

Emergency Disaster Grants available for District and Clubs

This document is to give a basic overview of what grants are available for natural disasters such as floods, tornadoes, etc. Detailed information for each is available from the foundations websites and other guidelines currently on file.

LCIF Emergency Grants

To assist Lions in helping their communities following a natural disaster, LCIF Emergency Grants are issued for a maximum of US\$10,000. The funds help meet immediate needs such as *food, water, clothing and medical supplies*.

When disasters occur on a much larger scale, Major Catastrophe Grants are awarded for long-term reconstruction projects. LCIF and Lions have helped countries around the globe following major catastrophes, including earthquakes in China and Haiti, Hurricane Katrina and the South Asia tsunami.

District 13-A has received multiple grants in the past if the catastrophe impacted more than one city or area. Be prepared to submit newspaper articles, photos, internet links to television news stories, etc. to document size and scope of disaster. News articles, numbers of people assisted and other documentation should be maintained which publicizes how the Lions assisted in relief efforts as this information will need to be submitted with final reports to LCIF. You should also document if a federal or state emergency has been declared by the government officials. Make sure to keep copies of all information and reports sent to LCIF for your records! Past experience has shown that this information can be lost or misfiled by LCIF.

In the past the district has arranged for a voucher exchange program so those impacted by the disaster can purchase needed food, water, clothing and medical supplies. In the case of flooding we have also allowed the purchase of cleaning supplies for the residence. We have used Lowes Home Centers and Meijers for these vouchers programs. Cleaning supplies were also purchased and distributed directly to residents if retail merchants who can provide the voucher program are located too far away.

All funds from LCIF should be deposited into the District checking account for disbursement of funds to those merchants who will be supply vouchers or supplies. A system which does not allow duplication of vouchers should be used such as numbered vouchers or having a stamp or seal affixed.

Note: This grant is available to districts and should be requested by the District Governor. Contact LCIF for emergency grant requests, e-mail lcifemergencygrants@lionsclubs.org or call (630) 468-3819

Ohio Lions Foundation Emergency Grants

The Foundation approves grants for victims of floods, tornados and other natural disasters striking Ohio. Requests for disaster relief grants may be presented either through the district trustee or by contacting directly the O.L.F.'s Secretary as follows:

Jeffrey W. Brantner, Secretary
Ohio Lions Foundation
1720 Zollinger Road, Second Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43221
(614) 459-5200 Ext 230
(614) 459-1151 Email: jwbrantner@rpbke.com

Grants up to \$5,000 may be approved by the Foundation's Executive Committee; grants in excess of \$5,000 must be approved by the Foundation's Board of Trustees; provided, however, that the maximum amount of such grants awarded by the Executive Committee may not exceed in the aggregate the sum of \$35,000 in any single fiscal year.

Unlike LCIF Grants these may be obtained and administered by local Lions clubs in Ohio. Vouchers and procedures to be followed are available from the Ohio Lions Foundation at the websites noted below.

<http://www.ohiolionsfoundation.org/grants.htm>

<http://www.ohiolionsfoundation.org/disaster-relief-proc-020704.pdf>

<http://www.ohiolionsfoundation.org/disaster-appl-voucher.pdf>

Grants may be used to purchase the follow:

- Food (but not tobacco products, cigarettes, or alcohol)
- Clothing, blankets, bedding (including sheets, bed covers, pillows and pillow cases, but not mattresses)
- Basic eating utensils (but only in the case of a serious health risk, and not to exceed \$50.00 per family unit)
- Medical care and supplies
- Eye glasses
- Prescription drugs
- Sanitation and cleaning (such as disinfectants, cleaning solutions, mops, hoses, etc.)
- Temporary shelter.
- Materials to temporarily secure the home, including tarps and plywood to close openings to keep out the weather

General points to keep in mind when administering LCIF and Ohio Lions Foundation funds for disbursement:

When a disaster occurs make immediate efforts to identify other agencies assisting in the relief efforts. These agencies make include government emergency management personnel, FEMA, Red Cross, Salvation Army, churches, etc. Explain to these agencies what assistance you are offering and collaborate with them in your relief efforts.

Also inform the other agencies that you are there to assist with immediate relief efforts taking place with volunteers and financial assistance for victims. Make sure it is understood the Lions are not there to give money to these agencies.

Keep in mind that agencies, because of privacy restrictions, may be limited as to what information they can provide on those individuals which have been impacted by the disaster.

All Lions participating in the emergency/disaster efforts should wear clothing identifying themselves as members of Lions Clubs International. At victim relief centers post signs and provide information indicating that the Lions are assisting in the relief efforts.