

# Terms and Conditions for Rotary Foundation District Grants and Global Grants

For grants awarded after 1 July 2013



The Rotary Foundation (TRF) may modify the terms and conditions of the grant at any time. Updates can be found on [rotary.org](http://rotary.org) or requested at [futurevision@rotary.org](mailto:futurevision@rotary.org). Terms and conditions for packaged grants may be found on the website.

## I. What We Fund

The Rotary Foundation funds district grants and global grants. District grants are block grants to districts that fund scholarships, projects, and travel that align with the [mission](#) of The Rotary Foundation. Global grants fund scholarships, projects, vocational training teams, and some travel within the six areas of focus that are sustainable, measurable, and host community-driven.

## II. Eligibility Guidelines

All Foundation grant activities must:

1. Relate to the [mission of The Rotary Foundation](#)
2. Include the active participation of Rotarians
3. Exclude any liability to The Rotary Foundation or Rotary International beyond the funding amount of the grant
4. Adhere to the governing laws of the United States and the host area of the grant, and harm no individuals or entities
5. Only fund activities that have been reviewed and approved by TRF before their implementation. Grants may not be used to reimburse clubs or districts for activities and expenses already completed or in progress. Planning for grant activities prior to approval is encouraged, but expenses may not be incurred.
6. Demonstrate sensitivity to the host area's tradition and culture
7. Comply with the Conflict of Interest Policy for Grant Participants as outlined in section 7.030 of [The Rotary Foundation Code of Policies](#)
8. Comply with the policy regarding the use of Rotary Marks as outlined in section 1.060.9 of [The Rotary Foundation Code of Policies](#)

## District Grants

1. Support local and international projects, scholarships, vocational training teams, and related travel
2. May allocate up to 3 percent of the grant award for grant-related administrative expenses such as bank fees, postage, software, and an independent financial assessment

## Global Grants

1. Align with one or more of Rotary's [areas of focus](#)
2. Are [sustainable](#). Host communities must be able to address their own needs after the Rotary club or district has completed its work.
3. Are measurable. Sponsors select standard measures from the [Global Grant Monitoring and Evaluation Plan supplement](#), and may add their own measurements in their report to the Foundation. Expenses to measure project outcomes are capped at 10 percent.
4. Are host community-driven. The host community designs the grant based on local needs that they have identified.
5. Can include up to 10 percent of the project budget for a project manager
6. Support humanitarian and educational projects
7. Provide scholarships to fund graduate-level coursework or research or its equivalent for a term of one to four academic years
8. Support vocational training teams that address a humanitarian need by providing or receiving professional training
9. Support travel for up to two individuals as part of a humanitarian project. These individuals provide training or implement the project should the host club confirm that their skills are not readily available locally.
10. Support communities in Rotary countries and geographical areas
11. Are sponsored by at least one Rotary club or district in the country or geographical area where the grant project will take place (primary host sponsor) and one or more outside that country or geographical area (primary international sponsor)

## III. Restrictions

Grants cannot be used to unfairly discriminate against any group; promote a particular political or religious viewpoint; support purely religious functions; support activities that involve abortion or that are undertaken solely for sex determination; fund the purchase of arms or ammunition; support [Rotary Youth Exchange](#), [RYLA](#), [Rotary Friendship Exchange](#), [Rotaract](#), or [Interact](#); or serve as a new contribution to the Foundation or another Rotary Foundation grant.

In addition, grants cannot fund:

1. Continuous or excessive support of any one beneficiary, entity, or community
2. Establishment of a foundation, permanent trust, or long-term interest-bearing account. Grant funds can be used to establish a microcredit fund if the sponsors comply with the requirements detailed in section X.
3. Purchase of land or buildings
4. New construction of any structure in which individuals live, work, or engage in any gainful activity, such as buildings (schools, homes/low-cost shelters, and hospitals),

containers, and mobile homes, or of structures in which individuals carry out manufacturing or processing activities.

