Lions Clubs International FOUNDATION

IMPACT

"... together we can do so much." - Helen Keller



Dear Lions of Iowa,

One of my goals with these LCIF Iowa Impact Newsletters is to dispel the often-held belief that our Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), only supports projects and service in faraway places on different continents. That is simply not true. Another belief is that LCIF does nothing for your own club. Again, not true.

Featured this month are two projects undertaken by two different clubs in two different districts. The first story is about how West Union Lions in 9NE used its district's DCG funds to purchase a freezer for their food pantry. The second story is about how the Nevada Lions in 9MC used its district's DCG funds to purchase an 18-foot trailer for its service projects.

First, you might ask, what is a DCG? Imagine your club identifying a significant community need, developing a plan to address it, and receiving financial support from LCIF to help make that project a reality. That's exactly the opportunity offered through the LCIF District and Club Community Impact Grant (DCG) program.

The program creates a powerful connection between giving and serving, allowing Lions clubs and districts to turn their contributions to LCIF into additional resources for humanitarian projects that make a difference close to home.

But how does it work, who qualifies, and how can your club take advantage of this opportunity?

Explore the DCG program in this edition by following the links and reading about the ease in which West Union applied for the grant and how Nevada Lions also used a DCG to make their project possible.

With you in service,

Lion Bernadette Lane
LCIF Multiple District Coordinator, MD9
Mount Vernon Lions

Links to this Month's Features
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From Giving to Grants
How LCIF Contributions Support Local Communities
Discover how the District and Club Community Impact Grant (DCG) program turns Lions' contributions into funding for local projects. Learn how it works, who qualifies, and how clubs can access available funds.

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A Simple Grant, A Lasting Impact
West Union Lions Club | District 9NE
See how a $1,198 LCIF grant helped the West Union Lions purchase a new freezer for their local food pantry, and why the application process was easier than expected.

PAGE 4 | DCG SUCCESS STORY
Nevada Lions Tap into 9MC's DCG Funds
Nevada Lions Club | District 9MC
Learn how Nevada Lions used $4,500 in district DCG funds toward an 18-foot trailer, providing storage and transportation for flags, equipment, and service projects benefiting clubs across the district.

LCIF District Coordinators
Find and connect with your LCIF District Coordinator in your district today!

From Giving to Grants

How LCIF Contributions Support Local Communities

What is an LCIF District and Club Community Impact Grant (DCG)?

District and Club Community Impact Grants (DCGs) are for clubs and districts that reach a qualifying level of donations to receive a portion of those donations back in the form of an LCIF grant. Districts and clubs that meet the donation requirements are eligible to apply for a grant to fund humanitarian service projects that are in alignment with the foundation's focal areas. All projects must be approved by LCIF.

Simply put, when a club contributes donations to LCIF's Empowering Service Fund (club funds and donations from individuals count), a percentage of those contributions can become available to apply for an LCIF grant to support a local humanitarian project. Note that designations for Disaster Relief do not count toward DCG totals.

How Does the Program Work?

The DCG program is built around a straightforward concept: the more a qualifying club or district contributes to LCIF during a fiscal year, the greater the percentage of funding it may be eligible to receive for a community impact project.

Beginning with contributions made during the 2025–2026 fiscal year (July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026), LCIF introduced an enhanced giving structure with opportunities to earn up to 30% in grant funding.

Levels

Individual Lions clubs can qualify based on their total eligible contributions (club funds plus individual contributions) during a single fiscal year to the Empowering Service Fund.

Annual club contributions	Percentage Available
$5,000–$9,999.99	15%
$10,000–$19,999.99	20%
$20,000 or more	30%

District Giving Levels

Districts have a separate giving structure with higher contribution thresholds. District giving levels are a roll-up of all unrestricted contributions to LCIF from clubs and individuals, minus the amount from any club that earned its own DCG credit. All is based on giving July 1 – June 30.

Annual district contributions	Percentage Available
$10,000–$19,999.99	15%
$20,000–$29,999.99	20%
$30,000 or more	30%

Only qualifying, undesignated and unrestricted contributions to the Empowering Service Fund count toward DCG

A Club Can Use District DCG Funds

A club that does not have its own DCG funds can ask the district to use its DCG funds for their project. The district cabinet simply needs to approve the request. The District Governor signs the application and submits it along with cabinet meeting minutes verifying that the cabinet agrees to use the funds for the club's project. It's that simple.

