

Free Money Offer? Just Hang Up!



Colorado Attorney General
John W. Suthers



Better Business Bureau®
Serving Colorado



Did you receive a call from a “government” agency (or some other organization with an official sounding name) claiming that you have qualified to receive a “free grant” to help pay your bills? Did the caller tell you that your application for a grant is guaranteed to be accepted, and you’ll never have to pay the money back? Does it all sound too good to be true? It is.

These “money for nothing” grant offers are scams designed to steal your personal information and your cash. Here’s how you can protect yourself from “government grant” scams:

- **Don’t give out your bank account information to anyone you don’t know.** Scammers try to pressure you into providing your financial information so that they can “deposit your grant directly into your account”.
- **Don’t pay any money for a “free” government grant.** A real government agency won’t ask you to pay a processing fee for a grant that you have already been awarded, but scammers will try to convince you that you owe a “processing fee” to claim your grant.
- **Phone numbers can deceive.** Some con artists use Internet technology to disguise their area code in caller ID systems. Although it may look like they’re calling from Washington, DC, they could be calling from anywhere in the world.

If you think you may have been a victim of a government grant scam, file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission by calling 1-877-382-4357. You may also call AARP Foundation ElderWatch at 1-800-222-4444, option 2, to connect with an ElderWatch volunteer specialist.

Recognize, Refuse, Report!
Call us Monday–Friday 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

1-800-222-4444

Denver Metro Area
303-222-4444

www.aarpelderwatch.org