Funding & Grants

5 KEY POINTS

Learn to access funding & grants to innovate, & weather challenges without taking on unnecessary debt. These five tips will help you identify opportunities, strengthen your applications, & manage funds responsibly.

1. Identifying Local, Provincial, and Federal Funding Sources

Start by researching programs at all levels:

- local - City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver
- Provincial - Innovate BC, CleanBC
- Federal - Canada Small Business Financing Program, Canada Summer Jobs, SR&ED tax credits

Subscribe to grant databases & visit our resource page to stay updated on new opportunities.

2. Preparing Strong Applications with Clear ROI

Grant reviewers want to see impact & return on investment. In your application, clearly outline how the funds will be used, the problem being solved, & the measurable outcomes (e.g., "this funding will allow us to increase local hiring by 20% within six months"). Include budget breakdowns, timelines, & success metrics to strengthen your case. Ask a mentor, Chamber contact, or colleague to review your draft for clarity before submission.

3. Partnering with Other Businesses for Joint Funding

Some funding streams prioritize collaboration or partnerships. Look for opportunities to apply jointly with other local businesses—for example, co-hosting training programs or investing in shared green technologies. Partnerships can demonstrate a broader community impact, which often strengthens applications. Formalize agreements in writing to clearly define roles, budgets, and outcomes.

4. Meeting Eligibility Requirements & Deadlines

Before starting an application, double-check eligibility criteria such as business size, industry sector, or incorporation status. Keep a calendar of deadlines and set internal reminders to gather documents (like financial statements or tax records) well ahead of time. Missing even one required attachment can disqualify your application, so create a grant checklist for each submission.

5. Tracking and Reporting Use of Funds Effectively

Grant funding often comes with strict reporting requirements. Set up a separate account code or ledger to track expenses related to the grant. Collect invoices, receipts, & progress reports as you go rather than scrambling at the end. Share results not only with funders but also with your customers and community—this transparency builds trust & strengthens future applications.

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A Connected Community is a Thriving Economy