

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY FOR GRANTS

A. Ensuring integrity in Rotary Foundation grants requires that everyone involved in Rotary grants avoid actual and perceived conflicts of interest.

B. A conflict of interest occurs when someone is in a position to make or influence a decision about a grant that could benefit them, their family, their business, or an entity in which they serve in a paid or voluntary leadership or advisory position.

C. All actual or perceived conflicts of interest must be disclosed to Rotary grants staff during the grant application process. If you're uncertain whether a situation presents a conflict of interest, you should disclose it.

D. No Rotary members can serve on a grant committee for any global grant for which they have a conflict of interest.

E. Global grants may not be financed with contributions (directed gifts, corporate social responsibility funds, etc.) from donors (individuals or organizations) that have conflicts of interest regarding the grant.

F. The Rotary grants staff or the Trustees will determine whether a conflict of interest exists in a particular case. If they conclude that there is or has been a conflict of interest in a grant, the Rotary grants staff will recommend to the Trustees an appropriate remedy to protect the integrity of the grant process. Remedies may include removing a Rotary member from a grant committee, declining a grant application, canceling an approved grant, and suspending a particular member, club, district, or cooperating organization from participating in Rotary grants.

G. Some people are not eligible for grants or to benefit from any Foundation grants. They include:

1. Current Rotarians
2. Employees of clubs, districts, other Rotary entities (as defined in section 1.040. of the Rotary Code of Policies), or Rotary International
3. The spouses; children or grandchildren by blood, legal adoption, or marriage without adoption; the spouses of those children or grandchildren, or parents or grandparents by blood of people listed above; and employees of agencies, organizations, or institutions that partner with Rotary International or the Foundation
4. Former Rotarians and people with the familial relationships to former Rotarians described above, for three years after their or their relative's membership ends

H. Rotary members who serve on a club or district selection committee that is responsible for a grant-funded activity need to be completely transparent about their personal, family, or business relationships with any person or organization that would be affected by a potential Rotary grant. This includes, but is not limited to, any relationship with scholarship candidates, cooperating organizations, vendors, or other individuals or organizations that would benefit from the grant. Committee members need to notify the committee chair of any actual or perceived conflict of interest before the selection process begins, and the actual or potential conflict also needs to be disclosed in the grant application.

I. Before a Rotary district, club, or member conducts business related to a grant-funded activity that involves a vendor being paid by a Rotary entity, a fair, transparent, and thorough request for proposals or a bidding process needs to be conducted to ensure that the best services are secured at a reasonable cost. Possible conflicts of interest may arise when a Rotary entity is considering business in which funds will be paid to a member, a provider of goods or services that is owned or managed by a member, an honorary member, or the people listed above who are ineligible for Foundation grants.

J. All grant transactions need to be reviewed to confirm that there is no conflict of interest with vendors or payment recipients, including, among others, partner nongovernmental organizations, providers of goods or services, insurance companies, shipping companies, and educational institutions. Vendors with conflicts of interest may be used if the vendor provides the best product or service at fair market cost, as evidenced by a sales quote or an offer obtained through a fair, transparent, and thorough bidding process.

K. For more information on Rotary's Conflict of Interest Policy, please see section 30.040. of The Rotary Foundation Code of Policies. <https://my-cms.rotary.org/en/document/rotary-foundation-code-policies>