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GrabGrants.com: The Free Grant Search Engine

Seidelman Grant Application

Personal Statement

Millions of dollars in grants are given away annually in the United States. These grants have a variety of purposes, many of them aimed at empowering those without a voice in areas of conflict, where discrimination has been prevalent. The issue with these grants is that oftentimes the people, communities, businesses, and nonprofits that they are meant for, do not know where to find them or how to apply for them. There are a few websites intended to aid people in finding grants, but their subscription services are upwards of hundreds of dollars a month. I created Grab Grants with the goal of fixing this issue. Grab Grants is a completely free website that helps activists, minority-owned small businesses, artists, and individuals find and apply for grants. I was inspired to develop the original web scraping algorithm, on which Grab Grants runs, in a class at my college last year. The site acts as a search engine by allowing users to search for and browse grants based off of keywords and pre-selected categories. It also has a page that assists users in applying for grants. It is the first and only entirely free grant search engine that includes private and government grants all in one centralized location online.

The objective behind Grab Grants is to help empower minority groups and communities by assisting them with gaining access to capital that's meant for them. The purposeful lack of direct investment within minority communities within the United States has been a key instrument used to prevent equality and peace among all people, whether it's in regards to the success of small businesses or helping to aid the resolution of dissension within areas throughout the United States. By helping people obtain direct access to finding and applying for grants, Grab Grants is the bridge to the resources that could help them.

Activism has been an instrumental element used throughout history. It's a key component of enacting growth and change within the world. It's through activism that conflict can be resolved and peace and equality can be restored. In order to enact activism, we must empower activists and help give them the ability to make a change. Additionally, an aspect of activism is fighting for equality, especially within vital areas such as the economy and the health of local communities. According to the Small Business Association, there are over thirty million small businesses in the United States, but only approximately one million of these are minority-owned. By continuing to reach out to and partner with minority-focused chambers of commerce and

similar organizations around the United States, Grab Grants has the ability to improve and increase the number of activists, minority-owned businesses, artists, and nonprofits that already exist, therefore helping to improve the economic and social fabric of our country. Grab Grants has partnered with a number of minority-focused chambers of commerce, minority-focused foundations, and SBA-sponsored SCORE chapters located around the United States. Upon reaching out to all of these chambers of commerce, foundations, and SCORE chapters, a large majority were very open to and excited about what Grab Grants is doing and offered to share it on their websites and in their newsletters. These partnerships have allowed us to connect directly with the audience that Grab Grants was created to help. Additionally, being directly connected to our target audience has allowed us to better understand how to best improve the site going forward and what additions are needed by our users. We have open lines of communication with all of our partners so we consistently are updated on their members' needs. The goal of Grab Grants is to eliminate the cost and hardship of finding and applying for grants, therefore empowering individuals to help make a difference in their communities and the world overall.

Work Details and Budget Proposal

I wrote the algorithm on which Grab Grants runs, in my calculus class at Sarah Lawrence last year. I launched the project this past September and it has since been featured on ABC News, among other news outlets. If fortunate enough to receive the Seidelman Grant, it would help give me the opportunity to further develop Grab Grants to its fullest potential. I would work on Grab Grants throughout the entire summer and after. I've included an itemized list of expenses the grant would be used to cover below.

Proposed Budget: \$1,000

\$500 - 2 Grant Admins to Help Source Grants to Add to the Database

\$150 - Graphic Designer to Create Graphics for the Website and Social Media Platforms

\$350 - Search Engine Optimization Expert to Increase the Website's Google Ranking