

Cluster Funding

Rotary Clubs of D7090 Ontario

Rev 2025

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Cluster Fund Description

Cluster Funding is an effort by the Rotary Clubs of the D7090 Ontario Region to come together and help educate and expedite clubs to do a Rotary Global Grant Project. Cluster Funding is an effort to take advantage of the multiplier effect of Rotary's District and Global Grant system. Cluster Funding will allow different clubs to contribute smaller amounts of funds that can be combined by many clubs to have the greatest good for a community need.

There are 8 areas and 34 Rotary clubs in the Ontario Region. Cluster Funding can result in each club contributing \$1,000 (US) and voting to support one project.

District contributions are based on a matching amount of the club contribution, up to a maximum of \$10,000USD. The RI matching amount is 80% of the district contribution. If 22 clubs contribute to the Cluster Fund, the multiplier effect yields \$40,000 to the project budget.

The idea is that clubs will generate a project idea that should be the sponsored project. During a meeting in September / October all clubs will present their ideas for a shared project. All clubs will vote for the best project and receive all the funding from the cluster of clubs. Even if your club did not win, your members can assist in managing the project.

Objectives of Cluster Funding:

- The obvious: to allow Rotary 7090 Ontario Clubs to do "good" with smaller contributions.
- To allow clubs that normally have little funds to work on worthy projects with more meaningful results
- To exchange ideas
- To assist clubs to discover ways to participate in worthy projects
- To educate clubs to know and understand the District and International Rotary Grant system.
- To bring together the Ontario Rotary Clubs of 7090 to get to know each other.
- "It's not about the project or the club; it's about working and learning together!"

An Example of the Multiplier Effect of Rotary Funding

Based on a \$1,000 contribution from each club and matched by District (to Max) and RIF to max of 80%

Number of Clubs	Clubs	District @ 100%	RIF @ 80%	Total
8	*\$8,000	\$8,000	\$6,400	\$22,400
9	9,000	9,000	7,200	25,200
10	10,000	10,000	8,000	28,000
11	11,000	10,000	8,000	29,000
12	12,000	10,000	8,000	30,000
13	13,000	10,000	8,000	31,000
14	14,000	10,000	8,000	32,000
15	15,000	10,000	8,000	33,000
16	16,000	10,000	8,000	34,000
17	17,000	10,000	8,000	35,000
18	18,000	10,000	8,000	36,000
19	19,000	10,000	8,000	37,000

*Each club will contribute \$1,050; 5% is the extra that is Charged by RI for admin fee (All USD)

The PLEDGE is a Requirement

The PLEDGE is a necessary part of the process in order to ensure the success of a project. The host and/or international partner depends on the financial contributions of every club to prepare the budget for the project. The PLEDGE commits the club to support the project regardless of when the project is approved, which may take place in another Rotary year.

Clubs must be aware that the pledge is a promise to pay that could take several years to payout. The RI scrutiny of a project application is detailed and time consuming. The reason that Rotary's grant success rate is so high is because of this scrutiny. The speed of the application approval is highly dependent on the Sponsor and Host cooperation and coordination to ensure all requirements are met. From the time of submission to grant approval can take several years if RI reviews are not satisfied in a timely fashion.

One critical rule is that contributions to any project should never be submitted to RI until the approval is granted. If payment is submitted prior to approval, it will not be refunded if the approval is denied, or the project is cancelled. This means that all pledges must be reserved in a club's finances in case the approval takes longer than the present fiscal year.

How to select a project

Guidelines:

- Not an existing project
- Likelihood of success
- Initiated and owned by Host Rotary Club
- Communication with Host Club
- Low overheads
- Adheres to the Rotary Foundation guidelines
- Sweat equity possibilities
- Includes an area of focus

Sources of projects

- Club Member visits, Host Club Contacts
- Foundation Area Co-ordinators
- District Grant Committees / Foundation Chairs
- District International Service Projects Chair
- My Rotary (Tool): www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/develop-projects
- Rotary Showcase: https://map.rotary.org/en/project/pages/project_showcase.aspx
- Rotary Action Groups: (i.e. www.wasraq.org/)
- Matching Grants: <http://www.matchinggrants.org/>
- Project Fairs, District Conferences, RI Convention. Zone Meetings
- Areas of Focus Handbook

Projects must:

- Adhere to one of the 7 Rotary Areas of Focus
 - Fighting disease,
 - Providing clean water,
 - Saving mothers and children,
 - Supporting education,
 - Growing local economies.
 - Promoting Peace
 - The Environment
- Minimum of \$30,000USD Budget
- Have Sustainability
- Initiated and owned by a **Qualified** Host Club
- Have applied and obtained a Global Grant Application Number

Host Club is critical to success. It must:

- Show excitement and passion
- Communicate often and promptly
- Provide requested information
- Go above and beyond
- Contribute financially or actively seek project funds

Eligibility to present at a cluster fund selection meeting club must:

Present the following information:

- The Global Grant application number obtained by submitting proposal to RI (see Addendum #2)
- Sponsor & Host Club details
- Proposed project cost
- Area(s) of Focus
- Cooperating Organization
- Project description
- Sustainability Consideration check
- Club concept approvals

There is often more than one winner. Projects that are not winners often receive additional funding from clubs that simply want to support a great idea. These side deals are made outside of the cluster funding process.

