



National Freedom of
Information Coalition

<http://nfoic.org/>

NFOIC State Challenge Grant Program 2019 Criteria

Purpose:

The NFOIC State Challenge grant is a small grant program available to eligible Active Members of NFOIC with 501(c)3 tax-exempt status and whose membership is in good standing.*

The State Challenge Grant is a matching grant requiring the eligible member to match dollar-for-dollar the amount awarded. The grant can be used for:

- projects that further public access to records, meetings and officials of state or local public institutions and improves open and transparent government. Project purpose grants will be for periods of six (6), 12 or 18 months, depending on the request.
- sustainable purposes that support the organization's mission or objectives. Sustainable grants will cover a 12-month period.

Criteria:

For project grants, the initiative must be completed within the stated time frame in the application unless the grantor receives written permission from NFOIC allowing for an extension.

Grants will be awarded in \$500 increments up to \$2,500. A minimum grant request should have a value of at least \$1,000.

Periodic reporting on the grants will be required and due every six months while the grant is being used.

*An Active Member in good standing includes being current with their annual dues; has attended at least one annual FOI Summit in the last three years (Washington D.C., Nashville, and Cincinnati); and is current with their obligations and satisfied requirements related to any past grant awarded from NFOIC.

Applications will be accepted by NFOIC between February 1, 2019 and March 15, 2019.



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Examples for using grants:

- Developing new programs or projects that support the member's mission.
- Improving the content of the organization's web site or support online marketing through social network sites such as Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram
- Create and host an event for marketing or fundraising
- Developing or participating in the state's Sunshine Week event(s)
- Staff support
- Technology purchase, e.g., computer
- Track and/or report legislative activities relating to pertinent FOI bills, e.g., produce a legislative roundup report
- Produce or distribute a "Citizen Guide" to your jurisdiction's FOI laws
- Build criteria for offering training and education programs (to groups or to public officials) about state open government laws or issues
- Create or maintain an existing "Hotline" phone number for public inquiries.
- Produce and publish a Newsletter
- Host an awards presentations/dinner/luncheon
- Conducts FOI audits of public agencies
- Holds fundraising events for the organization
- Create a contest for students around First Amendment rights
- Create and maintain a public speakers' bureau
- Conduct records search/petitions for the organization
- Conduct records requests for individuals