Introduction

We at WomensNet.net are thrilled to share this Special Report with you!

“22 Terrific Grants for Women Business Owners” is the compilation of hundreds of people-hours scouring the internet (and other resources) to locate the most reputable sources where women business owners like you can apply for grant money.

If you’ve spent even a few minutes trying to find legitimate grants for women on the internet, you know what we mean. There are literally thousands of seedy “grants for women” that are well-marketed scams. Most of these folks try to sell women free information about government grants for which 99% of women entrepreneurs don’t even qualify.

That’s why we made it our mission at WNN to put our noses to the grindstone and do some long and hard research for you. To the best of our knowledge, the grants we discovered are completely legit. Of course, we still encourage you to do your own due diligence.

We’ve listed them for you alphabetically.

1. Amber Grant for Women Business Owners
   https://ambergrantsforwomen.com/

This one is sponsored by us at WomensNet.net. The Amber Grants began in 1998 to honor the memory of a young entrepreneurial woman who died in 1981, at the age of 19. The purpose of the Amber Grant is to help other women achieve the dreams that Amber could not in her short time with us. Finding money to start a small business - especially money for women entrepreneurs and start-ups is not easy - so we thought we would try to help a bit! Our primary focus is assisting women who are trying to start small businesses, home-based or online. The grants are modest, usually $500 to $1,000, and are intended to pay for the small but essential expenses that can often make the difference between getting started or being forever stalled. No repayment is required or expected, although it is hoped that Amber Grant winners will pass on the kindness by mentoring and helping other women along the way.
2. American Association of University Women
http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/

AAUW is one of the globe’s largest sources of funding for graduate women and has been around since 1881. Collectively, they have given away more than $3.7 million in funding. AAUW currently offers six different fellowships and grants for women. Their funding ranges from $2,000 - $30,000. AAUW strives to support women from all over the world including teachers, activists, women in primarily male-dominated industries, and to women who are just beginning their career path.

3. Belle Capital USA
www.bellevc.com

Belle Capital USA is an angel fund for businesses with at least one female founder or C-level executive. They strive to find companies who are in the Information Technology, Digital health, and CleanTech Industries.

4. Caleb Brown Urban Excellence Community Grant
www.calebbrownonline.com/Grant_Application.html

The Urban Excellence Community Grant is focused on entrepreneurs looking to benefit urban areas with their small business. Made possible by Caleb Brown Venture Capital LLC, the grant provides up to $1,000 in monetary funds as well as 500 hours of complimentary business consulting. Applicants must benefit communities of at least 50,000 residents, with a population density of 1,000 people per square mile. Businesses must be for-profit, no more than three years old, and have plans to hire additional staff within the funding year. Additionally, grantees must participate in weekly start-up business coaching provided by Caleb Brown representatives. Applications are collected on the 15th of every month, and winners must agree to attend the presentation event in Chicago.
5. Cartier Women’s Initiative Awards
www.cartierwomensinitiative.com/how-to-apply

Check this out of you’re from outside the U.S. The Cartier Women’s Initiative Awards were established to encourage and inspire female entrepreneurship on a global scale. The associated grant is awarded to women who are the principal owners of start-up, for-profit small business. Applicants are encouraged to fill out an entry form and detail as much about their operations as possible. In 2012, six winners from six different countries received $20,000 each for their unique entrepreneurial endeavors.

6. Company Corporation Business Plan Contest
www.incorporate.com/business_plan_contest.html

The Company Corporation’s Business Plan Contest is open to U.S. entrepreneurs aged 18 and up. Interested applicants are encouraged to send a one-page business plan executive summary. The entries will be reviewed by a panel of judges, with a $1,000 award going to the top candidate. Business plans are judged based on a blended criterion of originality, creativity, “wow” factor, and sustainability to address a specific need. In addition to the contest, this website offers a wide array of beneficial materials to those interested in starting their own business.

7. Daring to Dream Grant
www.zli.bus.umich.edu/events_programs/dream_grant.asp

This grant is provided by Eugene Applebaum, founder of Arbor Drugs, Inc. and president of Arbor Investments Group. The Daring to Dream Grant provide resources that help turn ideas into a functional business plan. Applicants must provide detailed information about their product, and may be rewarded with a grant between $500-$5,000. There are three different categories for funding, depending on the applicant’s current business stage. Applicants must submit detailed reports of their business plan, including sustainability and feasibility models.
8. Dell Social Innovation Challenge
www.dellchallenge.org

The Dell Social Innovation Challenge seeks to fund student entrepreneurs who are looking to use their ideas to make the world a better place. The competition is open to students worldwide. Whether or not your business is conceptual or already underway, there are many benefits to joining the Social Innovation Challenge. The program annually distributes over $350,000 between its finalists, while also providing mentoring and other resources. Young innovators looking to make a difference may register for free on the above website. The deadline to enter the annual challenge is in late January.

9. Eileen Fisher Women’s Business Grant
http://www.eileenfisher.com/grants/women-owned-business/grant-program-guidelines/

In support of this vision of women entrepreneurs as creators of change, the EILEEN FISHER Women-Owned Business Grant Program was launched in 2004 with a single grant as part of the company’s twentieth anniversary celebrations. Presently, they award $120,000 in grants for up to 10 grant recipients (minimum grant $12,000) on an annual basis. In addition, grant recipients are invited to New York City in the spring following their award for two days of learning and celebration with the EILEEN FISHER community. Businesses must meet all eligibility requirements in order to apply. Eligibility Criteria is listed on grant link above.

