

Securing Funding for Chapter Activities Using Grants

Understanding the Costs

Grants can be a game-changer for your HOSA-Future Health Professionals chapter by covering essential costs like travel, accommodation, and registration fees. They help reduce financial barriers, allowing more members to participate in valuable opportunities. With grant funding, you can take on larger projects, support organizational growth, and ensure long-term financial stability. All of these allow your chapter to have a successful year while building professional skills and developing meaningful relationships with community partners willing to help your chapter accomplish its goals! Key expenses for a normal HOSA year include:

- **Fees:** Affiliation and conference registration
- **Travel:** Flights, buses, rideshares
- **Accommodation:** Hotel stays
- **Food:** Meals during the conference
- **General Activities:** Costs for chapter events

Members may be unable to attend important events, such as the International Leadership Conference (ILC), due to these expenses. To mitigate these costs, consider the following strategies:

1. Fundraising and Events

- Organize fundraising activities and events at your school to raise money
- Reach out to local restaurants, businesses, and friends to find options

2. Administrative Support

- Request funding from high-ranking school administrators, such as the superintendent or school board.
- Find individuals with experience in Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) to enhance your chances of securing consistent funding.

3. Grant Funding

- A grant is a financial award given to support a specific project or purpose without needing repayment. It helps cover costs and is provided by organizations like governments or foundations to achieve goals aligned with their mission.
 - Belmont HOSA received a \$2,000 grant from Bristol Myers Squibb, which fully covered their Nashville ILC stay at the Gaylord Convention Center! But how can you accomplish this?

How to Apply for a Grant

1. Research Grant Opportunities:

- Visit the organization's website to find grant applications.
- Call directly for more information if needed.

2. Prepare Your Application:

- Describe Your Organization:
 - Explain what HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) is and its purpose.

3. State Your Need:

- Detail the costs you need to cover, such as travel and accommodation expenses, to make conferences accessible for your members.

4. Justify the Request:

- Align your request with the organization's mission and goals. Emphasize that funding your chapter is an investment in the future of health.
- Highlight how attending the conference benefits members through career development, networking opportunities, and scholarships.

5. Specify the Amount:

- Determine and request the amount needed based on your costs and number of members.

Application Tips!

- Submit multiple applications early in the year to improve your chances of securing funding
- **Tailor Your Application**
 - Customize your proposal to align with the grant provider's mission and priorities, clearly showing how your project meets their goals.
- **Provide Clear Details**
 - Be specific about how you will use the grant funds, including a detailed budget and a clear outline of the project's objectives and expected outcomes.
- **Follow Instructions Carefully**
 - Adhere to all application guidelines, including deadlines and required documentation, to ensure your submission is complete and meets all the requirements.

By strategically applying for grants and seeking administrative support, you can help ensure that your chapter members can attend important conferences and benefit from the opportunities they offer.