Step 2: Identify Funding Sources

There are many resources available to help you identify potential sponsors for your project.

The Director of Grants

One resource is the Director of Grants. She can perform a search for you and help you narrow down your options. She can also direct you to variety of other resources, including web sites, funding directories, databases, and other service offices. Any general questions you have about grants or grant policies and procedures can be directed to her.

Current Director of Grants:  
Mary Forbes, MSW  
859-246-6561  
mary.forbes@kctcs.edu

The BCTC grants web pages contain a variety of links and resources as well: http://www.bluegrass.kctcs.edu/development/grants

Online Resources

The Community of Science/Scholars (http://www.cos.com/ and http://scholars.cos.com/)  
What is the Community of Science/Scholars (COS)? COS is a research database service to which KCTCS subscribes. There are several useful sections in COS for faculty, staff, and students. Go browse the COS website today!
  - COS Funding Opportunities (http://fundingopps.cos.com/)
  - COS Expertise Database (http://expertise.cos.com/)

Federal Publications and Resources
  - www.grants.gov  
  - Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (http://www.cfda.gov/)
  - Commerce Business Daily (http://cbd.cos.com/)
  - Federal Register (http://fr.cos.com/)
  - Links to Federal Agency/Department Websites (http://www.rgs.uky.edu/spd/Links/Federal_Websites.htm)

Private Foundations and Corporations
  - Online NonProfit Resources from FINDIT.ORG (http://www.findit.org/html/fund_online_foundations.html)
  - The Foundation Center (http://fdncenter.org/)
Contact potential sponsors and ask questions

Evaluating potential sponsors involves more than simply reviewing descriptions of their programs in an online database or resource guide. You should consider contacting:

- Past grantees
- Program Officers
- Past reviewers

With any private or corporate sponsor, you should contact the Director of Grants or Development Officer first to discuss how best to approach the sponsor (e.g. via email, a formal letter, or phone call). There are also some internal restrictions about contacting certain sponsors.

Questions you may want to consider asking:

- Does my project fall within your current priorities?
- Would you be willing to review a pre-proposal or draft proposal?
- How many new awards do you expect to make this year?
- What are the most common mistakes in the proposals you receive?
- Do you accept unsolicited proposals?
- Would you be willing to share a copy of a funded proposal with me?
- Are there any other insights you can share with me on how to be successful?