



BRIDGE & BEYOND INC.

Small Business Funding & Grant Digest

United States Edition - Volume 1 - June 2026

A free community resource for entrepreneurs, startups, rural businesses, minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses, veteran-owned businesses, and community builders seeking funding pathways.

Mission Focus

Everyone Deserves a Home, Hot Meal, Medical Care, Employment, and Peace.

"Information that empowers people should be accessible. This guide is offered freely to help families, entrepreneurs, and communities move from searching to taking action."

Prepared for public education and community use by Bridge & Beyond.

Welcome Letter from Bridge & Beyond

At Bridge & Beyond, we believe information should be accessible to everyone. Too many opportunities go unclaimed simply because people never hear about them. This guide was created to help entrepreneurs, startups, rural businesses, minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses, veteran-owned businesses, and community builders locate resources that may help them start, sustain, or grow their ventures.

Please use this guide freely, share it with others, and verify every deadline and eligibility requirement directly with the funder before applying.

Chamorra Johnson

Founder & Executive Director

Bridge & Beyond Inc.

How to Use This Digest

This digest is designed to help readers quickly identify funding options, understand what type of applicant each opportunity is best suited for, and take the next application step. It includes direct grant opportunities, recurring grant portals, technical assistance resources, and Nevada-specific funding pathways.

For best results: choose 3-5 opportunities that match your business stage, confirm the deadline, gather documents, and apply before the final week. Many grant portals experience delays close to deadlines.

Important

Grant opportunities change quickly. This digest is a current snapshot and resource guide, not a guarantee of eligibility, award, or availability. Always verify requirements on the funder website before applying.

Bridge & Beyond Free Resource Statement

Any knowledge, information, or resources shared by Bridge & Beyond are provided freely. Our mission is to empower individuals, families, entrepreneurs, and organizations by connecting them with opportunities that can help strengthen communities. These resources are offered at no cost and may be freely shared.

Quick Start Checklist

- Register the business with your state and keep entity records current.
- Obtain or confirm your EIN.
- Open a business bank account.
- Prepare a one-page business summary or capability statement.
- Prepare a simple budget showing exactly how funds will be used.
- Gather tax returns, profit and loss statement, invoices, estimates, and proof of revenue if required.
- Create accounts for grant portals before the deadline.
- Save every application answer in a master document for reuse.

Funding Categories Included

Category	What It Covers
Federal Funding	SBA and grants.gov pathways
Innovation Funding	SBIR/STTR and research commercialization
Rural Funding	USDA and rural economic development
Nevada Support	GOED, SBDC, MBDA and capital directories
Women-Owned Business	Monthly and recurring women-focused funding
Minority-Owned Business	Diverse business resources, certification and support
Veteran-Owned Business	Military-connected entrepreneur programs
Private and Corporate Grants	Hello Alice, Verizon, NASE, IFundWomen and more
Capital Readiness	Loans, CDFIs, business credit and alternatives

Featured Current and Recurring Opportunities

This page highlights time-sensitive or recurring opportunities that should be checked first. "Open/recurring" means applicants should verify the funder page for the current cycle before applying.

Opportunity	Best For	Funding / Deadline	Action
Allstate Main Street Grants Program	U.S. small businesses with community impact and revenue history.	\$20,000 grants; 2026 applications close June 23, 2026 at 6 PM ET.	Review on Hello Alice
Verizon Small Business Digital Ready / LISC	Small businesses seeking digital readiness training and grant consideration.	\$10,000 grants; applications reviewed monthly June-December 2026; 10 businesses selected monthly.	Apply / learn more
USDA Rural Business Development Grants - Nevada	Public bodies, Indian Tribes, and nonprofits primarily serving rural areas; supports small rural business development.	Nevada 2026 deadlines: June 15 for SECD and June 30 for remaining applications.	View Nevada RBDG
SBA Manufacturing in America E2G Grants	Organizations supporting small manufacturers and workforce training in critical industries.	\$50 million grant opportunity; proposals due June 15, 2026 at 11:59 PM ET.	View SBA opportunity
Amber Grants for Women / WomensNet	Women 18+ who own at least 50% of a U.S. or Canadian business.	Monthly \$10,000 grants and year-end \$50,000 opportunities; apply monthly.	Apply / rules
NASE Growth Grants	NASE members who need funds for growth activities.	Up to \$4,000; recurring awards for members.	View NASE Growth Grants
SBIR/STTR	Technology, science, health, defense, energy, education, and commercialization-focused small businesses.	Agency-specific deadlines; several 2026/2027 cycles are open or upcoming.	Search SBIR.gov

Federal Funding Sources

Federal grants are usually awarded to organizations, agencies, nonprofits, universities, tribes, and businesses that meet a specific public-purpose or research objective. Many federal opportunities are not general startup grants, so read eligibility carefully.

