

Dear Lions Club Members:

Diabetes is a disease in which the body either does not produce or does not properly use insulin. Diabetes can lead to serious health complications and premature death. The number of people with diabetes has risen from 108 million in 1980 to 422 million in 2014 and continues to rise, per the World Health Organization (WHO). The WHO also projects that diabetes will be the seventh leading cause of death in 2030.

Diabetes grants can provide Lions with grant funding up to \$250,000. Projects typically support diabetes prevention, education, and improved access to treatment for underserved populations. Projects can include enhancing and expanding diabetes camps, supporting comprehensive diabetes screening events, increasing access to high-quality health facilities that provide diabetes services, and improving the knowledge of health care professionals. LCIF also supports diabetic retinopathy programs through Sight First.

At this year's, Single District 10 Lions Convention held in Harris, Michigan, the delegation voted and approved that District 10 should become part of the state-wide "Defense against Diabetes" initiative. The LCIF grant for \$250,000.00 requires a local matching funds of \$50,000 from the eleven Districts of the State of Michigan (SD10 and MD11). To raise this \$50,000.00 match, we would need \$4,545.00 from each District and each District in turn would receive \$22,727.27 to launch a Diabetes Testing and Education Program across their own District. This program works with already existing medical providers and organizations, such as UPDON.

We have until this September 2018 to raise our match portion of \$50,000.00 prior to being able to submit the application for this grant to Lions Clubs International for the \$250,000.00 grant. There is a state committee formed to oversee the actual grant application and necessary documentation of funds utilized. Each of the eleven districts are represented on this state committee board. Single District 10 is represented by District Diabetes Chair, Jim Svinicki and myself, Bruce LaBelle, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor.

We all know someone who has Diabetes and in many cases, it can be prevented. Please consider having your Lions Club make a donation to this project to help us in raising the necessary match for this LCIF grant. For those Districts who raise less than \$4,545.00, the amount contributed will be prorated based on the donation received from that District. If additional monies are raised or donated beyond the amount requested, the additional funds will be contributed back to the Diabetes Chair of each District. District 10 currently has 55 Lions Clubs, this goal of \$4,545.00 is easily obtainable for the tremendous benefits and impact it will have. If each Lions Club in District 10 could just donate \$83.00 towards this goal of \$4,545.00 and we would have our portion of the match to obtain \$22,727.27. I am asking the Lions Clubs that are more financially stable to donate a larger amount to make up for the clubs that do not donated to this project or programs outside their communities. If you would like additional information, feel free to contact me at (906) 466-2439 or email me at [Bruce.LaBelle@Honeywell.com](mailto:Bruce.LaBelle@Honeywell.com).

Please send your donations to our District 10 Treasurer, Scott Kwarciany. Please make payment to "Single District 10" with the notation of "Defense against Diabetes".

Scott Kwarciany  
1122 Ludington Street  
Escanaba, MI 49829  
Attention: Defense against Diabetes

Sincerely Yours and Heartfelt Thanks,

1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor Bruce LaBelle





The Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) Diabetes grant program offers financial support to Lions who seek to improve diabetes awareness, prevention and management initiatives in their communities. Lions are eligible to apply for grant funding up to \$250,000 for impactful projects that enhance and expand diabetes camps; support comprehensive diabetes screening events; increase access to high-quality health facilities that provide diabetes services, and improve the knowledge of health care professionals. Lions are encouraged to partner with diabetes organizations within their district to achieve this goal.

In 2017, Lions Clubs International celebrated its centennial year of service as an organization by adopting diabetes as one of its new global causes. A strategy was developed along with this new call to action in order to guide Lions clubs members to provide service within the area of diabetes in the best possible ways. This strategy highlights the following vision and goals for Lions' work within diabetes.

**VISION:** "Reduce the prevalence of diabetes and improve the quality of life for those diagnosed"

**Goals:**

- Educate Lions and their communities about diabetes and prediabetes.
- Develop community environments that inspire and support healthy lifestyles.
- Increase access to diabetes care, medication and diagnostic equipment.
- Increase coordination and support in the implementation of national diabetes policies and plans.

The LCIF Diabetes grant has an expansive reach, one that will help Lions interested in having a societal impact on the diabetes epidemic. LCIF's diabetes focus will be placed on large-scale diabetes prevention, management, awareness and service projects that have the potential to improve the public health of a community. More specifically, the Diabetes Program will support projects that fall within one of the following intervention areas:

- Large-scale fixed facility or mobile screening initiatives which target at-risk communities/individuals when
- combined with comprehensive follow-up care by qualified medical professionals. Use of diabetes risk
- assessments and diabetes education is required.
- Enhancement and expansion of existing diabetes camps, retreats, and symposiums.
- Health facility expansion through renovation and equipment acquisition to improve existing infrastructure and increase patient access to existing diabetes services.
- Initial or refresher training of qualified health personnel who work with people living with diabetes/prediabetes, and/or the training of Lions as community diabetes educators.



Funds are also available for public awareness initiatives and support groups so long as these activities are incorporated into one of the four aforementioned intervention areas.

It is recognized that not all of Lions' ideas will be able to be supported by this foundation program. The good news is that LCIF and Lions Clubs International have funds available through other programs. These are:

- **SightFirst:** Supports diabetic retinopathy projects set within a comprehensive eye care approach.
- **Community Impact Grants:** Helps clubs and districts support small-scale community projects using a share of their donations to LCIF.