

Dear District Leaders,

Greetings from Evanston! On behalf of all the Humanitarian Grants Program staff, I would like to wish you a Happy New Rotary Year. As we embark on another busy year, I wanted to provide you with some updates related to Humanitarian Grants. Please note that these updates only pertain to grant activity in the 2009-10 Rotary year and apply to both Future Vision pilot and non-pilot districts.

Humanitarian Grants Budget Reductions As you are likely aware, at their April 2009 meeting the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation made some important budget decisions, many of which directly impact Humanitarian Grants. The Matching Grant budget was significantly reduced; Volunteer Service Grants were phased out as of 1 July 2009; and Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grants will only be approved to support water and sanitation projects as part of the RI/USAID International H₂O Alliance. [Read more](#) about the decisions and their operational impact.

Matching Grants Update

The reduced amount of World Fund available for Matching Grants in 2009-10 has resulted in the following program changes:

Competitive Matching Grants in October 2009 only. The Trustees determined that they would consider Matching Grant requests of US\$25,001-US\$150,000 only once in 2009-10, at their October 2009 meeting. Matching Grant applications requesting World Fund awards of over US\$25,000 must be received at the Foundation by 1 August 2009.

US\$0 World Fund awards. Matching Grant applications requesting a US\$0 match from the Foundation can be submitted at any time from 1 July 2009 through 31 March 2010. In order to use this option, at least part of the funding for the Matching Grant must be District Designated Funds (DDF), and the minimum project funding total is US\$10,000.

Please note also that if matching funds are requested from TRF, the minimum request is US\$5,000. The financing of a MG application can be updated at any time prior to approval to request a US\$0 match from the TRF World Fund. Sponsors of pending applications will be notified of this option when the MG budget has been fully committed and updates about the budget will be posted to the Rotary website.

Clubs and districts are encouraged to submit applications early in the new Rotary year if they hope to obtain a World Fund match. If projects are still in the planning stage at this time, it is best to prepare your application without a TRF World Fund match and fund the project with a combination of DDF and cash as explained above.

Humanitarian Grants Staff Reorganization In response to the reduced program budget, the Humanitarian Grants operational budget has also been reduced and staff members have been reorganized to provide optimal service to Rotarians. [Click here](#) for an updated staff territories sheet. Please note that staff members are organized based on the geographic territory in which the grant project is taking place.

Humanitarian Grants District Support Forum The Rotary Foundation is pleased to offer the Humanitarian Grants District Support Forum, an online forum designed to provide information and resources to those district leaders that work most closely with Humanitarian Grants. This forum, which is available via [Member Access](#), is available to district governors, district governors elect, district Rotary Foundation committee chairs and district grants subcommittee chairs. I encourage you to visit this site regularly to receive the most recent information concerning Humanitarian Grants.

Application Processing High volumes of application are expected in the first and second quarters of the Rotary year. We appreciate your patience in receiving communications from Humanitarian Grants staff during this high volume time.

In an effort to help facilitate the processing of applications there are two ways applications can be submitted: 1) via e-mail to contact.center@rotary.org or 2) by fax to the new Humanitarian Grants fax line 1-847-556-2151.

Please only send the application via one of these methods to avoid duplicate processing. You will receive an acknowledgement of your application within 1-2 weeks of receipt. All applications are processed based on the date they are received and only applications that are complete and meet all requirements for funding will be forwarded for approval based on the date they are complete.

World Reporting World Reporting is an initiative created in April 2006 to help ensure that Rotary clubs and districts maintain a high standard of reporting compliance. A World Reporting analysis is compiled twice a year tracking each district's reporting percentage for Humanitarian Grant projects. Any district with an overall reporting compliance below 70 percent for two consecutive grant reporting analyses may be suspended from participating in Humanitarian Programs. The twice yearly analyses are compiled approximately two weeks before the October and April Trustee meetings.

The April 2009 World Report analysis identified 174 districts that were 100% compliant with reporting. The Trustees commend these districts for their achievement and hope that they will serve as role models for other districts by maintaining this high level of stewardship.

The analysis also identified eight districts that were less than 70% compliant with reporting for two or more consecutive analyses and had more than one non-compliant grant in each analysis. In accordance with Foundation policy, the Trustees suspended these districts from participation in the Humanitarian Grants Program, effective 15 May 2009. These districts will be lifted from suspension when they reach 90% reporting compliance and have successfully reported on all district-sponsored grants. To date, four of the suspended districts have already been lifted from suspension.

Additionally, please note that the Humanitarian Grants Program sends quarterly reminders to project sponsors with copies to district governors, district Rotary Foundation committee chairs and district grants subcommittee chairs when grants are more than 15, 18, 21, 24 or 30 months overdue on grant reporting. These letters are sent on a quarterly basis in September, December, February and June of each Rotary year. When grant sponsors are more than 21 months overdue on reporting they are

listed on the RI website for failure to report on grant funding. If a club has not reported on a grant for more than 30 months, it may be recommended to the RI Board for termination for being in financial arrears with Rotary International. We appreciate your efforts to keep clubs in your district up to date on reporting to avoid these consequences.

District Simplified Grant Mailing Next month, districts will receive via e-mail the annual District Simplified Grant mailing, which contains important information about District Simplified Grants and your district's spending limit for 2010-11. This information will only be sent to districts that are not participating in the Future Vision pilot. Future Vision pilot districts will be contacted separately about their participation in District Grants. The mailing will also include an updated Humanitarian Grants staff sheet and a File Activity Report of the district's grant activity. Please make sure to read the contents of this mailing carefully. Getting an early and organized start to District Simplified Grants and reviewing the status of your grant activity will help pave the way to success!

I hope these updates have been helpful. For further information about Humanitarian Grants you can send e-mails to contact.center@rotary.org. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Humanitarian Grants Program and for the incredible support you provide to Rotarians and clubs in your district.

Best regards,

James Robinson Division Manager Humanitarian Grants Program