



COVID-19 Edition

Right now, we are called to respond to the coronavirus crisis as People of Action.

Our personal and global mental health has been put at risk with the physical distancing and separation of family members whether just across town or between provinces, states or departments. People are separated from their work family, too, many having been recently furloughed or let go. The reality is that the majority of developing countries do not have adequate access to mental health in typical times. This condition impacts billions of people worldwide at a time when mental health is required to build the resiliency required in each of us during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Consider reaching out to your local mental healthcare facilities or those in countries in which you have had previous projects. Ask what is needed.

Grant options to respond to COVID-19

The Rotary Foundation is offering several options that you can use to help care for and protect people in your own communities and others around the world.

District grants

Districts can use [district grant](#) funds to support local activities, like purchasing thermometers, protective medical gear, or other items to donate to medical professionals who need them. Districts can also use contingency funds from an open district grant or repurpose previously planned activities as a COVID-19 response. As districts prepare to submit new district grant applications for 2020-21, we encourage you to designate funds for COVID-19 responses. As a one-time exception, the Foundation will allow expenses related to COVID-19 that were incurred since 15 March 2020 to be reimbursed through 2020-21 district grants.

Disaster Response Grants and Rotary's Disaster Response Fund

Rotary's [disaster response grants](#) provide a fast and effective way to respond to local events. The Rotary Foundation recently added COVID-19 projects to its list of eligible activities for these grants. Each district can apply for one grant (of up to \$25,000) to address COVID-19, depending on the availability of funds. Disaster response grants are funded by the [Rotary Disaster Response Fund](#) to help districts around the world respond to disasters. The fund accepts online our



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contributions and DDF. Districts may designate that their DDF contributions to the Disaster Response Fund be used exclusively for COVID-19 grant activities. Cash contributions will be used for general disaster response, including response to COVID-19.

Global Grants

[Global grants](#) remain an excellent way to make a transformative impact in a community. If medical equipment is needed in order to respond effectively to COVID-19, global grants can help pay for these items. The Foundation is waiving the 30 percent foreign financing requirement for any new global grant that addresses COVID-19. Note that these grants still require both a host and international partner.

For additional information, contact your [regional grants officer](#).

By reaching out, we have the opportunity to learn more about needs in our healthcare facilities and communities and how our Rotary Clubs can assist now and in the future. It is going to take everyone working together to tamp down this pandemic in each of our communities and prevent future outbreaks while preserving our mental health.

Connect with us, if you would like assistance with your COVID-19 grant project or are interested in beginning any of the projects our members have been engaged in recently. Check our website for details on the contact Rotarian and projects which can be duplicated in your country of choice.

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday the 13th of June at 9am (Eastern-US)

Our Annual Meeting will be held virtually for all this year via Zoom.

Hear updates on our current projects and those we are considering. If you have a project for your local community or somewhere else in our world, submit it for our consideration. We will entertain 2-3 projects for support from our Action Group in the coming Rotary year. Your presentation is limited to a maximum of 5 minutes.. Submit your plan using Powerpoint via [email](#) no later than May 21st to our Chair, Bonnie Black: bonblack@yahoo.com.