

6940 Hurricane Recovery Grants Program

Overview of Grants Program

Phase 1 **Timeline: Dec. 15 to Jan 2** **Available Funding: \$25,000 Volunteer Florida Grant and \$25,000 D6940 Matching.**

Policy: Grants Committee will review and recommend 2-4 recovery projects to be implemented in hard-hit areas that can be implemented quickly and effectively by community based organizations. Projects may focus on food assistance, shelter, housing repairs (including tarps and roofs), replacement of household goods and furnishings.

Process: DG and Special Grants Committee chair will identify eligible projects Dec. 15-23 and meet with Committee members via teleconference on Dec. 27. Committee will make recommendations to DG, who will have final approval if decisions must be made. DG will submit the recommended projects to Mark Jones, who will present them to the Foundation directors for email approval by Dec. 30. Phase 1 grants will be announced on Jan 1 and payment issued Jan. 2-3 and a report to Volunteer Florida on Jan. 8.

District Foundation will award grants based in recommendations of the Committee and approval by the District Governor.

Report will be submitted to Volunteer Florida Foundation on funded projects and matching funds managed by D-6940 Foundation.

Phase 2 **Application Timeline: Jan 5-31** **Available Funding: \$85,000**

Policy: Grants Committee will accept applications from eligible Rotary clubs and community partners for grant funding to implement hurricane recovery projects, under the guidelines and process stated below. District Foundation will award grants based in recommendations of the Committee, approval by the District Governor, and availability of funds.

Process: Special Grants Committee will meet via teleconference around Feb 8 to review qualified applications and make recommendations to DG, who will have final approval if decisions must be made. Phase 2 grants will be announced on Feb. 15, with payment as soon as possible. Reports will be submitted to all D-6940 clubs and donors to the Hurricane Michael Recovery Fund.

Guidelines for 6940 Hurricane Michael Recovery Grants:

- Projects must address specific local need.
- Projects must provide assistance for people impacted by the storm.
- Applications must be sponsored by active Rotary club in D-6940.
- Applications for projects in Areas 4 and 5 will get priority consideration.
- Most grant awards will be in \$5000 to \$15,000 range. Clubs with project budgets higher than \$15,000 should consult the Grants Committee Chair before submitting the application.
- Projects should involve collaboration with local civic or governmental entities to avoid duplication of effort.
- Sponsoring club must have some oversight of project implementation.

- Clubs are not required to make a financial contribution to the project.
- Projects should have some Rotarian involvement.
- Several clubs may collaborate on a project, and designate one as the grantee.
- Projects should align with Rotary goals for humanitarian service projects
- Projects may replace or be integrated with any current (approved) district grant projects
- Most projects will have 12 month or less completion timeline (exceptions possible)
- Grants will be paid to requesting club, which may use its grant account for this purpose
- Recipient clubs must submit written report on project activity and grant expenditures.

We encourage clubs in communities with housing projects to consider eligibility for the special TRF global grant program with Habitat for Humanity.

Proposed Special Grants Committee

<i>Role</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Club</i>
DRFC	David Rauch	Mid-Bay Bridge
Grants Chair	Christine Isham	Lake City
PDG	Ted Kirchharr	Pensacola SubWest
PDG	Jeannie Rutherford	Panama City Beach
PDG	Roger Champion	Tallahassee
PDG	John Kuykendall	Lake City
AG-2	Lynne Erickson	Gulf Breeze
AG-9	Linda Nelson	Tallahassee Sunrise
Past Club President	Bea Reynolds	South Walton
Past Club President	Tonya Chavis	Tallahassee Northside

ex officio DG John Medina, Wayne Edwards or Sylvia White (Foundation VP)

Rationale: The PDGs have significant grant experience and except for Jeannie are not from high impact areas. The AGs do not handle the priority grant areas. Bea is past AG and has served on Share Committee. Tonya is past club president who served on Share Committee and current district chair for community service. Christine will handle logistics and records.

DG email to Special Grants Committee

Dear [NAME]

District 6940 needs your service for a very important assignment that will advance the mission and goals of Rotary and help many people in need of assistance in our district.

As you may know, we received more than \$110,000 in contributions to help people in NW Florida who were impacted by Hurricane Michael, especially those who are struggling, financially and emotionally with the recovery process. In addition to these donations, we just received a \$25,000 matching grant from Volunteer Florida to the D6940 Hurricane Michael Recovery Fund.

Our original plan was to establish a special grant program, similar to our district grants program, to distribute this money to qualified recovery projects beginning in January. But our timeline to act starts immediately as we must distribute the Volunteer Florida funds by the first week in January to comply with the terms of this grant.

To accomplish this "Christmas Miracle," I need a team of dedicated Rotarian leaders who have experience with our district grants process. Working with the officers of our District Foundation and our District Grants Chair, we developed a set of guidelines and a simple application process for the Hurricane Recovery grants.

Now, I am asking you to serve on a special Grants Committee that will help us determine the best way to use the Hurricane Michael Recovery Fund. We understand that everyone has many family and community commitments during the holiday season, and we will do everything possible to minimize your time and talents. Committee work will be done electronically, via email and teleconference, under the leadership of District Grants Chair Christine Isham.

The Committee's first assignment is to review several eligible projects that we can support using the grant from Volunteer Florida. For this Phase 1 of our program, we will focus on providing financial support, and Rotarian volunteer service, to enable established disaster recovery and community service organizations to put this money to work right away in hard-hit communities.

In January, we will move into Phase 2, where we accept grant applications primarily from clubs in Areas 4 and 5 --the most severely impacted portion of our district, for recovery projects in their communities. The Grants Committee will be responsible for reviewing the applications and recommending projects that should receive grant awards from our Hurricane Michael Recovery Fund.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you will serve on this committee. Once we have your confirmation, Christine will provide details about how we will implement the Phase 1 activity over the next few weeks, as well as the guidelines and process for the Phase 2 grants process.

Thank you in advance for your service in this most challenging and motivational Rotary project. Please contact me or Christine if you have questions or need additional information.

YIRS, John Medina