Question: What is a “competitive discretionary grant”?

Answer: The Department offers three kinds of grant programs:
   1. Discretionary grants: awarded using a competitive process.
   2. Student loans or grants: to help students attend college.
   3. Formula grants: uses formulas determined by Congress and generally has no application process.

More information, including information about specific programs in each category, can be found on the Department’s website: http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grants-apply.html?src=pn.