Learn More & Apply for a DCG
District & Club Community Impact Grant Program

A Simple Grant, A Lasting Impact

West Union Lions Club Makes a Difference Through LCIF

Sometimes, making a big difference in your community starts with a simple question: “Is there a project in your community that could use some funding?”

That was the question PDG Chris Waring, District 9NE LCIF Coordinator, asked during a visit to the West Union Lions Club.

As she talked about the opportunities available through Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), one project immediately came to mind. Our local food pantry needed a new freezer.



I asked Chris if a freezer for the food pantry would qualify for an LCIF grant. When we learned it could, our club had a brief discussion and agreed it was a project worth pursuing. I volunteered to take on the grant application and paperwork.

What happened next might surprise some Lions. The process was much easier than I expected!

Chris provided the necessary forms and instructions, and completing the application was straightforward. The key was having good information about the project and the need it would fill.

Of course, there were signatures to gather, a few phone calls to make, and a little running around. But none of it was difficult, and the time invested was minimal compared to the difference this grant could make.

Through an LCIF District and Club Community Impact Grant (DCG) of $1,198, our club was able to help meet an important need at our local food pantry. A freezer may seem like a simple piece of equipment, but for a food pantry, it means more storage, more flexibility, and a greater ability to serve families facing food insecurity.

$1,198 DCG Grant
Helped our local food pantry purchase a new freezer.

More Storage
Increased capacity for food and supplies.

Greater Flexibility
Helps the pantry better serve families in need.

And here's something every Lion should remember: Grants like these are made possible because of YOU! The contributions made to LCIF by individual Lions and Lions Clubs help provide the funding that comes back to support projects in our communities. When you give to LCIF, you're not just helping people around the world — you're also helping make projects like our food pantry freezer possible right here in Iowa. It's a wonderful example of how our generosity comes full circle.

My message to fellow Lions is simple: Don't overlook the opportunities available through LCIF!

Look around your community. Is there a food pantry, school, or nonprofit organization that could use some help? Is there a project your club would love to support but needs additional funding to make it happen?

Learn More & Apply for a DCG
District & Club Community Impact Grant Program

Ask the question. Explore the possibilities. Don't let the thought of paperwork keep you from applying.

A few hours of your time could make a lasting difference for people in your community.

After all, that's what being a Lion is all about — seeing a need and finding a way to solve it.

Submitted by a member of the West Union Lions Club

Nevada Lions Tap into 9MC's DCG Funds



A service trailer helps support Nevada Lions and clubs across the district.

Nevada Lions has a robust flag program as one of their signature service projects. Transporting the flags and all the necessary inventory when needed as well as providing safe storage of the flags and inventory when not in use was a challenge.

Nevada Lions tapped into 9MC's DCG account to purchase an 18-foot trailer to transport the flags and other necessary accessories as well as to provide a place for storage.

Not only that, there are grills, popcorn machines and the like which are shared by clubs that also need to be transported throughout the district.

The $4,500 LCIF DCG is of great support not only to Nevada Lions but also for several clubs throughout the district.



Learn More & Apply for a DCG
District & Club Community Impact Grant Program

$4,500 LCIF DCG
Helped purchase an 18-foot trailer.

Safe Storage
Keeps flags and service inventory secure when not in use.

