GrantFinder AI
Product Specification

Version 2.6 | February 02, 2026

Author: Chris Treadaway + Claude

Status: Ready for Development

Table of Contents

1. Product Overview & Problem Statement

Product Name: GrantFinder AI - An intelligent grant discovery and matching platform for Catholic parishes and schools

The Problem

Catholic churches and schools have access to hundreds of potential grant opportunities, but:

- No one has time to read through every grant's eligibility criteria
- Important details are buried in newsletters and meeting minutes
- Matching is manual - someone has to remember which needs might fit which grants
- Applications are time-consuming
- Deadlines slip by because the right person didn't know the right grant existed

The Solution

GrantFinder AI scans your website, reads your documents, asks smart questions based on actual grant requirements, and surfaces all grant opportunities ranked by probability of fit - with clear scoring, dollar amounts, and due dates.

Core Value Proposition

"Upload your documents. Enter your website. Get every grant opportunity scored and ranked by how well it fits your parish or school."

Product Vision (Phased)

Phase	Capability	Focus
v1.0 (MVP)	Grant discovery + probability scoring	Surface all opportunities, rank by fit
v1.5	Teacher Edition	Lighter version for classroom grants
v2.0	AI application drafting	AI writes applications, human reviews
v3.0	Autonomous submission	AI fills forms with human approval gate

2. User Stories

Primary User: Parish/School Administrator

Persona: Maria, Business Manager at St. Theresa Catholic Church & School

User Story: "As a parish business manager, I want to upload our bulletins and meeting minutes so that an AI can tell me which grants we should apply for, ranked by how likely we are to get them, with deadlines and amounts clearly shown."

Success Scenario: Maria uploads 3 months of bulletins, the last finance council minutes, and enters the parish website. Within 10 minutes, she has a ranked list of 15 grant opportunities with probability scores.

3. Core Functionality

3.1 High-Level User Journey (v1.0)

1. SIGN IN - Google OAuth (no passwords stored)
2. SETUP - Enter Claude API key, Upload grant database (Excel), Enter website URLs
3. CONTEXT GATHERING (4 Sources) - AI scans website, User answers AI-generated questionnaire, Free-form text, Document uploads
4. AI PROCESSING - Website crawl, Document parsing, Profile synthesis, Geographic filtering, Grant matching
5. PROFILE REVIEW - User reviews/edits AI's understanding
6. MATCH RESULTS - All grants scored 0-100% with export options

4. Inputs and Outputs

4.1 Inputs

Input	Format	Required	Notes
Google account	OAuth	Yes	User ID only, no passwords
Claude API key	String	Yes	Encrypted, user provides own
Grant database	Excel (.xlsx)	Yes	5-category structure
Church website URL	URL	No	For AI scanning
School website URL	URL	No	If separate from church
Questionnaire answers	Form	Yes	AI-generated questions
Free-form text	String	No	User's own words
Document uploads	PDF, DOCX, TXT	No	Extracted text only

5. Business Rules and Logic

5.1 Probability Scoring System

Factor	Weight	What It Measures
Eligibility fit	40%	Does org meet hard requirements? (501c3, geography, Catholic)
Need alignment	30%	Does org have documented need matching grant purpose?
Capacity signals	15%	Size, staffing, volunteer base, past success
Timing	10%	Deadline feasibility, project readiness
Completeness	5%	Do we have enough info to assess accurately?

5.2 Geographic Filtering Rules

- Geographic Filter First - If grant is restricted to specific state/region and org is outside, mark 'Not Eligible'
- Texas-Only Grants - Kenedy Memorial, Scanlan Foundation, LCRA apply only to TX organizations
- Nationwide Grants - Koch Foundation, Raskob Foundation, FEMA NSGP available to all qualifying orgs
- Include Geo Qualified Column - Every grant shows 'Yes', 'No', or 'Check eligibility'

6. Data Requirements

6.1 Data Retention Policy

Data Type	Retention	Notes
User account	Until deleted	User can delete account
API key (encrypted)	Until changed	User can rotate
Organization profile	Indefinite	Core user data
Grant database	Until replaced	User can re-upload
Matching sessions	90 days	Can export before deletion
Uploaded documents	Session only	Extracted text kept, original discarded

7. Integrations and Dependencies

7.1 Technology Stack

Component	Technology	Notes
Frontend	Next.js 14+	React, TypeScript, App Router
Styling	Tailwind CSS	Dark mode support built-in
Backend	Python FastAPI	Async, type hints
Database	PostgreSQL	Via Supabase
AI	Claude API (Anthropic)	claude-sonnet-4-20250514 or similar
Auth	Google OAuth 2.0	Via NextAuth.js or Supabase Auth

8. User Interface Design

8.1 Design Principles

- Dark mode default - Professional, easy on eyes, terminal aesthetic
- Light mode available - Toggle in settings
- Terminal UI for processing - Real-time activity log
- Information density - Score, amount, deadline prominently displayed
- Progressive disclosure - Summary first, details on demand
- Mobile responsive - Works on phone, tablet, desktop

