

# Common Questions on LCIF Grants...

## 1. Who can apply for a grant?

- A district or multiple district can apply for a grant. For certain types of grants, such as International Assistance Grants (IAGs), an individual club can also apply. LCIF only awards grants to multiple districts, districts, and clubs. LCIF does not award grants to individuals.



## 2. What types of grants are there?

- LCIF awards several types of grants: Standard; IAG; Emergency; Major Catastrophe; Core 4; and SightFirst.
- **Standard** are the most common type of grant, awarded for large-scale Lions' humanitarian projects. Standard grants provide matching funds of up to US\$75,000, and must be for projects that serve a large number of people and are beyond the scope of a district or club to carry out alone. Developed countries must provide 50% of project funding; developing countries must provide 25% of funding.
- **IAGs** foster partnerships between Lions clubs in developed countries and those in less-developed regions. Awards are between US\$5,000 and US\$30,000, and can be used for projects such as medical missions, health care, clean water and sanitation, or education and literacy.
- **Emergency** grants assist Lions in helping their community following a natural disaster. The district governor must apply for the grant within 30 days of the disaster. The maximum for the grant is US\$10,000. Funds must be used for immediate needs like food, water and clothing.
- **Major Catastrophe** grants are awarded by the LCI President and the Chairperson of the LCIF Board of Trustees for major disasters, such as the Haiti Earthquake or the South Asia Tsunami. Lions do not apply for these grants.
- **Core 4** grants fund large-scale projects in specific areas related to Lions' four core service commitments: preserving sight, combating disability, promoting health, and serving youth.
- **SightFirst** grants are awarded to fight preventable and reversible blindness. SightFirst grants can be used to build hospitals and clinics, train doctors, distribute medicine, and raise awareness of eye-disease. SightFirst Technical Advisors help Lions' districts and MDs develop grant applications and proposals in these areas. Grants have helped to fight cataract, river blindness, trachoma, and diabetic eye disease, among other things.



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## Fast Facts on LCIF

- Since 1968, LCIF has awarded more than 9,300 grants, totaling more than US\$693 million.
- In 2009-2010, LCIF awarded US\$24.4 million for 426 projects.
- LCIF's projects are cost-effective: on average, the Lions Quest program costs just US\$15 per student. Through SightFirst, the average cost to save someone from preventable or reversible blindness is only US\$6.
- LCIF receives most of its funding through donations from Lions clubs and individual Lions worldwide. Gifts also come from foundations, corporations, governments, and non-Lions. LCIF does not receive membership dues.
- By ruling of the Board of Trustees, administrative and promotional expenses are paid by interest earned on investments. Every dollar donated goes to fund a grant.

## 3. How do you apply for an LCIF Grant?

- Most applications are available on the LCIF website: [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org), or you can contact the foundation by email at [lcif@lionsclubs.org](mailto:lcif@lionsclubs.org), or by phone at +1-630-468-6769 to request materials.

## 4. How do I know if my project qualifies for a grant?

- Review criteria on LCIF's web site ([www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)). The project must address an important humanitarian need, serve a relatively large population, be cost effective, and be beyond local fundraising capability. Most LCIF grants match local funding, so local Lions must show strong support for the project. Projects must have a strong Lions identity and involvement. All applications (except for Emergency grants) must be endorsed by the district cabinet. Be sure to contact LCIF at +1-630-468-6769 to discuss the eligibility of your project and application.

## 5. What is the approval process for grant applications?

- Most applications are reviewed by the LCIF Board of Trustees. Some applications, such as SightFirst and Lions Quest, are reviewed by an advisory committee which includes members of the Board. The Board or advisory committees can approve, deny or table applications. Tabled applications can be reconsidered at a future meeting if questions or concerns cited by the committee are satisfactorily addressed.
- Applications are considered incomplete or can fail to meet grant criteria for many reasons, including:
  - 1) Project does not address a strong humanitarian need for an underserved population, or does not serve a large population.
  - 2) Project has little or no Lions' identity.
  - 3) Budget includes items that do not meet LCIF criteria.
  - 4) Local Lions' match does not meet requirements of the grant request.
  - 5) Budget is incomplete, or expenses and income budget do not equal.
  - 6) Project has already taken place.

