

ROTARY EWB-USA PARTNERSHIP

Rotary International (RI) is one of the world's largest service organizations and is one of EWB-USA's largest supporters. EWB-USA is on RI's website as a partner organization, and Rotarians around the world have come to trust EWB-USA as a valuable partner for accomplishing their projects. EWB-USA has also had a booth at two successive Rotary International Conventions, when Rotarians from all over the world gather to discuss ways to improve the world through the motto "Service Above Self". Many of EWB-USA's Board Members are Rotarians, and EWB-USA is proud to be aligned with Rotary and Rotarian engineers throughout the world.

The following description corresponds to the flowchart (at the end of this document) and describes the most effective method for EWB-USA Chapters to work with Rotary clubs. Just like EWB-USA's chapters, Rotary is a "bottom up" organization, driven by its clubs throughout the world. The partnership **must** be between EWB-USA Chapters and Rotary Clubs and the Host Community for this to work. A volunteer group on the national EWB-USA level will help facilitate the process, but the Chapter (and Rotary) must drive it.

The two most efficient ways for Rotary to support EWB-USA are the direct club funding model (the club contributes directly with no grant involved) and the matching grant model. For the purposes of this explanation, only the matching grant model (for \$25000 or less) is described. These grants can be obtained in as little as 60 days, although 90 is more common, and they follow a very rigid set of rules. But, they work very well and multiply the club's contribution through District funds and Rotary Foundation funds. It is not uncommon for local US based clubs to pledge as little as \$5000 and have the matching contributions drive the amount provided for the project to near \$25,000.

While we have had great partnership in the past year, the best is yet to come. The following description of the process is a draft based on our experience of one year, but it will need to be refined as we move forward. If you need assistance, please email rotary@ewb-usa.org for answers to questions and/or sample documents.

The following description tracks with the flowchart.

- 1) Partnership - This partnership with the host community should be initiated through the EWB-USA-USA protocol or it may be initiated through a host country Rotary club (or even a US based club with a host country partner). Once approved by EWB-USA, the 4-way partnership can be formed. Ideally this partnership will involve, from the beginning, a Rotary Club in the host country, a Rotary Club in the USA, EWB-USA, and the host community. Many examples of this kind of partnership are available on EWB-USA.org or Rotary.org
- 2) Determine Scope of Project - Once a partnership has been formed, the community, EWB-USA chapter(s), and Rotary club(s) should decide on a single well defined project to pursue. For Rotary, this usually means a water project, although Rotary supports many other types of projects including health, education, construction, etc. The team should next determine the scope of the project, budget, and success metrics. The team should also clearly identify the need for the project and predicted impacts.
- 3) Determine Lead Rotary Club - One Rotary Club involved will have to become the "lead" club. This club will act as the organizer for all Rotary based funding mechanisms. It will be their responsibility to ensure that the application is complete and filled out correctly. Templates from previous grants will help facilitate these efforts (please ask the volunteer group for these at rotary@ewb-usa.org).

4) Decide on Rotary International Grant Type – This decision will be made based on the project budget and scope. There are four types of Rotary funding mechanisms which can help you.

- Direct club donations
- District Simplified Grants
- Matching Grants (\$25,000 or less –usually 90 day or less turnaround !)
- 3H Grants

5) Solicit the support of other Rotary Clubs – The assistance of additional Rotary Clubs will help generate more funds throughout this process. Either individuals or clubs may contribute.

6) Obtain and begin preparation of Matching Grants Application

7) Finalize funding from individual clubs

8) Obtain Contact Information for each contributing club

9) Obtain letters of Participation from each partner. Samples of these, and other documents, are available for review at rotary@ewb-usa.org.

10) Solicit district for funding commitment

11) Complete Matching Grants application

12) Prepare an accounting system to oversee expenditures

13) RI reviews grant and issues Grant number

14) RI approves Grant

15) Clubs sign financial commitment letters

16) Clubs and districts send checks to RI (note: Paul Harris Credits might be involved)

17) Funding released from RI Foundation to approved club (4-5 weeks after final approval)