Opportunity	Best For	Funding / Deadline	Action
Grants.gov / Simpler.Grants.gov	Organizations and entities seeking federal grant opportunities.	Varies by agency; search frequently.	Search federal grants
SBA Grants	Scientific research, community entrepreneurship promotion, exporting, and partner organizations.	SBA notes its small business grants are limited and program-specific.	SBA grants page
SBA Funding Programs	Businesses needing loans, disaster funding, investment capital, surety bonds, and partner counseling.	Ongoing programs, mostly loans and lender connections rather than direct grants.	SBA funding programs
State Trade Expansion Program (STEP)	Small businesses seeking to export products or services internationally.	Awards go to states/territories; businesses access benefits through their state program.	SBA STEP
SAM.gov Federal Contract Opportunities	Businesses ready to sell goods/services to government agencies.	Not a grant; contracting opportunities can fund business growth.	Search SAM.gov and set alerts for your NAICS codes.

Application Tip

Federal opportunities often require a UEI, SAM.gov registration, a detailed budget, and strict compliance with submission instructions. Start registration early.

Innovation Grants: SBIR/STTR and Research Funding

SBIR/STTR programs are some of the strongest non-dilutive funding sources for technology and research-driven small businesses. These are not general business grants; they fund research, development, prototypes, commercialization, and agency mission needs.

Opportunity	Best For	Funding / Deadline	Action
SBIR.gov Funding Search	Early-stage technology companies and research-based small businesses.	Open and upcoming topics across federal agencies.	Search SBIR/STTR topics
NIH SBIR/STTR	Health, biotech, medical devices, digital health, research tools, and related science businesses.	Applications accepted three times per year; several parent announcements extend into 2027.	NIH Seed funding
NSF SBIR/STTR Phase I	Deep technology startups with high-impact commercial potential.	Phase I proposals may request up to \$305,000 for 6-18 months.	NSF solicitation
DoD SBIR/STTR	Defense-relevant technologies and dual-use innovations.	Topics and deadlines vary by release; submit through DSIP.	Defense SBIR/STTR
DOE SBIR/STTR	Energy, climate, manufacturing, science, and technology innovation.	DOE notes SBIR/STTR reauthorization in 2026 and posts forward-looking information.	DOE SBIR/STTR

Readiness Tip

SBIR/STTR applications need a technical narrative, commercialization plan, team qualifications, budget justification, and evidence of technical and commercial potential.

USDA and Rural Business Funding

Rural funding is especially important for Nevada, tribal communities, agricultural producers, food businesses, and service businesses that strengthen local economies. USDA programs often support intermediaries and community organizations that assist small businesses.

Opportunity	Best For	Funding / Deadline	Action
USDA Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG)	Rural economic development, training, technical assistance, and small business support projects.	2026 deadlines include June 15 for SECD and June 30 for remaining applications.	USDA RBDG main page
USDA RBDG - Nevada	Nevada rural development projects serving rural small businesses.	Open for Nevada; verify state instructions and local RD contact.	Nevada RBDG
Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program (REDLG)	Rural projects supported through local utility organizations.	Funds flow through eligible utilities to local projects; timing varies.	USDA REDLG
USDA Business Programs Directory	Businesses, nonprofits, tribes, cooperatives, and communities seeking rural development tools.	Ongoing directory of grants, loans, and loan guarantees.	Browse USDA programs
Value-Added Producer Grants	Agricultural producers creating value-added products or expanding markets.	2026 application period is closed; monitor for next cycle.	Monitor USDA Rural Development and state RD notices.

Rural Nevada Note

Do not only search for grants that pay a business directly. Many programs fund nonprofit or public partners to provide entrepreneur training, infrastructure, access to capital, market development, and technical assistance.

Nevada-Specific Funding and Support

This section is included because Bridge & Beyond serves Nevada communities and because rural Nevada entrepreneurs need funding pathways beyond national grant portals.

Opportunity	Best For	Funding / Deadline	Action
Nevada GOED Small Business Support	Nevada startups, small businesses, and entrepreneurs.	Includes SSBCI micro loans, Battle Born venture funding, Emerging Small Business certification, and entrepreneurship resources.	GOED small business support
Nevada Business & Industry Access to Capital	Businesses comparing grants, incentives, traditional financing, bonds, and non-traditional financing.	Resource directory and funding education; not all listings are grants.	Access to Capital
Nevada Grants and Incentives	Businesses looking for state/local programs, nonprofit grants, and incentives.	State notes grants may require matching funds or combined financing.	Grants and incentives
Nevada SBDC	Entrepreneurs starting, growing, or stabilizing a Nevada business.	Free and confidential one-on-one advising; workshops and capital-readiness support.	Nevada SBDC
Nevada MBDA Business Center	Minority business owners seeking capital access, contracts, profitability, and scaled growth.	Business development support; use as a readiness partner.	Nevada resource directory

Nevada Action Plan

Book a free Nevada SBDC advising session. Review GOED small business support and SSBCI options. If minority-owned, contact the Nevada MBDA Business Center. Use the Access to Capital Directory to identify CDFIs, microlenders, and alternative funders.

