



Indiana Lions Foundation

Matching Grants to Indiana Lions Clubs for Local Projects

A major focus of the Indiana Lions Foundation is to support local club's community-based projects. Local clubs may apply for up to \$1,000 in matching grant funding for eligible projects. On-line application forms may be accessed at the Foundation's website (indionalionsfoundationmd25.org.) All applications require the approval of the club president and the District Governor prior to submission to the Foundation.

How are grant requests reviewed and approved?

There are twenty-one trustees comprising the Foundation board; three from each of our seven districts in Multiple District 25. Those seven trustees in the second year of their three year term make up the Grants Committee. This Committee meets prior to each scheduled trustee meeting to review all grant applications submitted since the previous meeting. The trustees meet in February, April, June, July, September, November and December of each year.

Is there a limit to the amount of grants awarded each year?

Yes, the trustees set an annual grant budget prior to each fiscal year. This budget is set based on the success of annual fundraising initiatives. The most recent grant budget was \$35,000. This amount may be adjusted upward depending on the number of applications received.

Are all clubs eligible to apply for a matching grant?

Yes, as long as a club is current in meeting all of their financial obligations with their District, State and LCI. Also, each club will be limited to one grant per fiscal year (July 1 – June 30)

What projects are eligible for matching grants from the Foundation?

- The project must be a club project where the club has committed funds from its fundraising activities up to \$1,000 to fund the project. For example, if your club takes on the project of funding equipment for your local fire department and raises funds for this project in the name of your club via club fundraising, grant applications and other solicitations; then a matching grant request would be considered. If the grant is to be used only to match a monetary donation in response to fire department's charity campaign, then that request will not be considered
- Grants may be awarded for initial start-up costs and associated expenses for the purchase of equipment, real estate or improvements to real estate. For example, a club has initiated a project to purchase a used food truck to sell hot dogs and drinks at local events for fund raising, but it is known at purchase that the HVAC is inoperable and the tires unsafe. The foundation will consider a matching grant to purchase the truck and to make the truck safe and operational up to an amount of \$1,000. Perhaps the club receives a grant from a local charity to purchase the truck and then could receive a matching grant from the Foundation to make it operational.

What are some examples of projects NOT eligible for matching grants?

- Any project benefiting only one individual will not be considered.
- On-going operating and maintenance expenses are not eligible for matching grants
- Grants will not be awarded for improvements to existing capital equipment or for the normal operating expenses of that equipment. Capital equipment is defined as a depreciable asset. For example, if the food truck noted previously was already a club asset, then the purchase of new tires or upgrading the HVAC would not be eligible.
- Grants will not be awarded to maintain real estate assets or rolling equipment. Examples include: roofing, HVAC equipment, windows, electrical upgrades for real estate and brakes, tune-ups, paint, tires and engine and transmission repair or replacement for rolling stock.
- A matching grant will not be awarded when it is intended to match a charitable monetary donation from a club to another local charity such as the fire department charity example used above.

Can a club receive two matching grants for the same project?

Maybe. As an example, a club received a matching grant for initial start-up costs for a new festival in their community. Grant requests to match a club's start-up costs for that festival in subsequent years will not be considered. However, another club took on a project to build new dug-outs at the local ball fields and received a matching grant to complete this project. The next year, the club took on a project to replace the fencing at the same ball field. This second project would be considered for a matching grant because it is effectively a new project even though at the same location.

When should a club apply for a matching grant?

A club should apply during the planning and budgeting portion of the project, which presumably would be several weeks or even months before the execution of the project. The Committee may reject a request if the request is received more than six months after the project has been completed.

Should a club give recognition to the Foundation for a successful grant?

Yes. The Foundation would appreciate any local publicity such as a check presentation at a club meeting made by one of that District's Trustees. In the case of the food truck example, perhaps a small decal or marker on the side of the truck acknowledging the Foundation's participation in the project could be placed.

Is there any follow-up required after a matching grant is received?

The Foundation greatly appreciates receiving photos or accounts in local media about the finished project. We would appreciate receiving these within six months of project completion.

How can a club assist the Foundation?

- Clubs can assist the Foundation's fund raising by selling tickets at the State Fair
- Lions may purchase Indiana Lions license plates through the BMV
- Individual Lions or clubs may purchase a brick paver placed at the Lions State Office Building
- Purchase a W. P. Woods Fellowship
- Donate to a Foundation project

Please visit www.indianalionsfoundationmd25.org for more information.