



CONNECTING CLUBS WITH RESOURCES TO IMPROVE PROJECTS AND GLOBAL GRANTS

PROJECT ENHANCEMENT FAQ

1. What is project enhancement?

The goal of project enhancement is to increase the quality, impact, and sustainability of global grant projects by:

- Improving Rotarian capacity to design and implement high-quality projects
- Strengthening Rotarian effectiveness in mobilizing local resources and networks
- Increasing the use of Rotarian expertise in global grant planning and design
- Creating and strengthening Rotarian-led coalitions

2. What are the project enhancement responsibilities of district international service committee chairs?

District international service committee chairs work with clubs and districts to develop international projects and design global grants of higher quality and greater scale by leveraging local Rotarian expertise, establishing connections between clubs in the district and a host or international partner, and creating a network of local experts to help with project planning and the grant process.

Responsibilities include:

- Maintaining a database of local experts experienced in project planning, the areas of focus, and Rotary grants
- Connecting members to experts for assistance with projects and grants
- Collaborating with district Rotary Foundation committee and subcommittee chairs, community service chairs, vocational service chairs, Rotarian Action Groups, The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers, Rotaract representatives, and other experts, including peace fellows and alumni
- Publicizing club international service initiatives

3. How does the district international service committee chair support the district Rotary Foundation chair (DRFC)?

District leaders are encouraged to work collaboratively to identify and promote resources for improved projects and grants. Collaboration is essential among district committees, particularly the Rotary Foundation, grants, and stewardship subcommittees and the international community service, vocational service, community service, and alumni committees.

DRFCs educate clubs about the Foundation and inspire them to support its programs and fundraising activities. There are subcommittee chairs for fundraising, grants, PolioPlus, and stewardship.

DRFCs' responsibilities also include:

- Authorizing the use of District Designated Funds (DDFs) for grants
- Qualifying clubs in the district
- Coordinating all Foundation fundraising and program participation
- Deciding how to use the DDF, in consultation with the district governor and governor-elect
- Helping the district governor conduct a district Rotary Foundation seminar for club presidents, presidents-elect, club Foundation committees, and other Rotarians

District international service committee chairs support the efforts of the district Rotary Foundation committee by facilitating collaboration with Rotarian experts in district resource networks. They also connect clubs to Rotary resources such as handbooks, project planning guides, grant manuals, and other training materials to help strengthen their service work.

4. What resources can be made available to help clubs improve international service projects and increase the quality, impact, and sustainability of global grants?

Local or regional Rotarian experts

Local Rotarians with expertise in Rotary's areas of focus, grants, and project planning are among some of the best resources available to clubs. Experts can include alumni, Rotaractors, peace fellows, Rotarian Action Group members, and members of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers. Relevant expertise includes:

- Aligning a project or grant with Rotary's areas of focus
- Obtaining assistance with project design, planning, and implementation
- Providing information about the global grant process
- Conducting a community assessment
- Identifying international partners
- Securing funding
- Incorporating sustainability
- Incorporating measurement and evaluation benchmarks

Project lifecycle tools

Project lifecycle tools offer support with various aspects of project planning and implementation: guidance in community assessment, finding resources, identifying an international partner, obtaining funding, connecting with technical experts, promoting the project. For more information, see [Lifecycle of a Project](#) and [Global Grants](#).

5. What is a district resource network?

District international service chairs are tasked with identifying local Rotarian and Rotary alumni experts to build a district resource network that clubs can consult to improve a project or global grant proposal. Working with fellow district and club leaders, international service chairs recruit interested local Rotarians and alumni with expertise in the areas of focus and project planning to serve as advisers and consultants on club projects. The district's clubs take advantage of their network of experts by contacting them directly for assistance with projects, or by requesting an introduction from the district international service chair.

6. What strategies can help district international service chairs succeed in their role?

- Identify opportunities for collaboration in the district to better assist clubs to enhance service projects.
- Promote and increase awareness of the role of the district international service chair to help connect clubs with local or regional experts who can help improve global grants.
- Ensure that the district has a resource network made up of local and regional experts who can serve as advisers and consultants.
- Work with the DRFC and district governor to make local Rotarian experts' contact information available on the district's website, other communication channels, and at district events.
- Consider hosting a global grant or service project workshop to spur club project ideas and promote available local experts.
- Encourage Rotarians with experience in the areas of focus and project planning and implementation to join the district resource network.
- Encourage Rotarians to use the district international service chair as the primary contact for identifying local experts as they begin to plan and design projects and global grants. If one is not appointed, contact the DRFC or district governor.
- Ensure that the district international service chair and other key district representatives are included in district training sessions such as the grant management seminar, and in other relevant events and communications.
- Refer to the [District International Service Chair Directory](#) to connect with fellow committee chairs, exchange effective strategies, and identify project partners.

7. How should District International Service chairs work with Rotary?

The Rotary Service and Engagement team provides support to district international service chairs and works with other Rotary staff teams to facilitate the development of regional resource networks, training materials and resource guides for project planning, monitoring performance indicators, as well as promoting lessons-learned and successful strategies for projects and global grants planning. District International Service chairs will receive regular communications with resources, updates, and tips to assist with their role. District International Service chairs should email rotary.service@rotary.org with questions or with examples highlighting how their district resource network is helping develop bigger and better projects and global grants.

8. Why were changes made to the district international service role?

Effective 1 July 2016, the responsibilities of district international service chairs were redefined by the Trustees and the Board of Directors to enhance Rotary's impact in the community through all six areas of focus. By identifying and increasing the use of local technical and project lifecycle experts, clubs and districts receive support for planning sustainable projects and large-scale global grants. This use of local expertise allows for long-term relationship-building and continuous mentorship and knowledge transfer.

