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- 1) Wells Fargo: CA, CO, IL, IN, IA, MI, NE, OH, OR, TX, WA, & WI.
- 2) Pentair Foundation: OH, MN, KS, IL, MO, WI, TN, and RI.
- 3) Lucent Technologies: CA, CO, DC, FL, IL, MD, NJ, OH, OK & TX
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1) Wells Fargo insists on some involvement of Wells Fargo personnel so if you can get a letter of support from a local manager or employee, you will have a shot. Guidelines vary slightly by state but many mention job-training programs for low- and- moderate-income individuals. There is an overall criterion that services should be for low- and moderate-income individuals so you'll need to emphasize the high rate of unemployment and underemployment for people with disabilities. Wells Fargo operates in 12 HS/HT states; CA, CO, IL, IN, IA, MI, NE, OH, OR, TX, WA, & WI. Guidelines and local contacts for 12 HS/HT states are at <http://www.blackhawkis.com/wf/>

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2) Pentair Foundation is interested in programs that provide school-to-work initiatives including business concepts and their applications; work readiness; and career development. They also fund job training and assistance to those with physical or mental disabilities. Pentair operates in 8 HS/HT states OH, MN, KS, IL, MO, WI, TN, and RI. The next deadline is October 1 for decisions made in December. Call or write to them for an application package. (651) 639-5200. The Pentair Foundation, Waters Edge Plaza, 1500 County Road B2 W, St. Paul, MN 55113-3105.

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3) Lucent Technologies has a Foundation which primarily funds education and youth development but proposals are by invitation only. You start with the Community Relations/Corporate Contributions group and your regional Lucent coordinator. Support for local educational programs, arts and culture, and community development initiatives are considered under this program. Lucent also has a strong volunteer program and is working on a corporate database of volunteer opportunities. Lucent operates in nine HS/HT states: CA, CO, DC, FL, IL, MD, NJ, OH, OK & TX. <http://www.lucent.com/news/foundation/>

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4) How do you find the lesser-known, small foundations that might be in your town or city? The Association of Small Foundations lists their membership at <http://www.smallfoundations.org/roster.htm>. Most of these have one or no paid staff person and quite a few will not accept unsolicited applications. It's still worthwhile to check out the type of gifts they make by viewing their last 990 (www.guidestar.com) and if it's appropriate, add them to your mailing list for selected mailings (program updates or newsletters) as an introduction.

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5) The AmericaConnects Consortium website lists resources for job and career training. The annotated collection links to some of the most useful career information and training resources for IT and other professions, including program design guides, IT skills standards, and programs especially for disadvantaged communities.

(<http://www.americconnects.net/resources/default.asp?topicid=30>)

The America Connects Consortium produces a bi-monthly e-newsletter that often includes job training, funding, or disability-related content. To subscribe, send a message to majordomo@americconnects.net with the message: subscribe news youremailaddresshere

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6) Regional IT Associations: Working with the regional information technology/high tech council or association in your area could have a range of benefits for your HS/HT site. The Information Technology Association of America has a listing at <http://www.itaa.org/crita/critamem.cfm>. Some of the regional groups have scholarship programs while others have a workforce development or education section. Letters of support from your regional ITAA affiliate would be good to include with selected grant applications.

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7) Merrill Lynch is working to help youth with limited resources graduate from high school and succeed in college, while also recognizing the importance of ongoing access to knowledge to keep ahead in today's fast-paced world. Applicants should apply through their local Merrill Lynch branch office. Requests for funding must be submitted in a written letter no longer than three pages. The branch locator is at http://askmerrill.ml.com/nf/branch/launch/0,,0_ask0000,00.html

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Each month InfoUse e-mails a Funding Bulletin to High School/High Tech sites to provide up-to-date information on funding opportunities, tips on proposal writing, profile innovative funding strategies used by HS/HT sites, and to inform sites about significant program events planned for coming months. This service is provided through a management support contract to InfoUse from the Department of Labor. Your input is welcomed at lwahl@pacbell.net.