5. Fundraising activities
6. Expenses related to Rotary events such as district conferences, conventions, institutes, anniversary celebrations, or entertainment activities
7. Public relations initiatives not directly related to a humanitarian or educational activity
8. Project signage in excess of \$500
9. Operating, administrative, or indirect program expenses of another organization
10. Unrestricted cash donations to a beneficiary or cooperating organization
11. Travel for staff of a cooperating organization involved in a humanitarian project
12. Global grant humanitarian projects that consist solely of individual travel expenses
13. Activities and expenses already in progress or completed
14. Activities primarily implemented by an organization other than Rotary
15. Transportation of vaccines by hand over national borders
16. Travel to National Immunization Days (NIDs)
17. Immunizations that consist solely of the polio vaccine
18. International travel for youth under the age of 18, unless accompanied by their parents or guardians
19. Study at a Rotary Peace Center partner university in the same or similar academic program as those pursued by Rotary Peace Fellows

## **IV. How to Apply**

Apply for grants online through [Member Access](#).

In order to receive a grant from The Rotary Foundation, all primary sponsor districts involved must be qualified by The Rotary Foundation, and for global grants, all primary sponsor clubs involved must be qualified by their district. In addition, districts, clubs, and all grant committee members must be in good standing with Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation. Individuals prohibited from serving on a grant committee include RI fiscal agents, national treasurers, and officers and paid staff of a cooperating or beneficiary organization associated with the grant. When acting as a primary sponsor, each district and each club is limited to 10 open grants at a time.

For district grants, districts may submit one application per Rotary year, and this application must include a spending plan. Any requests for an increase in the grant amount must be made before any portion of the grant has been paid by the Foundation. Districts may reserve up to 20 percent of their district grant funds for contingencies that may arise during the year; note this contingency fund on the spending plan and itemize contingency items when you submit your final report. All district grant applications must be received before 15 May of the Rotary year for which the funds are requested. (For example, applications for 2013-14 district grants must be received by 15 May 2014.)

For global grants, scholars and vocational training team members must submit individual applications to supplement the overall grant application. Applications are accepted on a rolling

basis throughout the Rotary year; however, applications involving travel expenses should be submitted 90 days prior to the travel dates. Note that:

1. If grant applications are not completed and approved within six months of submission, the application will be withdrawn.
2. If payment requirements are not met within six months of approval, the grant will be canceled.
3. If grants are not implemented within 12 months of payment, the grant will be canceled and the sponsors will be required to return the funds.

## District Grants

Districts must establish a grant committee of three Rotarians, including the district governor of the implementation year, the district Rotary Foundation committee chair, and the district grants subcommittee chair.

## Global Grants

Primary host and international sponsors must each establish a grant committee of three Rotarians for a global grant. Members of this grant committee must come from the primary sponsor club (if the grant is club-sponsored) or district (if the grant is district-sponsored). For club-sponsored grant applications, district Rotary Foundation committee chairs must confirm that the primary sponsor clubs are qualified.

Scholarship applications must:

1. Provide proof of university admission to a graduate-level program or letter of invitation to conduct postgraduate-level research when applying for the grant. Admission that requires a guarantee of financial support is acceptable.

Vocational training team applications must:

1. Support teams composed of at least two members with at least two years of work experience in the area of focus and a Rotarian team leader who has a general level of Rotary knowledge, international experience, leadership skills, and some expertise within the area of focus. Non-Rotarians may serve as team leaders provided the sponsors establish the need for this in the grant application.
2. Confirm that if more than one team is traveling under a single grant, the teams must share the same two primary sponsors and begin travel within one year of each other.
3. All team members must be approved by The Rotary Foundation prior to travel. Any alterations to team composition must be reported to, and approved by, The Rotary Foundation.

## V. Travel Policies

Airfare for any travel funded by Rotary Foundation grants must be booked through Rotary International Travel Services (RITS) according to established travel policies.

Rotary Foundation grants will cover the following budgeted expenses related to travel:

1. Economy-class ticket(s)
2. Transportation to and from airport and local travel related to grant implementation
3. Cost of inoculations/immunizations, visas, and entry and exit taxes
4. Normal and reasonable luggage charges

Rotary Foundation grants will not cover the following expenses related to travel:

1. Expenses associated with optional stopovers before or after preapproved travel
2. Penalties resulting from changes in personal travel arrangements, including optional stopovers
3. Excess baggage charges, shipping charges, and flight cancellation insurance

The club or district sponsoring the grant is responsible for maintaining emergency contact information and travel itineraries for all grant recipients traveling on grant funds. This information must be provided to the Foundation upon request.

