Kresge Foundation	Workforce development, community colleges, employer partnerships, and place-based economic mobility.	CC, Employer	https://kresge.org/grants-social-investments/
Ford Foundation	Supports workforce equity, access to quality jobs, and systems-level education reform.	CC, Nonprofit	https://www.fordfoundation.org/work/our-grants/
Lockheed Martin – STEM & Workforce Grants	Defense-aligned STEM, technician pipelines, and education partnerships.	K-12, CC, Supplier	https://www.lockheedmartin.com/en-us/who-we-are/communities/stem-education.html
Boeing – Global Engagement & Workforce Grants	Manufacturing, aerospace, skilled trades, and educator development funding.	K-12, CC, Employer	https://www.boeing.com/company/community-engagement#accordion-f045d9a6a7-item-3a46601c0f

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SME Education Foundation	Grants for manufacturing education, equipment, teacher training, and student outreach.	K-12, CC	https://www.smeef.org
National Tooling and Machining Association – Education Foundation	Supports precision manufacturing education and employer-school partnerships.	CC, Employer	https://ntma.org/about/foundation/
Gene Haas Foundation	Funds manufacturing and CNC machining education through scholarships, instructor training, equipment, student competitions, and school-based labs. Strong emphasis on hands-on technical skills and employer-aligned programs.	High schools, CTE centers, community colleges, machining programs	https://www.ghaasfoundation.org/
PMI Educational Foundation	Supports youth and nonprofit organizations by integrating project management skills into education and workforce readiness programs; offers grants, curricula, and capacity-building support.	K-12 programs, nonprofits, career readiness initiatives	https://www.pmi.org/pmi-educational-foundation
Lowes Foundation	Through Gable Grants, they invest in skilled trades training with a focus on recruiting, training, and placing job-ready workers.	Community colleges, workforce nonprofits, skilled-trades training providers	https://www.lowesfoundation.org/gable-grants
Northrop Grumman Foundation	Strategic giving focused on STEM education, workforce development, and national security-aligned talent pipelines; often includes matching gifts and long-term partnerships.	STEM nonprofits, higher education, defense-adjacent workforce programs	https://www.northropgrumman.com/corporate-responsibility/corporate-citizenship/northrop-grumman-foundation
SparkForce (FMA Foundation)	Builds early awareness of manufacturing careers through camps, classroom grants, scholarships, and educator support—especially hands-on exposure for middle and high school students.	Middle schools, high schools, educators, youth camps	https://www.fmamfg.org/foundation
Airgas Gives	Community giving tied to industrial safety, skilled trades, veterans, and local workforce needs; support is often regional and aligned with employee engagement.	Local schools, workforce partners, veterans programs, safety training	https://www.airgas.com/sustainability-corporate-responsibility



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