Women-Owned Business Funding

Women-owned business grants are often competitive but may use shorter applications, monthly cycles, or founder-story formats. Always read ownership and residency requirements carefully.

Opportunity	Best For	Funding / Deadline	Action
Amber Grants / WomensNet	Women entrepreneurs and women-owned businesses, including some pre-revenue and nonprofit ventures.	Monthly \$10,000 grants and year-end \$50,000 awards; rules require women 18+ owning at least 50%.	Amber Grants
IFundWomen Universal Funding & Grant Application	Women-owned and diverse small businesses seeking corporate grants, crowdfunding, and coaching.	Ongoing application database; applicants may be matched when sponsored grants open.	IFundWomen grants
SBA Women Business Centers	Women entrepreneurs needing training, counseling, and capital readiness.	Not usually direct grants, but strong application support and referrals.	Search SBA Local Assistance for your state.
Hello Alice Grant Marketplace	Small businesses seeking corporate and partner-funded opportunities.	Ongoing marketplace with deadlines by program.	Hello Alice grants

Application Tip

Prepare concise 150-word, 300-word, and 500-word versions of your founder story, business traction, use of funds, and community impact.

Minority-Owned and Diverse Business Resources

Some programs fund minority-owned businesses directly, while many others provide access to capital support, certification, contracting, technical assistance, and investor readiness. These supports can strengthen long-term revenue.

Opportunity	Best For	Funding / Deadline	Action
Minority Business Development Agency ecosystem	Minority-owned businesses seeking contracts, capital, and growth support.	Centers and programs vary by location; check current center availability.	Nevada MBDA listing
IFundWomen of Color / IFWOC	Diverse entrepreneurs seeking capital, coaching, and connections.	Grant and funding matches vary by partner and cycle.	IFundWomen grants
Nevada Emerging Small Business Certification	Nevada small businesses seeking certification and procurement readiness.	Certification may improve access to state procurement opportunities.	GOED small business support
Hello Alice marketplace	Small business owners from many backgrounds seeking grant opportunities.	Open and upcoming grants vary; create a profile and alerts.	Hello Alice grants

Readiness Tip

Combine grants with certification and contracting readiness. Certification does not guarantee funding, but it can help with visibility, supplier diversity, and procurement opportunities.

Veteran-Owned and Military-Connected Business Resources

Veteran business funding is often offered through pitch competitions, entrepreneurship training, corporate partners, and business support organizations. Some opportunities are cyclical, so veterans should track application windows throughout the year.

Opportunity	Best For	Funding / Deadline	Action
Second Service Foundation Military Entrepreneur Challenge	Veterans, active-duty service members, military spouses, and Gold Star family members.	Pitch competition model; awards and cycles vary by event.	Monitor Second Service Foundation events and application page.
SBA Veterans Business Outreach Centers (VBOC)	Veterans and military spouses starting or growing a business.	Training, counseling, transition support, and funding readiness.	Search SBA VBOC in your region.
Hiring Our Heroes Small Business Grant Program	Military-connected entrepreneurs.	Program availability varies by cycle and sponsor.	Monitor Hiring Our Heroes and Chamber of Commerce pages.
NASE Growth Grants	Self-employed veteran entrepreneurs who are NASE members.	Up to \$4,000 for business growth needs.	NASE grants

Application Tip

Prepare a 60-second pitch, a 3-minute pitch, and a one-page budget before applying to veteran pitch competitions.

Private and Corporate Grant Opportunities

Private grants can be easier to apply for than federal grants, but they are often highly competitive and may require publicity, training participation, or a profile on a platform. These are best treated as one part of a broader funding strategy.

Opportunity	Best For	Funding / Deadline	Action
Allstate Main Street Grants Program	Main Street and community-serving small businesses.	\$20,000 grants; 2026 application window May 11-June 23.	Apply via Hello Alice
Verizon Small Business Digital Ready	Small businesses building digital skills.	\$10,000 grants; reviewed monthly June-December 2026.	Digital Ready funding
Hello Alice Grant Marketplace	Small businesses that want ongoing grant alerts and partner opportunities.	Open opportunities vary; current listing includes Allstate Main Street Grants.	Hello Alice grants
NASE Growth Grants	NASE members with a specific growth need.	Up to \$4,000; grants for marketing, equipment, hiring, facilities, and specific needs.	NASE Growth Grants
IFundWomen	Small businesses seeking grants, capital, and coaching.	Universal application may match applicants to future sponsored grants.	IFundWomen application

Scam Warning

Be cautious of anyone who guarantees a grant, asks for your bank login, charges large upfront grant release fees, or pressures you to pay immediately.

