

Lions Clubs International Foundation Grants



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION



Local Service, Global Impact

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is the official charitable organization of Lions Clubs International. LCIF funding is provided in the form of grants to support Lions-led projects. These grants aid 1.3 million Lions worldwide in humanitarian efforts too large for individual clubs or districts to fund alone.

The mission of humanitarian service is at the core of Lions Clubs International, and Lions around the world are united in a common theme, "We Serve." The Foundation's goal of "Lions helping Lions" furthers this ideal. LCIF grants support five distinct areas of service. The Foundation's primary philanthropic objectives are:

- Preserving Sight
- Combating Disability
- Promoting Health
- Serving Youth
- Providing Disaster Relief

Since LCIF was founded in 1968, it has awarded more than 9,000 grants, totaling more than US\$640 million. **One-hundred percent of every dollar donated to LCIF funds an LCIF project; all administrative costs are paid for through interest earned on the investment of the funds.**



Types of Grants through Lions Clubs International Foundation

SightFirst Grants target preventable and reversible blindness worldwide. The mission of the Lions' SightFirst program is to build comprehensive eye care systems to fight the major causes of blindness. The program funds high-quality, sustainable projects that deliver eye care services, develop infrastructure, train personnel and/or provide rehabilitation and education in underserved communities. SightFirst grant applications and project proposals are developed in cooperation with LCIF staff and regional SightFirst technical advisors and are implemented by Lions and their local partners.

Standard Grants are approved for large-scale humanitarian projects and are the most common type of grant awarded. To qualify, projects must serve many people and must be beyond the scope of traditional club and/or district fund-raising activities. LCIF provides matching funds of up to US\$75,000 to expand or initiate Lions' humanitarian projects through standard grants including: mobile health units; hospices; nursing homes; medical and eye clinics; street children's homes; centers for the blind and disabled and schools in developing countries.

Core 4 Grants provide up to US\$200,000 for large-scale projects that qualify under one of four program areas: preserving sight; combating disability; promoting health; and serving youth. The Core 4 grant program has predetermined priority projects, and grant requests must support a project related to these funding priorities. Currently, the specific projects approved through the Core 4 grant program include: diabetes treatment and prevention; low vision projects; Preschool Vision Screening Program; eye care for Special Olympics athletes; building homes in partnership with Habitat for Humanity; and expanding or implementing Lions Quest, a schools-based life-skills program.



International Assistance Grants (IAG) support Lions in crossing borders for humanitarian service. These grants provide matching funds from US\$5,000 to US\$30,000 for project partnerships between Lions clubs in a developed country and Lions clubs in a developing country. IAGs support basic health care; education and literacy; clean water and sanitation; rural development and self-sufficiency programs; services for the blind and otherwise disabled; and environmental protection projects. IAGs can also be considered for Lions' international medical missions and for larger-scale Lions' eyeglass recycling centers.

Emergency Grants provide up to US\$10,000 for districts impacted by a natural disaster that has affected at least 100 people, including tornadoes, hurricanes, floods and typhoons. The funds are used for meeting immediate needs such as food, water, clothing and medical supplies. LCIF typically awards more than US\$2 million in emergency-grant funding each year for immediate disaster relief.

Major Catastrophe Grants provide significant funds for catastrophes of major international impact, such as the China earthquake, the South Asian tsunami and Hurricane Katrina in the United States. This is the only grant that cannot be applied for by a district; the LCIF Executive Committee directs Major Catastrophe grants.



Next Steps for an Applicant:

- Contact your local Lions leadership for more information on and assistance with LCIF grants
- Contact LCIF staff for specific information regarding the grant for which you wish to apply and to determine eligibility
- Compile sufficient background information on the project before applying
- Develop a comprehensive plan according to the unique criteria of the grant for which you are applying
- Fill out the grant application in its entirety and secure approval from the required district and multiple district leadership
- Submit grant applications in a timely manner

Frequently Asked Questions About Grants

1. How do Lions districts and multiple districts apply for a grant?

Contact LCIF at 630-468-6902 or e-mail LCIF at lcif@lionsclubs.org. Additionally, most applications and supplemental information are available on the LCIF Web site at www.lcif.org

2. When should a grant application be submitted?

Most applications must be in completed form at least 60 days before an LCIF Board of Trustees meeting. The board meets three times annually. In the case of SightFirst grant requests, applications must be submitted to the SightFirst Advisory Committee (SAC) 60 days in advance of a committee meeting. The SAC meets separately three times annually. Similarly, Lions Quest grants must be submitted 60 days in advance of a Lions Quest Advisory Committee (LAC) meeting. The LAC meets separately three times annually. Contact LCIF for exact dates of Board, SAC and LAC meetings.

3. What qualities does LCIF look for in a grant application?

The project must address an important humanitarian need, serve a relatively large population, be cost effective and be beyond local fund-raising capability. Also, the budget must show ample funding from local Lions' organizations, have a strong Lions' identity and involvement, and be endorsed by the district cabinet.

4. Is there grant money available for my individual club?

Most grants require the participation of a district or multiple district. The International Assistance Grant (IAG) program, however, allows a sponsoring Lions club or district to partner with a host club or district in the country where the project will take place. Even though grants to individual clubs are limited, a club can participate in any number of service projects.

5. Does LCIF provide grants directly to an individual?

No, there is no program that distributes grants to an individual; instead, LCIF grants are awarded to Lions districts, multiple districts and clubs.

6. How do Core 4 Grants differ from Standard Grants?

Standard grants support a wide variety of large-scale, Lions-led humanitarian initiatives where the primary funding needs are for equipment or capital construction. Standard grants are matching grants and a maximum of US\$75,000 may be awarded.

Core 4 grants are limited to very specific funding priorities in four areas of service: sight, disability, health and youth. The Core 4 priority projects are predetermined and Core 4 grant requests must fund a project related to the priorities. For a list of the current Core 4 funding priorities, please visit the LCIF Web site at www.lcif.org. Additionally, most Core 4 grants match Lions donations on a 3:1 basis. The maximum grant awarded is US\$200,000 for most Core 4 grant initiatives.

7. What is the difference between a SightFirst project and other sight-related projects?

SightFirst projects must focus on the major causes of blindness on national or large regional levels. These projects reach populations that are underserved or that have limited or no access to eye-health care services. The program funds high-quality, sustainable projects that deliver eye care services, develop infrastructure, train personnel and/or provide rehabilitation and education in underserved communities.

Other sight-related projects that focus on community needs rather than national or international needs may qualify for Standard, Core 4, or International Assistance grants.

8. How are LCIF grant programs funded?

The vast majority of grant funding is made possible by donations from Lions clubs and individual members worldwide. LCIF does not receive any portion of Lions membership dues. Gifts from foundations, corporations, governments, non-Lions and interest earned on investments also increase funds available.

9. How are operating expenses paid?

By ruling of the board of trustees, all administrative and promotional expenses must be paid from interest on investments. Donated funds are never used to cover these costs.

It is important to remember that each grant is unique and has different eligibility requirements. When preparing a grant application, contact LCIF staff as early as possible. For specific information on each grant or to obtain a grant application, please contact LCIF at 630-468-6902 or visit the LCIF Web site at: WWW.LCIF.ORG



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