10. FedEx Small Business Grant Contest
https://smallbusiness.fedex.com/grant-contest.html

Each year, FedEx awards small business grants to entrepreneurs all over the country who have a deep passion for their businesses. Winners become part of a community of entrepreneurs that gain and share insights from peers and enjoy great exposure for their business.
11. Long Beach Business Start-Up Grant
http://www.lbds.info/neighborhood_services/corridor_beautification/business_start_up_grant.asp (Long Beach CA only)

Here’s a very specific one for residents of Long Beach, California. The Business Start-Up Grant is designed to assist new businesses by providing federal grant funds in an effort to defray costs associated with the starting of the business. The program may provide up to a $2,000 reimbursement grant to eligible businesses. Criteria for the participation of this grant is listed in the link above.

12. Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation
www.massgcc.com/grant-awards (Mass only)

The Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC) is a sponsorship program aimed at helping non-profit organizations in the state of Massachusetts.

13. Walmart Foundation
http://www.cybergrants.com/pls/cybergrants/quiz.display_question?x_gm_id=2797&x_quiz_id=4503&x_order_by=1

The Walmart foundation awards grants to non-profits on a national and state-wide level. The foundations key areas of focus are opportunity, sustainability, and community. The Grants that are given away can range from $250 to $250,000 and above. Before you apply for any of their grants you must complete a questionnaire to make sure your business is eligible. Keep in mind when you do go to apply you must have your business Tax ID or NCES ID handy.

14. Miller Lite Tap the Future
http://www.mltapthefuture.com/

Miller Lite Tap the Future: a competition that lets entrepreneurs pitch for a chance to earn more than $200K to fund their business. In the process, They offer business seminars, live pitch opportunities, access to business moguls like Daymond John from ABC’s “Shark Tank” and more.
15. MIT 100k Entrepreneurship Competition
www.mit100k.org

WomensNet.net gets a lot of grant applications from women college students who are looking for entrepreneurial funding, so we added this grant to our list. The MIT 100k Entrepreneurship Competition is a three-stage event aimed at helping fund students with a passion for innovation. Funding includes $100,000 to the grand prize winners. The program's annual budget includes $350,000 with other resources such as networking, mentoring, media exposure, and much more. Applicants must be students with a valid .edu email address.

16. Open Meadows Award
https://sites.google.com/site/openmeadowsfoundation/

Open Meadows Foundation is a grant-making organization seeking projects that promote gender/racial/economic justice. The projects must be led by and benefit women and girls. Open Meadows Foundation funds projects that do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, gender identity and expression, sexual identity and expression, age or ability. We offer grants under $2000 to projects that: Are designed and implemented by women and girls, reflect the diversity of the community served by the project in both its leadership and organization, promote building community power, and have limited financial access. Organizational budget should not exceed $75,000.

17. Patrina Foundation Grant
www.patrinafoundation.org

Established in 1990 by Mrs. Lorinda de Roulet, The Patrina Foundation is a family foundation, spanning three generations. The Foundation's mission: Improving the lives of girls and women. To fulfill its mission, the Patrina Foundation supports social and educational nonprofit programming designed to meet the unique needs of girls and women in the greater New York Metropolitan area. Since inception, the Foundation has made grants in excess of $7 million to roughly 350 organizations.
18. The Zach Grant  
https://www.fundera.com/resources/zach-grant

The Zach Grant is Fundera’s Annual Entrepreneurial to help budding entrepreneurs grow their business. Zach, the founder of the successful restaurant chain Fusian, is the reason Fundera exists. When Zach couldn’t get a bank loan, Fundera’s co-founder (and Zach’s cousin!) Jared Hecht wanted to know why. His journey led to the formation of Fundera—and the rest is history. The Zach Grant (funded by Fundera) is awarding $2,500 for the best video entry every year. The grant will be awarded in check form, made payable directly to the business. The deadline to enter in this grant is January 1st.

**Participant must be an owner of a registered business.

19. StartupNation Grant  
www.startupnation.com/leading-moms-in-business

If you’re a mom AND a business owner, this should interest you. StartupNation promotes entrepreneurial values among female business owners. Their grant giveaway is a compilation of ideas provided by current moms in business. The site asks other users to rate the top candidates and choose the grand prize winner. The most popular entry will win an award of $10,000. Qualified applicants must be mothers who are majority business owners, and who also have a functional website to help showcase their product. Publicity is one of the best features of this site, as your business will be openly available to all users.

20. The U.S. Small Business Administration  
http://www.sba.gov/loans-and-grants

The Small Business Administration is a U.S. government agency that provides support small business owners. They have a unique loan and grant search tool that can help you determine what government finance program is right for you based on your location and situation.
21. Women’s Foundation of Greater Kansas City
http://www.womens-foundation.org/philanthropy/

The Women’s Foundation of Kansas City founded in 1991, has made hundreds of grants to non-profit organizations benefiting women of all ages in Kansas and Missouri.

22. Smart Women Grant
https://www.zionsbank.com/learning-center/swsm-grant.jsp

Each year Zions Bank awards six women with a $3,000 Smart Women Grant based on six categories; Child and elder care, business, arts and culture, health and humane services, continuing education and teacher support, and community development. This grant is meant to help boost the efforts of women entrepreneurs who strengthen our communities through their various talents and endeavors. Any women entrepreneur who promotes the empowerment of women or directly benefits low-income populations in Utah and Idaho is welcome to apply.