Grant recipients are responsible for:

1. Making travel arrangements through RITS. Failure to arrange travel promptly may increase the cost of travel or result in the cancellation of the grant.
2. Any expenses that exceed the approved travel budget, unless approved by the Foundation
3. Meeting all medical requirements for international travel.
4. Arranging and funding any personal travel. Such travel may take place *for* a maximum of four weeks at the end of the grant activities, after which grant recipients are expected to return home.
5. Abiding by RI country travel restrictions.

All individuals receiving grant funding for travel will be automatically enrolled for insurance coverage that meets Rotary International's travel insurance requirements. Any additional insurance coverage required by a grantee's study institution, vocational training site, host organization, or otherwise will be the sole responsibility of the traveler.

Rotary International contracts a global security advisory firm to maintain a travel ban list of extremely dangerous countries. TRF-funded travelers are not permitted to travel to these countries due to safety concerns. If a country is added to the travel ban list while funded travelers are in-country, plans will be made for their immediate evacuation. Should the funded individual not defer travel to or evacuate from a country as instructed, it will result in TRF cancelling the grant and any funds already issued would need to be returned to TRF.

Non-Rotarians receiving grant funding for scholarships, participation in vocational training teams, or travel to implement a humanitarian project are expected to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of Rotary
2. Participate in an orientation session before departure
3. Participate in club and district activities as requested by their sponsors
4. Be proficient in the language of the host country

In addition:

1. Relatives of a vocational training team member may participate on the same team if they meet eligibility requirements
2. Scholarship recipients must reside in their host district

## **VI. How Grants Are Funded**

### **District Grants**

District grants are funded by The Rotary Foundation solely with allocations from the [District Designated Fund](#) (DDF). A district may apply for a single grant each Rotary year to support one or more projects using up to 50% of the district's [SHARE allocation](#), which represents 50 percent of its annual giving from three years' prior plus any Permanent Fund-SHARE earnings.

### **Global Grants**

Global grants are funded by The Rotary Foundation from the World Fund, and awards range from US\$15,000 to \$200,000. The Foundation matches cash at 50 percent and DDF contributions at 100 percent. All global grants have a minimum budget of US\$30,000.

The Foundation will match non-Rotarian contributions toward a grant, provided they do not come from a cooperating organization or a beneficiary of the project.

International sponsors for humanitarian projects are required to provide at least 30 percent of the total sponsor funding. Host sponsors for humanitarian projects are encouraged to contribute toward the financing of the grant.

Grant financing cannot be changed after approval. Paul Harris Fellow recognition credit will only be given for sponsor contributions sent to The Rotary Foundation and will not be granted for contributions sent directly to the project. Contributions sent prior to grant approval may not be available for that specific grant. All global grant contributions are considered irrevocable contributions to The Rotary Foundation and will not be refunded.

## **VII. Cooperating Organizations**

Cooperating organizations are reputable non-Rotary organizations or academic institutions that provide expertise, infrastructure, advocacy, training, education, or other support for the grant. Cooperating organizations must agree to comply with all reporting and auditing activities required by The Rotary Foundation and provide receipts and proof of purchase as required. No more than five global grants may be approved in one Rotary year for projects involving a single cooperating organization. Universities hosting scholars are not considered a cooperating organization.

### **District Grants**

All funding provided to cooperating organizations must be used for specific project expenses.

The sponsoring district must maintain an itemized report of such expenses.

## Global Grants

At the time of application, grant sponsors need to provide a [memorandum of understanding \(MOU\)](#) signed by both primary sponsors and the cooperating organization. The MOU should include the following:

1. Verification from both primary sponsors that the grant is initiated, controlled, and managed by Rotary clubs or districts
2. Endorsement from the primary sponsors affirming that the cooperating organization is reputable, responsible, and acting within all governing laws
3. Grant implementation plan clearly delineating the activities of each party
4. Agreement from the cooperating organization to participate in any financial review by the Foundation of activities connected with the grant

## VIII. Payments

### District Grants

Grant funds will be paid only to the district or district foundation bank account identified by the district at the time of application. District grant funds will not be released until the previous Rotary year's district grant is closed. Funds are not available after the close of the implementation year; if sponsors do not meet all payment requirements by 15 May of the implementation year, the grant will be canceled.

