

## GRANTS

Humanitarian service is central to the mission of Lions Clubs International. Our 1.35 million Lions in 206 countries and geographic regions around the world are united in this spirit of helping those in need. As the official charitable organization of Lions Clubs International, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) provides grant funding to support Lions' compassionate efforts. LCIF supports Lions projects they are not able to fund on their own, thus helping Lions increase their impact in their local and global communities and serve even more people in need around the world.

**LCIF grants support four areas of service:**

- Preserving Sight
- Serving Youth
- Providing Disaster Relief
- Supporting Humanitarian Efforts

Since its founding in 1968, LCIF has awarded more than 10,268 grants, totaling more than US\$729 million. The vast majority of grant funding is made possible by donations from Lions clubs and individual members worldwide. Gifts from foundations, corporations, governments, non-Lions and interest earned on investments also increase funds available.

**Every dollar donated to LCIF goes to help someone in need; all administrative costs are paid through interest earned on investments.** LCIF receives no part of club dues.

**We Care.  
We Serve.  
We Accomplish.**



# Types of Grants

The Lions' **SightFirst Program** builds comprehensive eye care systems to fight the major causes of blindness and care for blind and visually impaired persons. The program supports high-quality, sustainable projects that deliver eye care services, train personnel, develop infrastructure and/or provide rehabilitation and education in underserved communities. Lions work with LCIF staff and regional SightFirst technical advisors to complete grant applications and project proposals.

## **Cataract Success for Udgir**

*The Lions Club of Udgir has been active in the fight for better eye care services for many years by running the Udayagiri Lions Eye Hospital in a remote area in central India. With an overwhelming need for cataract surgeries, the Udgir Lions turned to the SightFirst program and requested a grant to update and equip the hospital to better serve their patients.*

*The Lions received US\$147,700 to purchase better equipment and a 31-person capacity mobile outreach vehicle to enable them to hold weekly outreach eye screening camps. After the improvements were completed, the Lions exceeded their expectations—within the first seven months, the hospital had surpassed its cataract surgery goal for the year by 14 percent. Thanks to the hard work of the Udgir Lions and their SightFirst funding, thousands of community members are able to have the gift of restored or improved sight.*



**Core 4 Grants** provide up to US\$200,000 for large-scale projects that qualify under one of four core service commitment program areas: preserving sight, combating disability, promoting health and serving youth. Grant requests must support projects related to these funding priorities. An example of a Core 4 Grant is funding for implementing Lions Quest, a schools-based life-skills program for primary and secondary students.

## **Building Character in Cranford**

*Lions Cranford, New Jersey have helped the young people in their city more than they could have imagined. Starting in 1994, Lions Quest has been implemented in Cranford schools for students from kindergarten through 12th grade. Lions Quest is a comprehensive, positive youth development and prevention program that unites the home, school and community. Through Lions Quest, students have been able to develop their decision-making skills, engage in community service, learn to work together and gain strategies to handle peer pressure effectively.*

*With the help of grant funding from LCIF, Cranford Lions have truly made a lasting positive impact on the youth of their community. In 2004, Cranford High School was honored with the National School of Character Award.*





**Standard Grants** are awarded for large-scale humanitarian projects and are the most common type of grant awarded. To qualify, projects must serve a large number of people and be beyond the scope of traditional club and/or district/multiple district fundraising capabilities. LCIF provides matching funds of up to US\$75,000 to provide capital funding for equipment and infrastructure needs. Typical standard grant projects include mobile health units, nursing homes, medical and eye clinics, blind and disabled centers and schools in developing countries.

### **A Playground for Amber**

*For the first six years of her life, Amber Farlow was confined to a wheelchair. Born with breathing difficulties, Amber remained in the hospital for the first 18 months of her life and has endured 55 operations. But, like any child, Amber wanted to play on a playground.*

*Local Lions in Australia approached Amber's school about building a special needs activity center. Such a playground was previously a dream for this school in New South Wales. But through support from Lions and LCIF, it quickly became a reality. The Lions reached out to LCIF for support and received a Standard Grant to help construct the US\$170,000 playground.*

*"I am just ecstatic about the playground. It's probably beyond my expectation, and I've been involved with it right from the beginning. But when you see the kids get on there and particularly the kids in the wheelchairs and walking devices, it's just a fabulous feeling to see the results of our work," said Jeff Kukura, East Gosford Lions Club.*



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

*"Water is a basic human need... There are so many chances to serve the people. This project really brings a lot of satisfaction. We're fulfilling our mission statement." — Eugene Lee, Grant Administrator in Korea speaking about a partnership with District 308-A2, Malaysia for a matching International Assistance Grant to bring running water to the people of the village of Monggis, Malaysia. Four short months after the grant was awarded, the village had running water.*



**Disaster Relief Grants** provide funds for natural disasters and catastrophes. 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 provide for immediate needs such as food, water, clothing and medical supplies. LCIF typically awards more than US\$2 million in Emergency Grant funding each year.

Major Catastrophe Grants are directed by the LCIF Executive Committee and cannot be applied for by Lions. These grants provide significant funds for catastrophes of major international impact, such as the China earthquake, the South Asian tsunami, Hurricane Katrina and the Haiti earthquake.

*"I cannot express my appreciation enough to the Lions who are supporting us in recovering from this disaster. LCIF was very helpful and timely with processing my grant application."*  
—District Governor Robert Andrepont in Louisiana, in reference to aid received from Lions and LCIF after Hurricane Katrina. In total, US\$5 million was awarded to four states affected by the hurricane.



## Tips for Starting the Grant Application Process

- Contact LCIF staff at [lcif@lionsclubs.org](mailto:lcif@lionsclubs.org) or 630-468-6769 to receive specific information and to discuss project eligibility.
- Visit [www.lcif.org](http://www.lcif.org) to find most applications, supplemental information and application deadlines.
- Read the grant application in its entirety before completing the application.
- Compile sufficient background information and develop a comprehensive plan for the project before applying.
- Be sure that the project addresses an important humanitarian need, serves a relatively large population, is cost-effective, has strong Lions financial support and is beyond local fundraising capability.
- Fill out the grant application in its entirety and ensure required signature/endorsement from your district/multiple district leadership.

Find out more at [www.lcif.org](http://www.lcif.org) or call 630-468-6769.