Cluster Funding Project Annual Schedule

Jan / Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage Club Progress Report on previous selection
Feb to April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club to Qualify for Global Grant
May 15 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit Pledge
May to August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate / select / plan a project Plan \$1,050 US in budget in next year's Budget Plan Project Get commitment from Host Club Prepare Project Proposal Draft Global Grant
Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit RI's MOU to district Foundation
Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit draft RI Application for Global Grant
Mid October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cluster Grant Showcase Presentation to select project
Dec to April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirm Global Grant application Final Funding Commitment received
---- Completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage / Monitor / Update

After Selection: Reporting to Cluster supporters

The club with the successful project must report to all cluster supporters bi-monthly. This can be a simple email to all explaining the progress to application approval and what they have faced in gaining this approval.

Rotary Clubs of D7090 Ontario

Addendum #1: PLEDGE FOR CLUSTER FUND PROJECT

TO BE SUBMITTED BY May 15, 2025 to DAVID BERRY - dberry@cogeco.ca

This Pledge is an agreement regarding your Rotary Club's participation in the Cluster Project for Ontario clubs in District 7090. To be a participating club in the 2025-26 Ontario Cluster Global Grant Project for District 7090, it is incumbent on your Club to agree to the following conditions:

1. Delegate one active member of your club to be a member of the 2025-26 D7090 Ontario Cluster Global Grant Project Committee and represent the interests of your Club at all meetings.
Note - Other active club members are welcome to attend the 'Project Selection' meeting but only one vote counts for each participating club.
2. Contribute \$1,000 USD (plus \$50 USD to cover Rotary Foundation administration fee). This is payable once the selected project is approved by RI. Approval might take longer than 1 fiscal year, so clubs are asked to reserve the funds if this happens.
3. If presenting a project at the project selection meeting; it is understood that your club must be qualified for Global Grants as per District 7090 requirements. Otherwise; if your club simply pledging a contribution for a project that will be selected; Global Grant qualification is not necessary.
4. Vote to select the project to be funded will be counted as one vote per club.
5. Pay the funds (\$1050 USD) to the RI Foundation *only once the selected project for the Cluster Global Grant is **approved** by Rotary International*. The Global Grant application is under consideration by RI until this review is declared as Approval. Recognize that this could take a considerable period, so funds must be set aside to comply.
6. Take the opportunity to work with the Rotary Club whose project is selected for the Cluster Global Grant Project. Supporting this sponsoring Club is a learning opportunity to submitting your own Global Project.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

To present a project, and to be either a host or international partner, a club must be 'qualified' to apply for a District/Global Grant by having two club members complete the RI online Grant Management Seminar/Recertification and sign off on District 7090's Club Qualification Memorandum of Understanding (The Rotary Foundation) for 2025-26. Clubs participating as a non-primary funder are not required to be qualified and are eligible for matching DDF (district designated funds).

Initial: President 2024-25: _____

President for 2025-26: _____

AGREEMENT and AUTHORIZATION

This Pledge is an agreement between the Club and the Ontario District 7090 Cluster Project Committee and acknowledges that the Club will undertake to abide by the 6 conditions listed above. By authorizing this document, the Club agrees to comply with all the conditions and requirements of this Pledge.

On behalf of the Rotary Club of _____ the undersigned agree to comply with all the conditions and requirements of the PLEDGE for the year 2025-26

Signature: _____
Club President 2025-26

Signature: _____
Club Elect President 2025-26

Print Name: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Addendum #2 Presentation requirements for Project Selection

Prior to submitting a proposed project for selection by the Ontario Cluster Fund the club must

- 1) Qualify for Global Grant application as required by District 7090 and Rotary International
- 2) Submit and obtain a Global Grant application Number directly via RI at https://grants.rotary.org/s_main.jsp?lang=1
- 3) Two (2) Weeks prior to the Selection Meeting in October the sponsoring club must submit a summary of the project for review by all clubs voting at the meeting. This will be distributed to all clubs for their review. The summary must include the following sub-titles:
 - Project description
 - Sponsor & Host Club details
 - Proposed project cost
 - Area(s) of Focus
 - Cooperating Organization
 - Sustainability Consideration check
 - Budget Details
 - Club concept approvals

At the meeting each proposal will be allowed a short period of time to present their project. With time after for questions. The time allocation will depend on the number of proposals received.

Selection of the project to support will be based on a single vote allowed for each club that has participated with a pledge submitted to the Cluster committee.