Business Credit, Loans, and Alternative Capital

Grants are valuable, but many businesses cannot rely on grants alone. A stronger strategy is to combine grant applications with business credit, microloans, CDFI lending, procurement, revenue growth, and technical assistance.

Opportunity	Best For	Funding / Deadline	Action
SBA Lender Match / SBA Loans	Businesses needing capital through private lenders with SBA backing.	Loan terms vary; not direct grants.	SBA funding programs
Nevada SSBCI / Micro Loans	Nevada businesses needing microloan or venture pathways.	Nevada GOED describes SSBCI micro loans and Battle Born venture funding.	GOED support
Nevada Business & Industry Non-Traditional Financing	Startups and small businesses comparing microlenders and other capital sources.	Microloans are generally under \$50,000 and may support equipment, inventory, supplies, and working capital.	Nevada access to capital
CDFIs and Community Lenders	Businesses that may not qualify for traditional bank financing.	Loan products and technical assistance vary.	Search the Nevada Access to Capital Directory and local CDFIs.

Practical Funding Stack

Apply for 2-3 grants that match your exact eligibility, meet with a free business advisor, build business credit, consider microloans only when repayment is realistic, and use revenue/contracts as part of the funding plan.

Grant Application Readiness Toolkit

Use this toolkit before applying. The stronger your documents are, the faster you can respond when a deadline appears.

Document	Purpose	Prepared?
Business registration / Articles	Proves the business exists and is in good standing.	
EIN letter	Required by many funders, banks, and portals.	
Business bank statement	Shows active business operations and account separation.	
Profit & loss statement	Shows revenue, expenses, and financial health.	
Tax returns	Often required for revenue-based grants.	
One-page business summary	Explains who you serve, what you sell, and why it matters.	
Founder bio / resume	Shows capacity to execute the project.	
Budget and quotes	Shows how the grant funds will be used.	
Photos, website, social proof	Supports legitimacy and traction.	
Certifications	Supports eligibility for specialized programs.	

Common Reasons Grant Applications Are Denied

- The business is not eligible for the specific program.
- The application is incomplete or submitted after the deadline.
- The requested use of funds does not match the funder purpose.
- The budget does not add up or lacks quotes/justification.
- The narrative is too vague and does not explain measurable outcomes.
- The business cannot show proof of revenue, ownership, location, or operations when required.
- The applicant did not complete required training, profile setup, or portal registration.
- The application sounds copied and does not clearly connect the business to the community need.

A Better Formula

Element	Question to Answer
Problem	What challenge does your business or community face?
Solution	What will your business do with the funds?
Proof	What traction, experience, or partnerships show you can execute?
Budget	What exactly will you buy or pay for?
Impact	What will change because of this funding?

Source Directory

The following official and program source pages were used to compile this digest. Always verify details on the source page before applying.

Source	Link
Grants.gov	https://www.grants.gov/
SBA Grants	https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/grants
SBA Funding Programs	https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs
SBA Manufacturing Grants	https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/grants/manufacturing-grants
SBA STEP	https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/grants/state-trade-expansion-program-step
SBIR.gov Topics	https://www.sbir.gov/topics
NIH SBIR/STTR	https://seed.nih.gov/small-business-funding/find-funding/sbir-sttr-funding-opportunities
NSF SBIR/STTR	https://www.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/small-business-innovation-research-small-business-technology/nsf26-510/solicitation
Defense SBIR/STTR	https://www.defensesbirstr.mil/SBIR-STTR/Opportunities/
DOE SBIR/STTR	https://science.osti.gov/sbir
USDA RBDG Main	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-business-development-grants
USDA RBDG Nevada	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-business-development-grants-14
USDA REDLG	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-economic-development-loan-g-rant-programs
USDA Business Programs	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs
Nevada GOED Small Business Support	https://goed.nv.gov/small-business-support/
Nevada Business Access to Capital	https://business.nv.gov/Resource_Center/Access_to_Capital/
Nevada SBDC	https://nevadasbdc.org/
Nevada MBDA Business Center	https://www.mbda.gov/business-center/nevada-mbda-business-center
Amber Grants	https://ambergrantsforwomen.com/
IFundWomen Grants	https://www.ifundwomen.com/grants/apply-for-grants
Hello Alice Grants	https://helloalice.com/funding/grants/
NASE Growth Grants	https://www.nase.org/become-a-member/member-benefits/business-resources/growth-grants