

Career Development Grants for Underserved Populations

Varunee Faii Sangganjanavanich

The University of Akron

Abstract

Funding resources are vital to enhance the growth of career development field. Career practitioners should be aware of these funding resources in order to further their knowledge, skills, and practices with diverse client populations. A review of career development grants available for underserved populations is presented.

Keyword: career development, grant, funding

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Rationale

Social justice and advocacy has been a current professional issue in the field of career development for over a decade. Although various professional organizations have attempted to focus on providing career development services to diverse individuals, some sociocultural groups remain underserved. For the purpose of this paper, an underserved population is defined as a particular sociocultural group that is historically marginalized and faces disadvantages based on their sociocultural identities. In an effort to offer our services to underserved populations, career practitioners and researchers may need supportive resources to expand career development knowledge and practice.

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to present current career development grants for career practitioners and researchers working with underserved populations. Grants presented in this paper are categorized into outreach and research grants.

Procedures

Multiple grant databases are used to identify funding resources. These databases are available for public review. These websites include:

<http://www.grants.gov>

<http://www.grants.com>

http://www.us-government-grants.net/article_info.php/articles_id/36

<http://www.federalgrantswire.com/>

<http://www.myacpa.org/comm/careerdev/grant.cfm>

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Outreach Grants

A majority of grants presented in this paper is outreach grants. Outreach grants refer to local, state, national funding resources, from federal and private foundations, allocated to practitioners to develop, improve, or enhance services to the client populations. Career development outreach grants that are available for underserved populations include:

- i. Culturally diverse groups (previously named minorities)

Grant	Sponsor	Purpose
Indian Job Placement-United Sioux Tribes Development Corporation	Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs	Assists Native American population to obtain stable employment and to increase a quality of life
Rene Matos Scholarship	National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees	Assists minority and women students complete their higher education efforts
Pride of the Rose Scholarship Fund	Equity Foundation	Provides support to members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered communities and their children to pursue higher education and career
College Grant Fund	Page Education Foundation	Provides scholarships to students of color attending a post-secondary institution.
Talbots Scholarship Foundation	Talbots	Supports up to eleven different women pursuing an undergraduate degree by providing them with scholarship money
Women Fund	Iowa Women's Foundation	Provides grants to expand and improve opportunities and choices in all aspects of women's and girls' lives in the area of leadership development through mentoring and education; and economic security through job training and skill-building
Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO)	Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor	Assists employers and labor unions in the placement and retention of women in apprenticeship and nontraditional occupations

ii. Juveniles and disadvantaged youth

Grant	Sponsor	Purpose
Incarcerated Youth Offenders	Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education	Supports state/state-supported institutions to help incarcerated youth offenders transition back to the society by focusing on career/employment aspects
Outreach/Admissions and Career Transition Services	Department of Labor, OASAM Office of JC Support	Funds career development centers/employment or placement services that work with juveniles/incarcerated youth in order to pursue career and employment
Health Careers Opportunity Program	Bureau of Health Professions/HRSA/DHHS	Assist individuals from disadvantaged (economically and educationally) backgrounds throughout the educational pipeline to undertake education to enter and graduate from a health or allied health professions program
Pathways Out of Poverty	Block (Herb) Foundation	Helps young people gain a quality education and pursue career through in-school and community-based educational programs, after-school activities, and mentoring programs to increase high school graduation rates
Low-income Youth Fund	Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor	Provides funding for a disadvantaged youth and community development program that simultaneously addresses several core issues including education and employment skills necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency in occupations

iii. Veterans

Grant	Sponsor	Purpose
Information Centers of Excellence for Veteran Student Success	Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education	Encourages institutions of higher education (IHEs) to develop model programs to support veteran student success in postsecondary education

Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program	Veterans' Employment and Training Service, Department of Labor	Provides job training, counseling, and placement services (including job readiness, literacy training and skills training) to expedite the reintegration of homeless veterans into meaningful employment within the labor force
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iv. Individuals with disabilities

Grant	Sponsor	Purpose
Community Employment Grant Program	Kessler (Henry H.) Foundation	Increases employment opportunities and career advancement for individuals with mobility and/or cognitive impairments
Youth with Disabilities Fund	Gogian (John) Family Foundation	Supports organizations that serve the employment needs of the developmentally disabled and abused or neglected youth
Expanding Participation of Persons with Disability in Development Programming	U.S. Agency for International Development	Include people with disabilities (PWDs) into development programming or to work with peoples with disabilities in the area of employment

v. Adults in transition

Grant	Sponsor	Purpose
Women's Opportunity Award	Soroptimist International of Toronto	Assists female heads of households who need additional skills, training and education to enable them to upgrade their employment status to re-enter the work
Programs Serving Vulnerable Adults	Pew Charitable Trusts	Assists organizations for the delivery of critical services to vulnerable adults who face employment transition to develop critical work-related skills and obtain and maintain competitive employment
Community-Based Job Training Grants	Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor	Funds projects that provide training, education, and job placement assistance to prepare workers for employment in high growth

		and other emerging industries
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Research Grants

Currently, there is a limited amount of research grants presented in funding database.

The main requirement of these grants is to conduct studies relate to career development, career counseling, career information, career decision making, and career planning.

Grant	Sponsor	Purpose
Special Education Research-- Transition Outcomes for Special Education Secondary Students	Institute of Education Sciences, Department of Education	Funds research projects that will contribute to the research program on Transition Outcomes for Special Education Secondary Students (Transition) in order improve transition outcomes of secondary education and career advancement
Postdoctoral Research Training Program	National Center for Education Research (NCER), Institute of Education Sciences, Department of Education	Funds research projects in the area of education sciences including vocational/career development