### Global Grants

Grant funds will not be released until sponsor contributions have been submitted to The Rotary Foundation and any payment contingencies have been met. Grant funds will be paid to the account provided in the application. Account signatories must be members of the sponsoring club or district. If a grant project is canceled after the project sponsors receive payment, all remaining grant funds must be returned to the Foundation, where they will be credited to the World Fund.

The following points apply to global grants funded with cash contributions:

1. All grant-related transactions will be recorded using the current published monthly RI exchange rate, and all grant-related transactions will be officially communicated in US dollars.
2. Grants will be paid out at the current RI exchange rate at the time of payment.
3. Sponsors will be shielded from currency exchange fluctuations in excess of 10% of the rate at time of approval. Conversely, TRF will not distribute currency gains to project sponsors in excess of 10% of the rate at time of approval.
4. An initial grant payment may be made as soon as TRF receives at least 75% of all committed cash contributions.

Contributions applied to an unidentifiable project will be held for 90 calendar days. Donors will be requested to advise TRF if funds should be transferred to another project or fund. If donors

do not recommend action within 90 days of receipt or grant cancellation TRF will transfer the contribution to Annual Fund – SHARE. If the source of the funds cannot be identified, after 90 days of receipt or grant cancellation TRF will transfer the contribution to Annual Fund – World Fund. These rules will not apply if caused by TRF error or processing delay, as determined by TRF staff.

## **IX. Reporting Requirements and Documentation**

Grant recipients are responsible for reporting on the use of grant funds to The Rotary Foundation. Progress and final reports must be submitted online and all forms must be completed in their entirety for the report to be accepted. New grant applications will not be accepted by the Foundation if a grant sponsor has an overdue report for any Foundation grant. The Foundation reserves the right to review grants at any time, conduct an audit, send a monitor, require additional documentation, and suspend any or all payments.

The following reporting criteria also apply to grant recipients:

1. Unused grant funds must be returned promptly to The Rotary Foundation.
2. Districts must report the use of grant funds to their member clubs in accordance with the terms of qualification.
3. Grant sponsors must maintain copies of all receipts and bank statements related to grant-funded expenditures in accordance with the terms of qualification and any applicable local and international laws.
4. Grant sponsors who fail to adhere to Foundation policies and guidelines in implementing and financing grant projects must return grant funds in their entirety and may be barred from receiving future grants for a period of up to five years.

### **District Grants**

These additional criteria apply to district grants:

1. Final reports documenting the disbursement of funds must be submitted to the Foundation within 12 months of receiving the payment, or within two months of the grant's total disbursement.
2. All grant projects and activities funded by district grants must be completed within 24 months of disbursement by the Foundation or the local district to the club or project site.
3. Unused grant funds in excess of US\$500 must be returned promptly to The Rotary Foundation and will be credited to the district's DDF. Unused grant funds below US\$500 must be used for charitable purposes.

### **Global Grants**

These additional criteria apply to global grants:

1. Progress reports must be submitted within 12 months of receiving the first grant payment and every 12 months thereafter.
2. Final reports must be submitted within two months of completing the project.
3. Unused grant funds in excess of US\$500 must be returned to The Rotary Foundation and will be credited to the World Fund. If grant funds remain after a project's completion,



the Foundation may approve their use for project-related expenses, such as additional project supplies.

Acceptable reports contain detailed accounts of the project's implementation, including:

1. A description of how the project has advanced the goals of the selected area(s) of focus
2. An account of how the project achieved the specific objectives outlined in the application, including the relevant measures and data collected
3. An explanation of how the project's outcomes will be sustained over time
4. A description of the participation of both host and international partners, as well as any cooperating organizations associated with the grant
5. The report should also include a detailed account of spending for the project and project account bank statements. Sponsors must explain any budget variances in the final report. Additionally, the Foundation may request that sponsors submit receipts in support of the report.

The Foundation will close the grant once the project implementation is complete and sponsors have demonstrated that sustainability measures are in place to ensure that the local community will continue the project.

