

Guide to Grant Stacking and Braiding

Combining Multiple Funding Sources for Rural Infrastructure Projects

What Is Grant Stacking?

Grant stacking means using multiple grants to fund different parts of the same project. Each grant pays for a specific component or phase. This is common when one grant is not enough to cover total project costs.

What Is Grant Braiding?

Grant braiding means blending multiple funding sources so they work together as one budget. The funds are combined and used flexibly across the entire project. This is more complex than stacking.

When to Stack or Braid Grants

Consider stacking or braiding when:

- Your project costs more than one grant will cover
- You need to match requirements of a federal grant
- One grant cannot pay for certain project elements
- You want to reduce the local match requirement

Key Rules for Stacking Grants

Check Each Funding Agreement First

Every grant has rules about using other funding sources. Read all funding agreements before you commit to multiple grants.

Avoid Double Dipping

Never charge the same cost to two different grants. Each grant must pay for distinct project elements.

Track Expenses Carefully

Use separate accounting codes for each funding source. Keep detailed records showing which grant paid for what.

Reporting Requirements

When you stack or braid grants, you must:

- Report to each funder separately
- Show exactly what each grant paid for
- Maintain separate documentation for each funding source
- Follow the most restrictive rules when requirements differ