

## Amanda Jones “Free Money and How To Stretch Your Budget”

### 1. Grants:

#### i. Community Grants

1. [Walmart/Sam’s Club](#) (easiest grant in the world--you just write a title.) Not only will they give money through grants, but you can often go in and ask to speak to the store manager and get items \$200 or less for special school events.
2. [Exxon](#), Entergy, Dow, Waste Management: If we have several corporations in our area that have volunteer grant programs. Exxon--20 hours an employee volunteers=\$500. Exxon also does team volunteering grants where I’ve gotten several thousands.
3. [Ross Dress for Less](#)

#### ii. National Grants

1. [Pets in the Classroom](#)
2. [Scholastic](#) Contests (James Patterson book grant) and [Scholastic grants for librarians list](#)
3. [Bee Cause Foundation](#)
4. [Target Field Trip Grants](#)
5. Lowes Toolbox for Education (currently only by invitation, but keep checking)
6. [Home Depot](#)
7. [Dollar General Literacy Grants](#)
8. [Fund for Teachers](#) (for travel/professional development)

#### iii. Awards that come with \$

1. [I Love My Librarian Award](#) (\$5000 cash/travel stipend)
2. [School Library Journal Librarian of the Year Award](#) (\$2500 cash/\$2500 in books, book for every student, visit with Mr. Schu)

#### iv. Professional Association Grants

1. APEL--my state educator association (to go to ISTE)
2. LA Reading Association

3. [AASL](#): special event, collection development, etc.
  4. [ALA](#): travel grants and other award/grants
  5. Edcamp Foundation (\$200 to run an Edcamp and occasionally offer Edcamp Impact Grants)
- b. Travel Scholarships and Grants (FB groups)
- i. If you are a librarian in Louisiana, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, New York, Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana--apply to the [REALISD Project](#) for 4 days paid STEM training that pays for all training, travel, and an online STEM course at UWG or UB
  - ii. Search online for teacher travel: librarian programs in Oxford, at Library of Congress, all other--some cover all costs and some cover partial costs.
- c. Go Fund Me
- d. [Donors Choose](#): keep projects small, always have a current project, promote on social media, check for matching offers
- e. [Adopt a Classroom](#)
- f. #ClearTheLists
- g. Corporate gifts or fund matching--donation requests via social media or by emailing them. You never know until you ask. I write letters on letterhead and will mail letters to corporate offices, also.
- i. McDonalds donates breakfast for my Battle of the Books
  - ii. Zaxby's donates lunch for a special program for special needs students we have (200 people)
  - iii. Sonic, Menchies, Raising Canes, etc will donate coupons for prizes
  - iv. Our local trampoline park will give free passes for reading programs
- h. Other funding sources:
- i. STEAM program after school
  - ii. Friday Fun Days
  - iii. [Read-a-thon](#) My referral ID is 2jOqt6. You can get money by referring other librarians!

- iv. Asking for donations on social media and keep posted on your website--books, Legos, materials for makerspaces like toilet tubes, paint, markers, etc.
  - v. Amazon Wish List (post on your website)
  - vi. Contests: Twitter author contests for books, Scholastic contests/giveaways
    - 1. [Sonic Limeades for Learning](#)
  - vii. Book Fair (we do two)
  - viii. [Girls Who Code](#) (\$300 to help with costs)
  - ix. Technology Summer Camp (paid for me to attend ISTE)
  - x. FREEBIES: CS First will send free coding lessons and passports for coding activities
  - xi. Author Visits:
    - 1. Work with your local bookstore--they can get you author visits for free when they know authors are coming in town.
    - 2. Email authors you know are coming into town for book festivals. They are likely to swing by your school for free or for a much smaller fee since they are already in town.
    - 3. Every year, author [Kate Messner](#) creates a list of authors who will Skype for free on World Read Aloud Day and it's very good. I Skype several each year. This is a good list for librarians who don't have a budget for author visits! Here is last year's list, but follow her on Twitter bc she will be posting this year's list soon!
2. What advice would you give listeners who are hesitant to ask for funding outside of their annual budget?
- a. Read-a-thons and special programming, create a plan of action. Show how much money you can earn and how you will use the money. If you need money for your collection, show them a collection analysis. If you need money for makerspaces or STEM materials, show them research articles. Show pictures of how Breakout Boxes can be used if you need money to purchase those. Another huge thing is how you will promote it. I always

use the angle that I will call the newspaper and TV stations to promote our activities, which is good publicity for our school.

3. You make this process sound easy. Can you identify the key(s) to your success?
  - a. I always have a plan of action for how I will use my funds and a triage list of what I need first. My Grant Wakelet--I'm working on building it up--right now I have 9 grants listed (mostly gardening/STEM)--but I hope to be adding to it soon: <https://wke.lt/w/s/C1DGna>
  - b. I've collected 45 links for different grants on PearTrees, but I'll be switching them over to Wakelet when I find time:  
<http://www.pearltrees.com/abmack33/grants/id21126611>
  - c. Promote on social media (and let them know in the grant that you are willing to do so)
  - d. Take picture with giant check and send to newspaper
  - e. Don't get discouraged if you don't get something.

Amanda Jone's library's website at lomlibrary.org and on Facebook: LOM Library, Twitter: @abmack33 and @LOMiddleLibrary, and Instagram: @lom\_library