Grants Provided by Lions Clubs International

- Bijay Pradhan

On 29th of January 2005 Lions Club Narayangath Downtown had organized “District Orientation Programme”. From our Club Vice President Lion Shiva Prasad Poudel, Joint Secretary Lion Deepak kumar Shrestha, Director Lion Pratima Manandhar and Myself had got chance to take part in the aforementioned programme. The main objective of that programme was to instruct Lion members of the district about different grants assigned by Lions clubs International and build up leadership quality of each member of the club. However the one day programme was too short it was too fruitful and worth mentioning. Actually there were three sessions - first one is to aware members about LCIF grants, second training for public speaking and third one is building leadership. Here I would like to express what I have learn from that programme about LCIF grants which may be useful to every Lions club.

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is the grant making arm of Lions Clubs International. It is the only Lions' Foundation that serves the entire world. LCIF prevents blindness, it provides food and clothing to victims of Natural disasters. It also gives youth, the tools to succeed
through Lions-Quest, empowers the disabled through vocational training and promotes health by equipping clinics and hospitals. LCIF is an efficient and effective charity. Administrative cost were about 10 percent. Grants are made possible by donations from Lions clubs and individual members worldwide. Interest on Investments, gifts from corporations and the general public are also funding source. LCIF does not receive any portion of Lions membership dues. LCIF has awarded US$ 356.9 million in grants since it began in 1968.

Different grants provided by LCIF

→ Designated grants

Designated grants represent funds donated LCIF restricted for specific activities and projects. A Lion or other donor make a donation for a specific project. Once LCIF confirms that the desired use of the donation is within the humanitarian purposes of the foundation, it is accepted and then disbursed to the Lions participating in the project.

→ Major Catastrophe grants

When catastrophes of major proportions strike a region of world, LCIF responds with grants for as much as US$ 1 million (and a minimum of US$ 50,000) for long term reconstruction projects as well as for immediate needs. LCIF awarded major catastrophe grants in response to the Sept. 11 attacks against United States, the 2001 earthquake in Gujarat, and 1999 earthquakes in Turkey.
Emergency grants

To assist Lions in helping their communities following a nature related disaster, LCIF emergency grants are issued for a maximum of US$ 10,000. The funds are to be used for meeting immediate needs such as food, cloth and medical supplies.

International assistance grants (IAG)

International assistance grants enable Lions clubs in developed countries to partner with Lions clubs in lesser-developed regions on humanitarian projects. IAG funds basic health care, education and literacy; clean water and sanitation; rural development and self-sufficiency programs; services for the blind and environmental protection. The IAG Program awards grants between US$ 5,000 and US$ 30,000 on a matching basis. A district may only have only one IAG in process or approved at any one time.

Four Core grants

Cote four grants is designed to fund large-scale projects that target urgent needs under the core service commitments of Lionism - preserving, eyesight, combating disability, promoting health and serving youth. LCIF supports specific projects under each service commitment: Preserving sight: children’s eye photo-screening programmes in developed countries, low vision projects; Combating disability: building homes for the blind and disabled with Habitat for Humanity, eye care for special Olympics athletes.
tes; Promoting health: diabetes prevention and treatments and serving youth: expansion of Lions-Quest. Core four grants may only be requested for specific Priority projects adopted by the LCIF trustees. (The trustees will adopt no more than two funding priorities in each of four programme areas at any one time.) Each of the Priority projects is designated to target emerging humanitarian needs. Core four grant projects are available for up to US$ 200,000 on a three to one basis, which means Lions applying for a grants need only raise 25% locally. (The limit for Lions-Quest grants is US$ 100,000 for multiple districts and the limit for Habitat grants is US$ 50,000.) However, priority is given to projects in which the LCIF core four grants is used to leverage significant funds from the local Lions and their project partners.

Standard grants
Standard grants generally provide capital funding for equipment and infrastructure needs. Typical standard grant projects include mobile health units, hospitals, nursing homes, medical units, street children's homes, blind and disabled centres, eye clinic research centres and schools in developing countries. For standard grants, the budget must show ample funding from Local Lions' organizations, have a strong Lions' identity and involvement, be endorsed by the district cabinet and involve at least two
or three clubs. Standard grants provide matching funds of up to US$ 75,000.

→ Sight first grants

Sight first grants fight preventable and reversible blindness by building hospitals and clinics, training doctors, nurses and other health care workers, distributing medicine and raising awareness of eye diseases. Lions' districts with their regional sight first technical advisor in developing sight first grant applications and project proposals. Sight first fights the major causes of blindness: cataract, river blindness, trachoma. Lions initially generously funded sight first with US$ 144 million.

Applications for different grants must be completed at least 60 days before an LCIF Board of Trustees meeting. The board meets three times a year: October/November, March/April and June/July. Applications are reviewed as they are received. Furthermore, the project must address an important humanitarian need, serve a relatively large population, be cost effective and be beyond local fund-raising capability.

For basic information about LCIF grants one can contact LCIF at 630/571-5466 ext 580 or email at lcif@lionsclubs.org. and for further information one can surf at www.lionsclubs.org.