9. Out of Scope (v1.0)

Feature	Reason	Future Version
Application drafting	Focus on discovery first	v2.0
Automated submission	Needs drafting foundation	v3.0
Grant database auto-updates	User uploads for now	v2.0+
Email reminders	Requires notification infra	v1.5+
Multi-organization dashboard	One org per account for MVP	v2.0+
Parent-applied programs (TEFA)	Not church/school action	N/A

10. Product Roadmap

v1.0 - Grant Discovery + Scoring (MVP)

- Google OAuth sign-in
- Grant database upload (Excel with 5 categories)
- Website scanning
- AI questionnaire
- Document processing
- Geographic filtering
- Probability scoring (0-100%)
- Match explanations with citations
- Export PDF/CSV

v1.5 - Teacher Edition: Lighter version for classroom grants (DonorsChoose, supply grants)

v2.0 - AI Application Drafting: AI writes applications, human reviews

v3.0 - Autonomous Agent: AI submits with human approval gate

11. Open Design Questions

#	Question	Options
1	Profile edit depth?	Full inline editing vs. regenerate only
2	Session persistence?	Save match history vs. ephemeral
3	Token/cost display?	Show estimated cost before processing?
4	Shortlist behavior?	Save to profile vs. session only
5	Niche grant monitoring?	How to track opportunities like Notre Dame DELTA?
6	Funder statistics?	Include annual giving, avg grant size?

12. Success Criteria

Quantitative Metrics

Metric	Target	How to Measure
Time to first match	< 15 minutes	From sign-in to seeing results
Match relevance	80%+	User agrees top 3 matches worth exploring
API cost per session	< $2.00	Total Claude API spend per run
Document processing success	95%+	Files parsed without error
User completes full flow	70%+	Reach match results from sign-in

13. Grant Database Structure (5 Categories)

The grant database is organized into 5 distinct categories, each as a separate sheet in the Excel workbook:

Category 1: Church/Parish Grants - Grants specific to parish operations, facilities, and ministries.

Category 2: Catholic School Grants - Grants specific to Catholic school operations, curriculum, and education programs.

Category 3: Mixed Church-School - Grants applicable to both parishes and schools.

Category 4: Non-Catholic Qualifying - Secular grants that churches/schools may qualify for.

Category 5: Catholic Foundations - Major Catholic grant-making institutions to monitor.

Required Columns (All Grant Categories)

Column	Required	Format	Example
Grant Name	Yes	Text	KaBOOM! Build It Yourself
Deadline	Yes	Date or Text	2026-05-01 or Rolling
Amount	Yes	Text	Up to $15,000
Funder	Yes	Text	KaBOOM!
Description	Yes	Text	Funds playground equipment...
Contact	Yes	Text	info@kaboom.org | 202-659-0215
URL	Yes	URL	https://kaboom.org/grants
Status	Yes	Text	OPEN, Rolling, Check deadline
Geo Qualified	Yes	Text	Yes / No / Yes - TX Only
Funder Stats	No	Text	$7M/yr, 500 grants, avg $13K

Foundations Sheet Columns

Column	Required	Example
Foundation Name	Yes	Koch Foundation
Application Cycle	Yes	May 1 LOIs
Focus Areas	Yes	Evangelization, catechesis, Catholic schools
Location	Yes	Gainesville, FL
Contact	Yes	352-373-7491 | Via website
Website	Yes	https://www.thekochfoundation.org/
Annual Giving	Yes	~$7M/year
Notes	No	500 grants/yr, avg $13K

14. Sample AI Prompts

Key prompts for the AI processing pipeline:

Prompt 1: Website Scanning - Extracts organization basics, leadership, school info, facilities, current initiatives from websites.

Prompt 2: Questionnaire Generation - Reads all grants and generates smart questionnaire (max 20 questions) based on eligibility requirements.

Prompt 3: Document Extraction - Analyzes uploaded documents to extract facility needs, program needs, security concerns.

Prompt 4: Grant Matching - Scores each grant 0-100% based on eligibility (40%), need alignment (30%), capacity (15%), timing (10%), completeness (5%).

15. Repository & Distribution

GitHub Repository: github.com/[username]/grantfinder-ai (Public, MIT License)

Support: Patreon: patreon.com/christreadaway | Issues: GitHub Issues

Revision History

Version	Date	Changes
1.0	Feb 1, 2026	Initial spec
2.0	Feb 1, 2026	Cloud deployment, three-input model
2.1	Feb 1, 2026	Google OAuth only, blank grant DB
2.2	Feb 1, 2026	Website scanning (4 inputs), terminal UI
2.3	Feb 1, 2026	Probability scoring (0-100%)
2.4	Feb 1, 2026	Amount + due date display requirements
2.5	Feb 2, 2026	Exhaustive grant discovery, geographic filtering
2.6	Feb 2, 2026	5-category structure, Contact + URL columns restored, funder stats

Ready for Development.