

Recent TRF Decisions - What We Can Do

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Recently TRF Chair announced decisions encouraging Covid 19 projects and initiatives. Here is what I feel that we can do:

1. Districts can apply for a Rotary's Disaster Response Grants up to \$25,000. These Grants provide a fast and effective way to respond to local disasters, depending upon the availability funds. It is restricted to one Grant per District, till USD 1 million allocated this fund is exhausted.
2. Clubs and Districts may contribute to Rotary Disaster Response Funds through DDF and online and offline cash contributions. These contributions will enable Rotary to respond to Covid 19. Needless to add that without funds, projects cannot happen.
3. Districts having District Grant funds can support activities like the purchase of thermometers, masks, etc. Districts can also use contingency funds from an open District Grant, or repurpose previously planned activities for Covid-19 responses. As of 12 March, US\$30.3 million still remains unreported in District Grant funding for 2019-20, indicating that some Districts may have a substantial amount to immediately apply to Covid-19 projects.
4. Districts that may have exhausted their 2019-20 District Grant funds can designate that their DDF contributions to the Disaster Response Fund be held exclusively for Covid-19 grant activities. This does not apply to cash contributions.
5. As a one time exception, Districts can now be reimbursed for Covid-19 related expenses from 15 March 2020 out of their 2020-21 District Grant funding; obviously only if incoming District team supports this action.
6. Global Grants can help Clubs to respond effectively to Covid-19. For example, if your community needs medical equipment, global grants offer a way to pay for these expensive items. TRF will expedite processing of applications for Covid-19-related projects. In Global Grants, at least 30% of the financing must normally come from outside of the country where the project takes place. Trustees have agreed to waive this requirement for Covid-19 projects.

This is compiled based on my understanding of the changes announced recently; I welcome your comments and corrections.

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