The Federal Funding Agencies

US Agency for International Development (USAID)

- Partners to end extreme poverty and to promote resilient, democratic societies while advancing our security and prosperity. Poverty requires an approach to address hunger and food insecurity, illiteracy and innumeracy, ill-health, dis-empowerment, marginalization, and vulnerability.
- Rather than impose, we seek to empower and support through collaboration. We work hand-in-hand with those we seek to assist as well as others striving to support the most vulnerable. Nations and communities must increasingly be able to meet the needs of their citizens whether by providing health care, education, or economic opportunity.
- The United States is safer and stronger when fewer people face destitution, when our trading partners are flourishing, when nations around the world can withstand crisis, and when societies are freer, more democratic, and more inclusive, protecting the basic rights and human dignity of all citizens.
- Core values: passion for mission, excellence, integrity, respect, empowerment, inclusion, commitment to learning
- Assisting more than 80 countries worldwide
- USAID regularly collaborates with host countries, beneficiaries, U.S. government agencies, international donors, and implementing partners to ensure that we effectively address development needs in the countries where they work

Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)

- Different programs include: Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, Social Innovation Fund, Volunteer Generation Fund, and United We Serve. They have a “Fit Finder” on their website to see which best suits you and your project
- The mission of CNCS is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering
- Focus areas: disaster services, economic opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, and veterans and military families
- The nation’s largest grant-maker for service and volunteering
- Provides grants to national and local nonprofits, schools, government agencies, faith-based and other community organizations and other groups committed to strengthening their communities through volunteering
- Grants are either made directly to an organization or through an intermediary group that handles the distribution of grant funding. Eligibility requirements and funding opportunities vary by program

US Department of Agriculture

- Provides leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on sound public policy, the best available science, and efficient management
- USDA’s vision is to expand economic opportunity through innovation, helping rural America to thrive; to promote agriculture production sustainability that better nourishes Americans while also helping feed others throughout the world; and to preserve and conserve our Nation’s natural resources through restored forests, improved watersheds, and healthy private working lands
- Main areas of focus: farm and foreign agricultural services; food, nutrition and consumer services; food safety; marketing and regulatory programs; natural resources and environment; research, education and economics; and rural development
- 17 agencies, including the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and 18 offices, including the Office of the Chief Economist, that each have a different focus
- Offer grants, loans, as well as insurance

US Department of Commerce

- Promotes job creation, economic growth, sustainable development and improved standards of living for all Americans by working in partnership with businesses, universities, communities and our nation’s workers
- Has responsibilities in the areas of trade, economic development, technology, entrepreneurship and business development, environmental stewardship, and statistical research and analysis
- Made up of 13 offices, and 12 bureaus
- 5 of these bureaus give out grants: Economic Development Administration (EDA), International Trade Administration (ITA), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), and the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- The Department’s workforce is as diverse as its mission. It is made up of economists, Nobel winning scientists, foreign service officers, patent attorneys, law enforcement officers, and specialists in everything from international trade to aerospace engineering

**US Department of Defense**
- DOD’s mission is to provide the military forces needed to deter war and to protect the security of our country
- It is America’s oldest and largest government agency, and the nation’s largest employer
- Made up of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and the Guard and Reserve
- Seven priorities: Autonomy, Counter Weapons of Mass Destruction, Cyber Sciences, Data-to-Decisions, Electronic Warfare, Engineered Resilient Systems, and Human Systems
- High priority basic research topics are metamaterials and plasmonics, quantum information science, cognitive neuroscience, nanoscience and nanoengineering, synthetic biology, and computational modeling of human and social behavior
- 9 main offices that give grants are the Army Research office (ARO), Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR), Office of Naval Research (ONR), Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), Chemical Biological Defense Program (CBDP), Office Secretary of Defense (OSD), Defense Medical Research and Development Program (DMRDP), and the Congressional Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP)

**US Department of Education**
- ED’s mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access
- Dedicated to establishing policies on federal financial aid for education, and distributing as well as monitoring those funds; collecting data on America’s schools and disseminating research; focusing national attention on key educational issues; and prohibiting discrimination and ensuring equal access to education.
- Offer 3 different types of grants: discretionary (awarded using competitive process), student loans and grants (to help students attend college), and formula grants (uses formulas determined by Congress and has no application process)

**US Department of Energy**
- DOE’s mission is to ensure America’s security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental, and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions
- Main focuses include energy, science and innovation, nuclear safety and security, and management and operational excellence
- 10 program offices, including Office of Science, which houses the Office of Grants and Contracts Support
- Early Career Research Program - supports the development of individual research programs of outstanding scientists early in their careers and stimulates research careers in the disciplines supported by the DOE Office of Science.
- Program areas: Advanced Scientific Computing Research, Biological and Environmental Research, Basic Energy Sciences, Fusion Energy Sciences, High Energy Physics, and Nuclear Physics

