



Humanitarian Grants Program
Frequently Asked Questions – 2008-09 Budget Reductions
Revised March 2009

Humanitarian Grants Budget Reductions

Q. Why has the Humanitarian Grants budget been reduced for 2008-09?

A. Due to the global economic downturn and volatile investment climate, Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation, like many charitable organizations, have had to make some difficult decisions in response to the current financial situation. The Rotary Foundation (TRF) has experienced significant unrealized investment losses. At their January 2009 meeting, the Trustees reduced the Humanitarian Grants budget by US \$16.3 million for the 2008-09 Rotary year in an effort to minimize the impact of unrealized losses to Foundation assets. General Secretary Ed Futa has provided regular updates to Rotarians regarding the situation as part of an ongoing effort to keep the Rotary world informed. (For more information on the financial statements of The Rotary Foundation visit www.rotary.org)

Matching Grants

Q. Has the Matching Grant budget has been fully committed for 2008-09?

A. Yes. As of 2 March 2009, the Matching Grant budget has been fully committed and the Trustees of the Foundation are unable to approve any additional grant applications. As a result of the budget reductions no new Matching Grant applications will be accepted in the 2008-09 Rotary year.

Q. What will happen to new applications received by The Rotary Foundation (TRF)?

A. TRF will return applications to the sponsors notifying them that they will need to re-submit their applications after 1 July 2009.

Q. If a grant has already been approved, will it still be processed for payment?

A. Yes. Any grants that have already been approved this Rotary year or in previous years will not be affected and will be processed for payment once the payment requirements have been fulfilled.

Q. When will TRF begin approving Matching Grants again?

A. Approvals for Matching Grants will not begin until 1 August 2009 when a new budget has been approved by the Trustees for the 2009-10 Rotary year.

Q. What will happen to Competitive Matching Grants requests over US \$25,000 that are scheduled for consideration at the April 2009 Trustee meeting?

A. The Trustees have allocated funding from the remaining Matching Grant budget to consider Competitive Matching Grant applications at their April 2009 meeting. Sponsors

of these applications will be notified of the Trustee decision on their applications in May 2009.

Volunteer Service Grants (VSG)

Q. What will happen to pending VSG applications that could not be funded in the 2008-09 Rotary year?

A. The primary project contacts of pending VSG applications will be notified that their applications cannot be considered for funding in the 2008-09 Rotary year. Sponsors will be encouraged to find other sources of funding for their travel.

Q. What will happen to new VSG applications received by TRF?

A. Effective immediately, any new VSG applications received by TRF will be returned to the sponsors with an explanation that the budget has been fully committed for 2008-09. Sponsors will be encouraged to identify other sources of funding for their travel.

Q. If a Volunteer Service Grant has already been approved, will it still be processed for payment and can airfare be booked through the RI Travel Service (RITS)?

A. Yes. Any Volunteer Service Grants that are already approved will not be affected and will be processed for payment. Primary project contacts for these grants should contact RITS according to the instructions provided in the announcement letter to schedule their travel.

Q. When will TRF begin approving Volunteer Service Grants again?

A. No Volunteer Service Grants will be approved for the remainder of the 2008-09 Rotary year. The Trustees will consider the Humanitarian Grants 2009-10 budget at their April 2009 meeting and Rotarians will be informed in May 2009 about the VSG application process for 2009-10 via the Rotary website at www.rotary.org

3-H and District Simplified Grants

Q. What impact will the budget reductions have on 3-H Grants?

A. The 2008-09 3-H Grants budget was approximately US \$7 million. The Trustees reduced the budget by US \$2 million. The Programs Committee has selected 17 projects requesting approximately US \$5 million to receive advance site visits. As a result, TRF will consider these applications at their April 2009 meeting on a competitive basis. Sponsors of applications that did not receive an advance site visit have already been informed that they should anticipate seeking other sources of funding at this time.

Q. What impact will the budget reductions have on District Simplified Grants?

A. As District Simplified Grants are fully funded from District Designated Funds, there will be no impact to the approval or payment process for District Simplified Grants.

Humanitarian Grants Budget 2009-10

Q. What is the Humanitarian Grants budget for 2009-10?

A. The Trustees will review the Foundation's financial forecast at their April 2009 meeting and approve a Humanitarian Grants program budget for 2009-10. Any decisions about further adjustments to the program budgets will be communicated to Rotarians in May 2009 via the Rotary website at www.rotary.org

Future Vision Plan

Q. What impact will the budget reductions have on the implementation of the Future Vision plan?

A. The Future Vision plan and the pilot planned for 2010-13 offer an opportunity to identify business process improvements and cost-saving measures that will enhance the efficiency of the Foundation in the long term. Therefore, the pilot will continue as planned.

If you have additional questions about the Humanitarian Grant budget reductions please contact contact.center@rotary.org or your grant coordinator for further information on the status of your application.