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**Watsonville Rotary Foundation**

**Request for Proposals (RFP) for Watsonville Rotary Foundation Grants**

**Guidelines for Community Grants**

**WELCOME GRANT SEEKERS**

The Watsonville Rotary Club Foundation is pleased to announce the release of its 2016-17 Grant Guidelines which are designed to be used by applicants interested in requesting grant funds in support of programs/projects ***that align with Watsonville Rotary’s specific Areas of Interest.*** (See “Areas of Interest for Funding in FY 2016-17” on page 2 for details). The information below describes grantee eligibility requirements and exclusions, the Watsonville Rotary’s Areas of Interest and instructions on how to submit an application.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

Organizations that meet the following criteria are eligible to apply:

* The applicant organization must be a nonprofit 501(c) (3), tax-exempt organization or a school based program in the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, or have a 501(c) (3), tax-exempt organization as a fiscal sponsor.
* The applicant organization must provide or plan to provide programs/services benefitting the residents of Watsonville (95076) including Pajaro, La Selva, Corralitos & Royal Oaks) as well as Freedom (95019) and Aromas (95004) in one of Watsonville Rotary’s Priority Focus Areas as described in these guidelines (below). The applicant organization does not need to be located in the Pajaro Valley, but the applicant organization must demonstrate that it provides or plans to provide services that directly benefit resident of the Pajaro Valley.
* The applicant organization must have a nondiscrimination policy in place.
* The applicant organization must have the demonstrated capacity to carry out the program work funded by the grant and to maintain fiscal accountability.

**EXCLUSIONS/TYPES OF REQUESTS THAT WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING**

In general, Watsonville Rotary does not give grants to:

* Projects that do not substantially benefit residents of the Pajaro Valley.
* Projects and proposals unrelated to Rotary’s defined Areas of Interest for Funding (See “Areas of Interest for funding in FY 2016-17” below).
* Individuals, with the exception of the Watsonville Rotary’s scholarship program. Religious organizations for religious purposes.
* Endowments, building campaigns, annual fund appeals, fundraising events or celebrations.
* Commercial ventures.
* Political Campaigns.

**AREAS OF INTEREST FOR FUNDING IN FISCAL YEAR 2016-17**

Watsonville Rotary awards grants to organizations whose applications are focused on one of our Areas of Interest below. Each of these Areas of Interest has specific goals. Interested applicants must identify a single area of interest and specific goal(s) for their request.

1. **Youth Violence Prevention: We would like to minimize the factors that contribute to youth violence by supporting programs/projects that:**
* Empower youth to seek positive solutions to social problems.
* Provide safe places for children and their families.
* Increase access to mental health services for youth and their families.
* Provide pathways for students to stay in school and complete their education.
1. **Education Outreach Support: We would like to encourage individuals to increase their knowledge and their capacity to experience good quality of life by supporting programs/projects that:**
* Encourage attainment of higher education goals (academic, technical & vocational)
* Teach workforce development skills
* Provide educational pipeline programs for early development of career/professional interests.
* Teach life skills and provide tools to address specific challenges and opportunities.
* Encourage the practice of making healthy lifestyle choices.

**FUNDS AVAILABLE AND DURATION**

Watsonville Rotary Foundation grants will be awarded in June 2017 to fund projects that will take place in FY 2017-18. Grants awarded in June 2017 will range from $250 to $1,500. Due to limited resources, ***applicants can apply for only one grant per year***. Those who are awarded funding in a given year will not be eligible to apply the following year. However they may apply again in the second year.

The number of grants and the amounts awarded are tied directly to Watsonville Rotary’s fundraising efforts on an annual basis and can vary from year to year. The Watsonville Rotary’s Board-appointed Grants Review Committee (GRC) will review grant proposals in the spring of each year through an objective process designed to identify proposals that most closely align with our grant guidelines. GRC recommendations are then forwarded to the Rotary Board of Directors for review and approval.

***Watsonville Rotary will not be able to fund all requests submitted in response to this RFP – only those projects that most strongly meet the identified program goals above will receive support within Rotary’s budgetary limitations***. The grant term will be one year (July 2016 – June 2017); however, one-time and short term projects will be considered.

**TYPES OF SUPPORT**

The Watsonville Rotary prefers to provide program/project support and does not generally provide capacity-building, core operating or capital grants. Exceptions may include this type of support as part of a program/project grant.

**GRANT CYCLE AND APPLICATION SCHEDULE**

Grant Guidelines Released: November 1, 2016

Grant Application Due: March 1, 2017

Awards Announced June 2017

**HOW TO APPLY**

Eligible organizations should visit [www.watsonvillerotary.com](http://www.watsonvillerotary.com) to download the Community Grant Guidelines, Application and Budget Worksheet. For questions regarding the process, contact Kathleen King, Grants Review Committee (GRC) Chair, at kkingponzio@gmail.com or call her at (831) 234-0062.