**US Department of Health and Human Services**
- HHS is the US government’s principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves
- Their mission is to enhance the health and well-being of Americans by providing for effective health and human services and by fostering sound, sustained advances in the sciences underlying medicine, public health, and social services
- Has 27 agencies and offices including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration
Updates its Strategic Plan every 4 years. This period’s goals (2014-2018) are to strengthen health care; advance scientific knowledge and innovation; advance the health, safety and well-being of the American people; and to ensure efficiency, transparency, accountability and effectiveness of HHS programs

National Institutes of Health
- One of the 27 agencies under the Department of Health and Human Services
- NIH itself has 27 institutes and centers that all have a different medical focus (National Cancer Institute, National Institute of Mental Health...)
- Their mission is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability
- The goals are to foster fundamental creative discoveries, innovative research strategies, and their applications as a basis for ultimately protecting and improving health; to develop, maintain, and renew scientific human and physical resources that will ensure the Nation’s capability to prevent disease; to expand the knowledge base in medical and associated sciences in order to enhance the Nation's economic well-being and ensure a continued high return on the public investment in research; and to exemplify and promote the highest level of scientific integrity, public accountability, and social responsibility in the conduct of science
- Gave $26.1 billion to research in FY2016; the largest public funder of biomedical research in the world
- All grants labeled with “activity codes” that indicate what type of activity will be conducted under each grant
- Three main activity codes are T, K, and R which are a succession of grants
  - T series – Research Training Programs
  - K series – Career Development Awards
  - R series – Research Projects

US Department of Homeland Security
- Its purpose is to secure the nation from the many threats it faces
- Their five missions are to prevent terrorism and enhance security; secure and manage the country’s borders; enforce and administer the country’s immigration laws; safeguard and secure cyberspace; and to ensure resilience to disasters
- Made up of 16 offices and bureaus including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the United States Secret Service
- DHS distributes grant funds to enhance the ability of regional authorities to prepare, prevent and respond to terrorist attacks and other disasters. Localities use grants for planning, equipment, training and exercise needs
- Most DHS non-disaster grant programs are designated for state and local governments and specific entities such as colleges
- The Department’s Science and Technology Directorate invests in scientific research leading to the development of new and innovative technologies

US Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Their mission to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD works to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; and to build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination
- Their vision includes building a stronger department; helping families and individuals secure quality housing; ending homelessness; strengthening all communities in this century of cities; leveling the playing field for Americans from all walks of life; and addressing climate change and natural disasters

US Department of the Interior
- DOI uses sound science to manage and sustain America’s lands, water, wildlife, and energy resources
- It manages the Nation’s natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities
- Made up of 9 bureaus including the National Park Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Department of Justice
- DOJ’s mission is to enforce the law and defend the interests of the United States according to the law; to ensure public safety against threats foreign and domestic; to provide federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime; to seek just punishment for those guilty of unlawful behavior; and to ensure fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans
- The world’s largest law office and the chief enforcer of federal laws
- 42 separate components with 60 different offices and bureaus including the FBI, ATF, and the United States Attorneys
- DOJ offers grants to support law enforcement and public safety activities in state, local, and tribal jurisdictions; to assist victims of crime; to provide training and technical assistance; to conduct research; and to implement programs that improve the criminal, civil, and juvenile justice systems
- The three main DOJ grant agencies are The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) which contains 6 bureaus and program offices, and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)

US Department of Labor
- DOL’s mission is to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers, and retirees of the US; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights
- 28 bureaus and offices including the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

US Department of State
- DOS’ mission is to shape and sustain a peaceful, prosperous, just, and democratic world and foster conditions for stability and progress for the benefit of the American people and people everywhere
- Their mission is shared with USAID, ensuring we have a common path forward in partnership as we invest in the shared security and prosperity that will ultimately better prepare us for the challenges of tomorrow
- Promotes and protects the interests of US citizens by promoting peace and stability in regions of vital interest; creating jobs at home by opening markets abroad; helping developing nations establish investment and export opportunities; and bringing nations together and forging partnerships to address global problems
- Over 60 bureaus and offices including the Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism

US Department of Transportation
- DOT’s mission is to serve the US by ensuring a fast, safe, efficient, accessible and convenient transportation system that meets our vital national interests and enhances the quality of life of the American people, today and into the future
- Their top priorities are to keep the traveling public safe and secure, increase their mobility, and have our transportation system contribute to the nation’s economic growth
- 12 administrations and bureaus including the Federal Highway Administration

