

## Grant Opportunities and Updates



# FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY™

## Office of Sponsored Programs

January 15, 2026



## Introducing OSP's Newest Staff Member: Lea Ann Valentine

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As the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) begins 2026, we have goals and plans for growth and improvement in the new year. One such goal is to strengthen and streamline the financial management of grants and sponsored projects across campus. To help achieve this goal, OSP is pleased to announce the hiring of Lea Ann Valentine as the new Business Manager for all sponsored programs.

Lea Ann joins OSP from the Finance Department at Fairmont State. Her most recent role in Finance was serving as the P-Card Manager, in which she contributed valuable expertise and innovation to her team. Prior to this, Lea Ann

worked for Student Services in the Turley Center and has worked for Fairmont State University since 2007.

In her free time, Lea Ann is both a baseball mom and a 4-H mom, supporting her son in all of his various activities. She also serves on the board of directors for Raising Marion County, a nonprofit geared toward supporting the youth of Marion County.

Lea Ann's position is an important and much-needed addition to OSP that will enable consistent, centralized oversight of grant-related financial activities. With Lea Ann's impressive background in finance and her vast experience with Fairmont State, OSP has no doubt she will be a major asset to the sponsored programs and projects on campus.

## GRANT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### For Faculty and Staff

#### NEW NOTICES

### Arts

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#### **National Endowment for the Arts: NEA Grants for Arts Projects 1, FY 2027**

Posted: January 15, 2026

This program provides project-based funding for organizations in the areas of Arts Education, Challenge America, Dance, Design & Our Town, Folk & Traditional Arts, Literary Arts, Local Arts Agencies, Museums, Music, Opera, Presenting & Multidisciplinary Works, Theater & Music Theater, and Visual and Media Arts. Funded activities may include a wide range of arts projects.

**Proposals Due:** February 12, 2026

**Funding Range:** \$10,000 to \$100,000

*Click [here](#)* for more information on application guidelines.

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# Community Development

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## **Bolger Foundation: Foundation Grants**

Posted: January 15, 2026

This program provides capital funding to U.S. nonprofit organizations working to strengthen their infrastructure and better serve their communities. Grants specifically support projects that improve or expand tangible property owned by the applicant through efforts such as constructing or enlarging facilities, upgrading buildings or grounds, and purchasing long-lasting equipment such as technology or specialized tools.

**Proposals Due:** June 1, 2026

**Funding Range:** \$10,000 to \$250,000

[\*Click here\*](#) for more information on application guidelines.

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## Education

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## **Department of Education: Braille Training Program**

Posted: January 15, 2026

The Braille Training Program offers financial assistance to projects that will (1) provide training in the use of braille for personnel providing vocational rehabilitation services or educational services to youth and adults who are blind; (2) develop braille training materials; (3) develop methods used to teach braille; and (4) develop activities used to promote the knowledge and use of braille and nonvisual access technology for youth and adults who are blind.

**Proposals Due:** March 27, 2026

**Funding Range:** Up to \$300,000

[\*Click here\*](#) for more information on application guidelines.

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## Humanities

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## **National Endowment for the Humanities: Endowment for Advancing the Humanities**

Posted: January 15, 2026

The purpose of this program is to fund 20-year term endowments that advance the humanities on college and university campuses and at independent educational institutions, specifically by building the

organization's capacity in research and teaching of Western civilization, American history and government, and civics.

**Proposals Due:** February 10, 2026

**Funding Range:** \$1M to \$5M

[Click here](#) for more information on application guidelines.

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## International Opportunity

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### **Department of State: Salute to America 250 - Outreach Across Japan**

Posted: January 15, 2026

This program invites proposal submissions for one to five cooperative agreements to design, administer, and implement high-level activities and innovative programming in all of Japan's 47 prefectures to showcase the historical legacy of American excellence, highlight American innovation, and celebrate the bilateral milestones and ties between U.S. and Japanese citizens that allow the U.S. and Japan to partner as global leaders.

**Proposals Due:** February 11, 2026

**Funding Range:** \$100,000 to \$500,000

[Click here](#) for more information on application guidelines.

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## STEM

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### **National Aeronautics and Space Administration: Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Program Research Seed Grant, 2026-2027**

Posted: January 15, 2026

This program will award seed grants to initiated research projects aligned with NASA's mission in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). This program is designed to assist faculty at all West Virginia colleges and universities in their efforts to initiate research activities, conduct pilot experiments, or demonstrate new concepts that might lead to significant scientific projects in the future.

**Proposals Due:** March 6, 2026

**Funding Range:** Up to \$15,000

[Click here](#) for more information on application guidelines.

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### **National Aeronautics and Space Administration: West Virginia Space Grant Consortium Research Initiation Grant, 2026-2027**

Posted: January 15, 2026

This program seeks to fund research projects that are related to NASA's mission and West Virginia priorities in Science and Technology. This is a research initiation program with an objective to stimulate increased externally funded NASA sponsored research at academic affiliates of the NASA West Virginia Space Grant Consortium.

**Proposals Due:** March 6, 2026

**Funding Range:** Up to \$25,000

[Click here](#) for more information on application guidelines.

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## Workforce Development

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### **Department of Labor: YouthBuild 2025**

Posted: January 15, 2026

This program will award grants to eligible entities to provide pre-apprenticeship occupational skills training, education, and job placement services to opportunity youth. YouthBuild prepares participants for quality jobs in various industry sectors, and includes wrap-around supportive services such as assistance in transportation, childcare, and housing. YouthBuild programs must offer participants construction training and hands-on experience building affordable housing for their community.

**Proposals Due:** March 6, 2026

**Funding Range:** \$1M to \$2M

[Click here](#) for more information on application guidelines.

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## REMINDER NOTICES

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## Community Development

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### **Labcorp Charitable Foundation: Foundation Grants**

Posted: December 11, 2025

This program invests in community-based nonprofits advancing health, education, and well-being. Projects of interest include those that

- Broaden access to STEM education programming
- Support food pantries and summer meal programs for children
- Provide access to healthcare and patient support services for the underserved

- Provide ongoing support for medical research, screenings, and programs that promote a healthy lifestyle

**Proposals Due:** Rolling

**Funding Range:** \$5,000 to \$25,000

*Click [here](#)* for more information on application guidelines.

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## Free Webinar Available!

The SuRE Resource Center at the University of Kentucky is hosting a webinar on Cultivating Mentoring Relationships on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 from 3-4pm.



This will be a 60-min live webinar with a Q&A session. By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Define the roles of different types of mentors in research and career development
- Reflect on personal mentoring needs and current support systems
- Practice strategies for initiating, maintaining, or improving mentoring relationships

Click *[here](#)* to register for the upcoming webinar.

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## Want to connect further with OSP?

Check out our Facebook page for shared posts about ongoing sponsored programs, pictures of OSP group activities, and information about upcoming projects and grants here at Fairmont State!

*[Facebook Link](#)*



**Fairmont State University  
Office of Sponsored Programs**

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OSP at Fairmont State University is a source of information, support, and guidance on all external funding opportunities for faculty and staff.

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## SPECIAL NOTE:

Any grant application, proposal, or request for external funding must be reviewed and approved **prior to submission** through an internal process managed by the Office of Sponsored Programs. Please *visit our website* for more information and to access the required forms which facilitate the internal review and approval process.



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