

Frequently asked questions about the Future Vision Plan

The Future Vision Plan represents a forward-looking approach for the way that The Rotary Foundation operates. Rotarians have posed many questions about how the changes to the Foundation's grant structure will affect their club's humanitarian and educational efforts. Although all the answers won't be available until after the Trustee meeting in April and the June meeting of the RI Board, the following FAQ addresses some of the concerns expressed.

Q. What are the areas of focus for grants?

A. At their April 2008 meeting, the Foundation Trustees will choose three to five areas in which the Foundation will focus its grant making based on criteria that includes demonstrated Rotarian interest and experience. By concentrating its efforts, the Foundation will be able to achieve measurable outcomes that relate directly to its mission.

Q. How can I fund an activity that doesn't fall into one of the areas of focus?

A. Districts will have access to up to 40 percent of their available District Designated Funds (DDF) in the form of block grants to fund any type of eligible activity that aligns with The Rotary Foundation mission, similar to the current District Simplified Grants program.

Q. What will be the status of PolioPlus as plans for the Future Vision move forward?

A. As Rotary International's corporate project, PolioPlus will remain the organization's top priority. PolioPlus will continue to operate as is.

Q. Where do Educational Programs fit in the new model? Will there be funding for our district's annual Group Study Exchange? Will our district continue to sponsor Ambassadorial Scholars?

A. Educational Programs will exist under both grant types. Activities supported by Educational Programs such as GSE teams and Ambassadorial Scholars can be funded in two ways. If their vocation and chosen academic field relates to an area of focus, they may be eligible for grants from the World Fund. Districts can also elect to use District Designated Funds (DDF) from their block grants to support such activities.

Q. How will the organizations for strategic cooperative relationships (SCR) be determined?

A. The Trustees will select the organizations for SCRs based on their ability to help clubs and districts implement projects in the chosen areas of focus.

Q. In what ways will Rotarians be actively involved in packaged grant projects?

A. Packaged grants will be designed jointly by the Foundation and SCRs. Rotarians interested in implementing these grants on the ground can apply to the Foundation for World Fund support.

Q. Will clubs and districts be allowed to partner with organizations that have not been selected for SCRs?

A. Yes, clubs and districts are encouraged to continue developing cooperative relationships with local organizations to implement projects in both grant types.

Q. I'm a dentist who has used Volunteer Service Grants to cover travel expenses for dental missions in developing countries. Will the Foundation continue to support such trips?

A. The details of how travel for service and planning missions will fit in the new model have not been decided. It is anticipated that individuals will be able to participate in this kind of activity with funding from their districts' block grant.

Q. What are the names of the new grants?

A. The trustees will determine names of the grant types at their April 2008 meeting.

Q. How will districts be selected to participate in the pilot program? How can my district apply to participate?

A. The Trustees will determine the requirements for district participation in the pilot program at their April 2008 meeting. All districts will be notified regarding the application process and will be encouraged to apply during the 2008-09 year.

Q. If my district is selected to participate in the pilot program, can we still apply for a Matching Grant.

A. No. All pilot districts must be fully committed to the new grant models and cannot participate in the current programs.

Q. My club doesn't have the resources to do large international projects, but we try to do one small Matching Grant project each year. Will the World Fund continue to support smaller projects?

A. The minimum grant amount has not been determined, but it is expected that grants will be larger in size. Smaller projects can be funded through the district block grant, or clubs and districts are encouraged to join together to implement larger projects under the areas of focus that will have a more long-term and sustainable impact on the community.

Q. There is no mention of restricted cash contributions to Matching Grants. Will restricted cash contributions continue to be accepted in the new model?

A. The details of using restricted cash contributions in the new model have not been decided. The Trustees are expected to take a decision on this issue at their April 2008 meeting.

Q. The new grant models sound very promising. How can I convince others in my club and district of the positive benefits of the plan?

A. Encourage members to read more about the Future Vision Plan at www.rotary.org. Plan a club meeting to discuss the plan and how your club can benefit from it. Make sure it's a topic at your district conference or district assembly.