US Department of the Treasury
- TREAS’ mission is to maintain a strong economy and create economic and job opportunities by promoting the conditions that enable economic growth and stability at home and abroad; strengthen national security by combating threats and protecting the integrity of the financial system; and manage the US Government’s finances and resources effectively
- 12 offices and 10 bureaus including the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- It is the executive agency responsible for promoting economic prosperity and ensuring the financial security of the US
- Advises the President on economic and financial issues, encourages sustainable economic growth, and fosters improved governance in financial institutions
- Operates and maintains systems that are critical to the nation's financial infrastructure, such as the production of coin and currency, the disbursement of payments to the American public, revenue collection, and the borrowing of funds necessary to run the federal government
US Department of Veterans Affairs
- The VA’s mission is to fulfill President Lincoln's promise "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan" by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans
- The US has the most comprehensive system of assistance for Veterans of any nation in the world, with roots that can be traced back to 1636 with the Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony
- Made up of the Veterans Benefits Administration, the Veterans Health Administration, and the National Cemetery Administration

Environmental Protection Agency
- EPA’s mission is to protect human health and the environment
- To accomplish their mission, they develop and enforce regulations, give grants, study environmental issues, sponsor partnerships, teach people about the environment, and publish information
- EPA’s main goals are making a visible difference in communities across the country; addressing climate change and improving air quality; taking action on toxins and chemical safety; protecting water; launching a new era of state, tribal and local partnerships; and working towards a sustainable future
- Every year, they award over $4 billion in funding for grants and other assistance agreements

Institute of Museum and Library Services
- IMLS’ mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement
- Their vision is to have a democratic society where communities and individuals thrive with broad public access to knowledge, cultural heritage, and lifelong learning
- They provide leadership through research, policy development, and grant-making which helps libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive
- They are the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- NASA’s missions are to enable a safer, more secure, efficient, and environmentally-friendly air transportation system through aeronautics research; operate the International Space Station and prepare for human exploration beyond low Earth orbit; explore the Earth-Sun system, our own solar system, and the universe beyond; and develop the crosscutting, advanced and pioneering new technologies needed for current and future missions, benefiting the aerospace industry and other agencies, and addressing national needs
- NASA’s vision: to reach for new heights and reveal the unknown for the benefit of humankind
- 10 field centers and a variety of installations conduct the day-to-day work, in laboratories, on air fields, in wind tunnels and in control rooms
- 4 principal areas of focus: aeronautics, human exploration and operations, science, and space technology

National Archives and Records Administration
- NARA’s mission is to provide public access to high-value government records. Public access to government records allows Americans to claim their rights of citizenship, hold their government accountable, and understand their history so they can participate more effectively in their government
- NARA drives openness, cultivates public participation, and strengthens our nation’s democracy through public access to high-value government records
- Their vision is to transform the American public’s relationship with their government, with archives as a relevant and vital resource. This vision harnesses the opportunities to collaborate with other Federal agencies, the private sector, and the public to offer information—including records, data, and context—when, where, and how it is needed
- They will lead the archival and information professions to ensure archives thrive in a digital world

National Endowment for the Arts
- NEA supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America’s rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America
- It funds, promotes, and strengthens the creative capacity of our communities by providing all Americans with diverse opportunities for arts participation
- NEA funds projects only. Projects may consist of one or more specific events or activities. Projects do not have to be new. Excellent existing projects can be just as competitive as new activities
- Main grant categories: Art Works, Challenge America (reaching underserved populations), Our Town, and Research: Art Works

**National Endowment for the Humanities**
- NEH serves and strengthens our republic by promoting excellence in the humanities and conveying the lessons of history to all Americans
- Their grants: strengthen teaching and learning in schools and colleges; facilitate research and original scholarship; provide opportunities for lifelong learning; preserve and provide access to cultural and educational resources; and strengthen the institutional base of the humanities
- Annual support for 56 states and territories to help support some 56,000 lectures, discussions, exhibitions and other programs each year

**National Science Foundation**
- NSF’s mission is to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense
- Goals: discovery, learning, research infrastructure, and stewardship
- NSF is the only federal agency whose mission includes support for all fields of fundamental science and engineering, except for medical sciences
- Is tasked with keeping the US at the leading edge of discovery in areas from astronomy to geology to zoology. In addition to funding research in the traditional academic areas, the agency also supports “high-risk, high-payoff” ideas, novel collaborations and numerous projects that may seem like science fiction today, but which the public will take for granted tomorrow
- They fund approximately 24 percent of all federally supported basic research conducted by America's colleges and universities (about 12,000 new awards per year)
- Areas of research: biological sciences; computer and information science and engineering; education and human resources; engineering; environmental research and education; geosciences; integrative activities; international science and engineering; mathematical and physical sciences; and social, behavioral and economic sciences

**Small Business Administration**
- SBA’s mission is to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise, and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation

**Social Security Administration**
- SSA’s mission is to deliver Social Security services that meet the changing needs of the public
- 2 types of grants: research and demonstration; and service