## **X. Microcredit**

The Rotary Foundation is committed to using microcredit programs to facilitate small, self-help enterprises. Clubs and districts applying for global grants are encouraged to partner with reputable and established cooperating organizations/microfinance institutions to administer loan programs as a way of undertaking sustainable development projects. However, microcredit programs funded by the Foundation must incorporate a component, such as training, that extends beyond the management of loan capital. In addition:

1. Clubs and districts that wish to use global grant funds to support a microcredit project must submit the [microcredit supplement form](#) with the grant application.
2. Microcredit activities must be supervised and controlled by the sponsoring club or district.
3. Interest and fees generated by microcredit fund capital from The Rotary Foundation may be used for administrative expenses that directly support the project.
4. Grant sponsors must submit a microcredit supplement form with the grant report.
5. If a microcredit project is terminated before the Foundation's reporting requirements are met, grant funds must be returned to The Rotary Foundation.
6. The Rotary Foundation will not fund loan guaranty systems.

## **XI. Special Considerations for Rotary Foundation (India)**

The Rotary Foundation and the Rotary Foundation (India) encourage all Rotary clubs and districts in India to become registered with the Government of India (GOI) under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). For general information about the FCRA, go to <http://mha.nic.in/fcra.htm>; for registration forms, go to <http://mha.nic.in/fcra/intro/forms.html>.

In addition to all other terms and conditions, grants with full or partial payment to a Rotary club or district in India should follow these payment and reporting procedures to comply with GOI laws and the FCRA:

1. Grant funds will not be released to a bank account in India unless all general payment conditions listed below have been met. Either the sponsors provide documentation showing that the bank account is registered under the FCRA or staff must determine that sufficient funds are available from contributions made within India. Otherwise, the payment will be placed in a queue and paid on a first-come, first-served basis only when additional contributions are made and sufficient funds are available. The sponsors of grants must ensure funds are not co-mingled.
  - a. District Grants  
Payment is contingent upon the approval of a detailed spending plan that includes an itemized budget for each listed project or activity. Grant funds will be paid only to the district bank account. The name of the district bank account must be easily identifiable with both the district and the project. (A proper naming example is Rotary District 0000 District Grant 12345). District grant funds will not be released until the previous Rotary year's district grant is closed. Funds are not available after the close of the implementation year; if sponsors do not meet all payment requirements by 15 May of the implementation year, the grant will be canceled.
  - b. Global Grants  
Grant funds will not be released until all sponsor contributions have been submitted to The Rotary Foundation and any payment contingencies have been met. Grant funds will be paid to the account provided by the grant sponsors.
2. Progress reports on grant funds released to India through 31 March are due by 31 May of that same year. Final reports are due two months after the grant's completion. Grant sponsors must ensure that funds received in a FCRA-registered bank account are not co-mingled with local funds.
3. All progress reports must:
  - a. Meet all general reporting requirements as listed in section IX.
  - b. Show that a copy of the progress report filed electronically via Member Access has been submitted to the South Asia Office.
  - c. Include a utilization certificate if a portion of the grant amount has been used, along with statement of receipt and payment for the grant amount, certified by an independent chartered accountant (indicating membership number of the CA)
  - d. If the grant funds were not used for any reason, include an original bank statement or bank passbook (or a photocopy certified by the bank manager or a chartered accountant) indicating the date on which the grant amount was credited and a statement explaining why the grant amount has not yet been used, even if the grant amount was received before March
4. All final reports must:
  - a. Meet all general reporting requirements as listed in section IX.
  - b. Show that a hard copy of the final report filed electronically via Member Access has been submitted to the South Asia Office.
  - c. Include the following:

- i. A utilization certificate along with statement of receipt and payment for grant amount, certified by an independent chartered accountant (indicating membership number of the CA)
    - ii. An original bank statement or bank passbook (or a photocopy certified as true copy by the bank manager or a chartered accountant)
    - iii. A bank reconciliation statement, if multiple grants were paid to a single FCRA account
    - iv. Originals or photocopies of bills of payment/expenses vouchers and, if only photocopies are provided, a written undertaking that “all originals will be kept for a period of eight years and will be produced as and when required by Rotary Foundation (India)”
    - v. Beneficiary information (for example, photographs, newspaper clippings, appreciation letter from beneficiary)
  - d. Return of any remaining funds of any amount to the Rotary Foundation (India)
5. A FCRA-registered club or district is responsible for furnishing FC-3 return along with the financial statements to the Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi, in a timely manner.