



# Searching for Funding Opportunities

## About Pivot®

**Pivot** is a database containing funding opportunities for all disciplines and project types. It includes information on federal, private, and international funding options all in one easy to search tool. With your personal Pivot account, you can:

- Sign up to receive customized funding alerts
- Save and return to previous funding searches
- Share funding opportunities directly from Pivot
- Track individual funding opportunities

## Where to Begin

Access Pivot here: [Pivot Homepage](#)

- To create an account, click on *Sign Up* in the upper right corner of the screen
- Use the institutional (Shibboleth) sign-in to bypass the need for remembering a new password.
- Use your institutional-assigned email address (this will be your User ID).

Be sure to claim your profile as soon as you sign in for the first time. This is how your colleagues will find you and your research areas.

## Starting a Basic Search

Under the *Funding* tab, you will see the main search box where you can enter free text search terms, or, search by Sponsor or Keywords. It can be a good idea to start with keywords which are pre-defined terms that Pivot editors match to funding opportunities.

By hovering over the **Browse by Keyword** wheel you can see approximately how much funding is available for a given term. Selecting a term from the wheel will return results for all the funding opportunities matching that term.

When running **free-text searches** from the main search box, you can get more precise results by:

- Using quotes for an exact phrase search (example, "childhood obesity" returns results that have that exact phrase)
- Using an asterisk to search word variants (example, using child\* returns results with the terms child, childhood, children, etc.)
- Using proximity limiters (example, using childhood w/5 obesity returns results where both terms are within 5 words of each other)

The **Search by Keyword** feature allows you to easily find keywords that align with your research interests and quickly build a query that searches one or more keywords.

**Tip:** if the "explode" checkbox is clicked, you will get results from *everything* under the main folder. It is less precise, but returns many more results. If you find funders aren't focused enough, uncheck the box.

The **Search by Sponsor** feature allows you to search for specific sponsors and funding agencies, or, you can browse an A-to-Z list of all the sponsors that Pivot is tracking. Just click on a sponsor name to see all of the active funding opportunities for that sponsor in Pivot.

## Performing an Advanced Search

On the *Funding* tab, click on *Advanced Search*. You will see a variety of options for searching specific fields and for pre-scoping your search by specific criteria including by:

- Funding type
- Sponsor type
- Award amounts
- Upcoming deadline
- Applicant type

UO's account defaults to Activity Location of Oregon and United States. Simply click on the "x" next to this parameter to remove it.

- An important distinction at the beginning of the Advanced Search Page: If you chose "Match *any* fields" at the top of the screen, it doesn't just apply to the immediate boxes below. It applies to the entire search, and will make your search very broad. If you want to limit by both the key words you enter, *and* any other criteria you select in the other sections, be sure you have chosen "Match *all* of the fields".

**Search Tip:** Some research topics may not get any results in searching, but that does not necessarily mean there are no grants for which your project may be eligible. If this happens, try searching for grants in the broader field(s) within which your project falls. For example, a project to study zebra mussels may be eligible under a grant looking to fund projects in the broader fields of Biological Sciences, Marine Biology, or Environmental Biology, etc.

Pivot offers multiple ways to save searches, track results and get automatic alerts for funding of interest.

### Saving or Modifying a Search

After initiating your search, three links appear on the top of your search results screen: *Advanced Search*, *Save Search*, and *Refine Search*.

- *Advanced Search* starts a new, blank search screen.
- *Save Search* allows you to name and save your search. On the Saved Searches screen, you can specify whether you want to receive weekly funding alert emails that highlight any new opportunities that match your search criteria.
  - You can find and manage your saved searches by clicking on the 'home' icon in the top left corner of the screen.
- *Refine Search* returns you to the search screen with your criteria still entered so you can easily add or modify keywords or search parameters.

You may also narrow your results using the faceted search results on the left side of the search results screen

### Tracking and Sharing Funding Opportunities

After initiating your search, three links appear on the top of your search; Track, Set to Active & Share. You can save and share an unlimited number of opportunities.

- Your tracked list will be a longer list of opportunities that you still wish to keep track of.
- Your active list will be a shorter list of your very important opportunities or those you are definitely planning to apply for
- Sharing an opportunity is easy. Enter the name or the email address of the person(s) that you wish to share this opportunity or search with. Pivot will attempt to auto-populate names of others at your institution, so you don't need to type in their email addresses. You can include an optional message and then Click Send.

### Questions and Trainings

Pivot has a large [library of training videos](#) to help you get started.

They also have a variety of [knowledge articles](#).

Having problems? Reach out to Pivot support through the Help button in the upper right-hand corner of the screen.

You can also reach out to Research Development Services at [rds@uoregon.edu](mailto:rds@uoregon.edu).