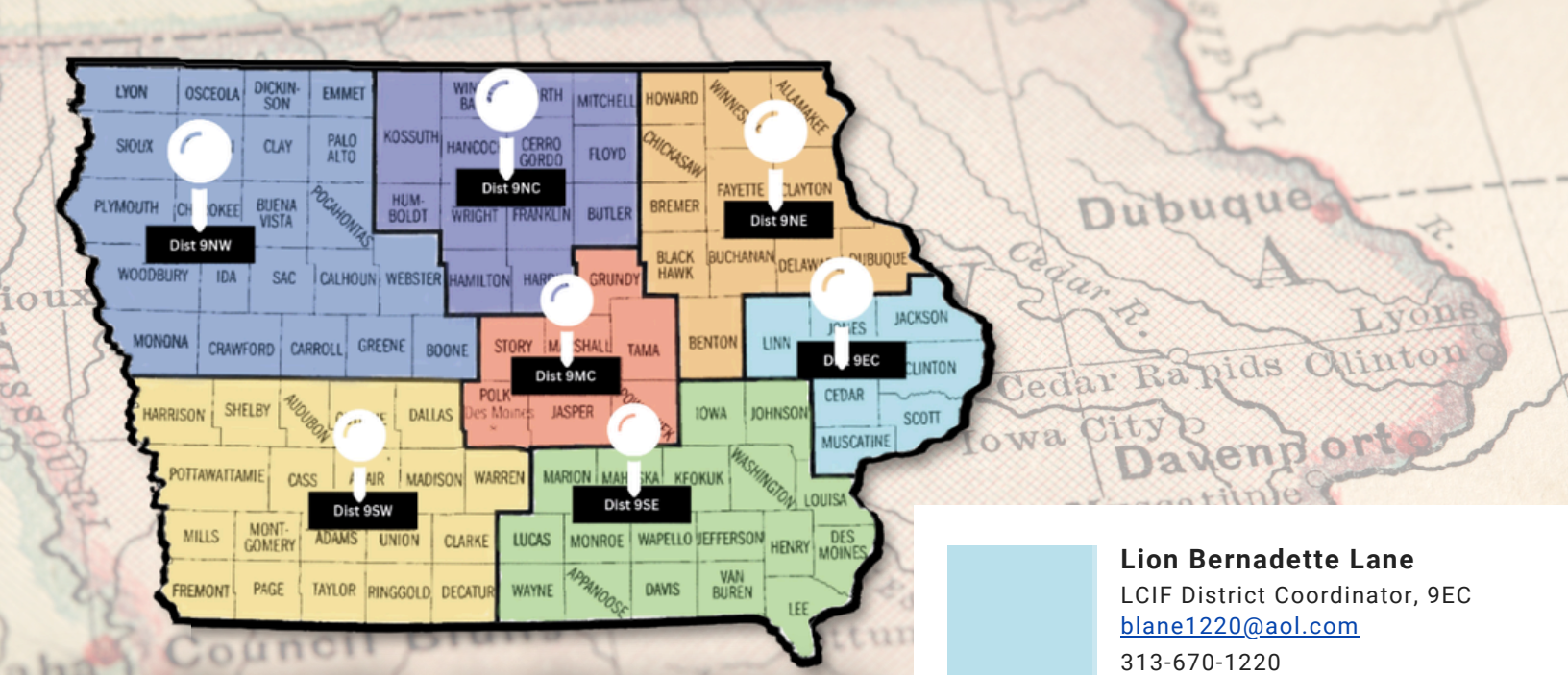
District-Wide Support
Helps transport shared equipment for clubs across 9MC.

MAKE A GIFT TODAY

CASH OR CHECK
Please make your gift payable to: **LCIF**

Mail to:
Lions Clubs International Foundation
Department 4547
Carol Stream, IL 60122-4547

GIVE ONLINE
DONATE NOW



LCIF IOWA DISTRICT COORDINATORS

KEEPING IOWA LIONS CONNECTED.

Your LCIF District Coordinators are here to guide, inspire, and serve alongside you — helping Lions across Iowa turn compassion into action and make a lasting **IMPACT** in their communities and around the world.

You're encouraged to reach out to your LCIF District Coordinator — whether to share ideas about an LCIF Grant your club or district may wish to pursue, ask questions, or explore new ways to support the life-changing work of LCIF. You might also consider inviting your District Coordinator to speak at one of your upcoming club meetings — they'd love to share updates, answer questions, and help inspire your members with stories of Lions' global impact.

You'll find their contact information listed to the right. Each coordinator is dedicated to helping your club stay informed, engaged, and connected to the broader mission we share as Lions.

Together, we're uniting service across Iowa and creating an **IMPACT** that reaches far beyond our own communities.

Lions Clubs International FOUNDATION

MAKE A GIFT TO LCIF

With 100% of donations going towards grants and programs, LCIF empowers the compassionate service of Lions and those who need our help.

DONATE NOW

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