

Searching for External Funds

Colorado State University

SMARTS / SPIN



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- SMARTS, an automated alerts system that matches investigators with grant and contract announcements based on their user profiles, has been procured by CSU's Sponsored Programs office for all faculty to use to screen funding opportunities in specified areas of interest. Staci Folot in Sponsored Programs will schedule an appointment with faculty to help them set up their own SMARTS account, which will send them daily e-mails that contain profiles of funding opportunities matching keywords that faculty have selected with Staci Folot's assistance to represent their research interests.
- To run a specific search, access SPIN via Rampoint's Research tab. Use the Research Resources Quick Links/Funding Opportunities and Agencies heading to get to the SPIN link.
- The Advanced Search option (in the bottom left of the screen) is the best place to start to run a search.
- "View Criteria/Delete Items" is a menu tab across the top of the page that can be helpful as you select/deselect criteria.
- When selecting keywords (or other criteria), use the control key to select more than one at a time.
- Under "Geographic Restrictions," select No Restrictions, US West and Colorado.
- One problem with SPIN is that it spits out ALL funding opportunities, not necessarily just current ones. So be sure to look at the deadline date for hits that look promising. If the deadline has passed but the hit looks like a perfect match, contact the program officer (using info provided in the SPIN entry) to inquire about whether the funding opportunity will be reissued.
- You may save the results of your search to a file for later review.

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THE FOUNDATION DIRECTORY



To view a list of managed sponsors, go to <https://pass.research.colostate.edu/managedlist.asp>

- Access this tool at <http://www.fconline.fdncenter.org/>
- Contact Maggie for the user name and password info.
- Select Foundation Search as your first option.
- Click on any of the fields to display a menu along the left of the screen of options for that field.
- Under the Geographic Focus field, select Colorado and National/international.
- To eliminate foundations that do not accept applications and/or only give to pre-selected organizations from your search results list, enter the term in question into the Text Search field, preceded by the word NOT. Entering **NOT "applications not accepted"** (include the quotation marks in your entry) into Text Search tells the search engine NOT to include any foundation profiles that contain that phrase in the search results list. Entering **NOT "pre-selected organizations"** will accomplish the same goal for foundation records that include this specification.
- Print results as you find viable prospects.
- **Be sure to contact Mary Francis in the Dean's Office before making any contact with a foundation or corporate funder!**

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER ONLINE GRANTS GUIDE



- A directory of over 400 Colorado-focused funders, the guide contains details about geographic focus (usually narrowed down by county or region), areas of interest, application guidelines and recent grants.
- Go to <http://www.crcamerica.org/index.htm> and select "Online Grants Guide" along the top right section of the web page. Select "Advanced Search" and select from the drop-down menus.

OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Sponsored Programs keeps two lists of funding agencies and links to their websites.
- Enter via Rampoint, use the Research tab, under Research Resources Quick Links you'll find Funding Opportunities and Agencies, and at the bottom of that list of bullets, there are two lists of funding agencies, one maintained by Sponsored Programs and one maintained by NCURA.