**Technology Grant Program**

**2021-2022**

**Scope:**

As a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, much has been learned by Rotary Clubs throughout the world about the benefits of using online meeting technology to achieve club goals and to enhance member engagement and greater access to Rotary International resources and a broader variety of outside presenters to participate in club meetings. While no one can dispute the value of in-person meetings and the camaraderie and organizational cohesiveness it promotes, there are times that having an option to participate in meetings virtually could enhance membership recruitment and member engagement when there are complications involved with attending in-person meetings.

The purpose of the District 6220 Technology Grant Program is to allow clubs within the District to apply for matching funds, up to $1200, to allow them to offset the cost of acquiring technology, that will allow them to offer a virtual option for ongoing club meetings and events. Funds available through the grant can be used to purchase computer equipment, projectors, screens, microphones, web cameras and tripods, sound mixing equipment, cables and adapters, sound systems, speakers, and online meeting plans that best meet club needs. Funds cannot be used for club operations outside of using technology for meetings. Funds can also not be used for personnel and staffing costs.

Please note that we have made a one-time allocation of $15,600 dollars to be able to make 13 grants of $1200 each. So the program is competitive and aspirant clubs must make sure that they meet the requirements and criteria set below.

**Requirements:**

1. The Club President and President-Elect must have a current Rotary Foundation District 6220 Memorandum of Understanding on file.
2. The Club must be current on implementation and reporting of all open and completed District Project Funds and District and Global Grants.
3. The Club must be current on District dues.

**Application Process and Criteria:**

1. Grants will be based on a 1/1 match from the club up to a maximum of $1200. Only cash contributions, and not in-kind expenses, shall be considered as part of the match from the club.
2. Applications will be submitted using a District form that details the purpose of the grant and how grant funds will be used.
3. The application must include an explanation of how the club believes use of hybrid meeting technology can enhance membership engagement, retention, and recruitment.
4. Once submitted, the application is reviewed at the District level by the Technology Grant Review Committee.
5. Grant applications must be received by the close of business on **June 15, 2021**, and awards will be announced by **June 22, 2021**.
6. Grant funds cannot be used to reimburse the club for equipment purchased before April 1, 2021.
7. Clubs with equipment in place to facilitate hybrid meetings can use grant funds to enhance the hybrid experience and upgrade or replace existing equipment.
8. Clubs accepting a technology grant award must agree to offer a hybrid meeting option continuously for a period of at least one year and shall complete a district-provided report form on use of the grant funds within 30 days of the end of their first year of hybrid meetings.
9. Clubs must implement the use of hybrid meetings **no later than August 31, 2021**.

**Additional Grant Application Guidelines:**

In addition, while planning for grant activities prior to approval is encouraged, grants cannot fund:

1. Operating, administrative, or indirect program expenses.
2. Activities and/or expenses completed before April 1, 2021.
3. Reimbursement of other expenses incurred in connection with hybrid meetings before April 1, 2021.

**How to apply:**

Please use the application form that is found on the District Website ridistrict6220.org. Email grant applications to: Lisa VanderKelen at lvanderkelen.rotary@gmail.com.

For questions on the grant program, please contact:

DGE Balakuntalam Sridhar at (920) 205-4484 or rotariansridharb@gmail.com or

DGN Dave Anderson at (608) 347-4978 or rotarydave6220@aol.com