2019 2nd Cycle Quality of Life Grant FAQ Sheet

Question 1: I received a grant last year from the Reeve Foundation. Am I eligible to apply for this grant cycle?

Answer: No, you would not be eligible to reapply for a Quality of Life grant yet. The Reeve Foundation recently changed its policy regarding the waiting time for previously funded organizations to submit a new proposal (it previously had been two years/three grant cycles since the last award). The new policy is: Organizations that have previously been awarded a Quality of Life grant in any category may re-apply after one year from notification of grant closure by the Reeve Foundation. The 2019 Second Cycle Direct Effect and High Impact Priority grant period will start on January 1, 2020; therefore, prior grantees who have received notification of grant closure for their past award by January 2019 are eligible to apply.

Question 2: Are local governments eligible to apply for the Quality of Life grant program?

Answer: Yes. Applications are welcome from nonprofit organizations with IRS 501(c)(3) status, municipal and state governments, school districts, recognized tribal entities, and other institutions such as community or veterans’ hospitals.

Question 3: Best way to present financials?

Answer: When filling out your budget sheet, be as precise as possible. Be very specific with the funds you are requesting and include any invoices, vendor quotes, or agreements you have along with the budget. It is also required that you submit a budget narrative which includes a description and justification of each line-item presented in the proposed budget.

Question 4: What percentage of the population we serve must be people with paralysis? We serve individuals with disabilities which includes CP, brain injury, etc. but many don’t have paralysis. Is there a percentage needed for you to fund a project?

Answer: There is no specific percentage requirement of serving people with paralysis for your project. However, your project must serve a majority of people living with paralysis, their families, and caregivers. In that vein, we will consider supporting projects that include people with cross disabilities, but your project must serve a minimum of 3 people living with paralysis, their families, or their caregivers. Grants are awarded to organizations that address the needs of people living with paralysis caused by spinal cord and other injuries, diseases or birth conditions, including (but not limited to) stroke, traumatic brain injury, spina bifida, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

Question 5: Should we add @grantinterface.com or @grantinterrace.com to our list of approved email addresses?

Answer: Please add administrator@grantinterface.com and qol@christopherreeve.org to your accepted list of email addresses as it is through those email addresses that we will be contacting you regarding your proposal if questions arise and for to notify you as to the outcome of your proposal.
Question 6: Is there a cut & paste option to use from our previous grants? (Address, ED, history of organization, etc.)

Answer: When you go to the application, all your organization’s information such as address, telephone number, etc. will appear at the top of the application pre-filled out. Anything that requires a written response, such as history of your organization, will not have a cut and paste option.

Question 7: Does your foundation tend to support in-person programs vs. web-based programs, or is there a preference?

Answer: The Reeve Foundation has no preference of in-person vs. web-based programming for Quality of Life grant applications.

Question 8: Our support groups meet monthly and are ongoing. Is there any drawback to asking for funding for a program that is ongoing vs. one that is new?

Answer: The Reeve Foundation has no preference of ongoing vs new programming for Quality of Life grant applications.

Question 9: Does our proposed project need to only include those living with paralysis, or if approved could it be open to those living with all types of chronic health challenges?

Answer: The Reeve Foundation is paralysis focused, and as such, grant funding must be targeted to programs and services that impact individuals living with paralysis, their families and caregivers. The Reeve Foundation uses a functional definition of paralysis: difficulty and/or inability to use arms and/or legs due to neurological conditions including (but not limited to) spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, stroke, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, ALS, post-polio syndrome, etc. While we will consider supporting programs that include people living with other types of disabilities (cross-disability) as well as inclusive community projects, your project must serve a majority of people with paralysis. Reeve Foundation Quality of Life grant projects must serve at least three individuals with paralysis (as defined above) and/or their families and caregivers to be considered for a grant.

Question 10: Can you apply to more than one tier for this grant cycle? If we just applied for a HIIAT grant are we eligible to apply?

Answer: No, The Reeve Foundation does not permit more than one application per organization at a time, regardless of grant tier or program.

Question 11: I see that any reports that have been previously submitted for other grants are required to be uploaded or this grant proposal may not be reviewed. What if we do not have access to previous reports? Is the Reeve Foundation able to provide previous reports submitted?

Answer: Please contact QOL@ChristopherReeve.org to receive historical copies of previous applications and/or submitted reports.

Question 12: I am noting that you do not fund hospice care. We are a pediatric palliative care facility providing respite to patients with paralysis who have life limiting illnesses. We also provide end of life care as a separate program of George Mark Children’s House but are not a Hospice facility. Should I clarify this in the proposal?
Answer: Yes, please clarify that on the proposal. In the “Organizational Information” section of your application you can describe the programs offered by your organization and clarify the facility type.

Question 13: Am I able to apply for a Tier 1 (Direct Effect) Transportation grant?

Answer: Yes, you can request funding for Transportation from our Tier 1 (Direct Effect) or Tier 2 (High Impact Priority) grant programs.

Question 14: What if a municipality has a longstanding policy of not quantifying its employees who are paralyzed/use a wheelchair. This will keep the municipality from giving an actual number of those affected. Will it hurt the application?

Answer: Quality of Life applications require a quantified number of individuals with paralysis, their family members and caregivers to be served through the proposed project; you will need to indicate the target number of individuals to be served on the application, and if awarded, report exact numbers of those served on interim and final reports.

Question 15: Are wheelchair/scooter ramps permissible?

Answer: Yes, they are eligible for funding.

Question 16: Can a nutritious food delivery program based around providing caregivers and family members respite by distributing prepared meals qualify?

Answer: The Reeve Foundation’s cooperative agreement with Administration for Community Living (ACL) prohibits us from funding any food items. You may request funds for non-food items if there are other facets of the program that require funding.

Question 17: If we are asking for funding for an accessible playground, are we better off to ask for money towards the entire project or for an individual piece of equipment?

Answer: A request that details specific pieces of equipment, supplies, etc. with vendor quotes would be favorable to a nonspecific request.

Question 18: What if a percentage of income is committed and some is pending? How do we list that in your budget template?

Answer: Please indicate all other sources of project funding at the “Other Sources of Funding” section at the bottom of your budget template.

Question 19: Regarding the construction/major construction, if applying for a piece of playground equipment and there currently is a playground would you still fund if the playground will be moved?

Answer: We cannot fund any aspects of the construction; however, we are able to fund specific items such as playground equipment or pour-in-place rubber surfacing.

Question 20: If applying for an accessibility project, if items such as electronic door openers are being installed by the same company that we purchase them from, should we enter the install cost separately (e.g. contractors) from the purchase cost (equipment)?
Answer: It is not necessary to separate purchase and installation costs if the door openers are being installed by the purchasing company. If you do not separate the 2 line items, please indicate that the door openers will be installed by the purchasing company in the application and/or budget narrative.

Question 21: The number of students with paralysis in each of our schools varies from year to year, but we are going to do some minor renovations in order to make things accessible to students in wheelchairs. Should we report how many students with wheelchairs attend the school this year? Last year?

Answer: Report how many students with paralysis are attending school this year and include the number of children using wheelchairs that will also benefit from the modifications as an additional figure.

Question 22: Should I list all other funding sources for the agency, or just the other funding sources related to this project on the budget sheet?

Answer: List all other funding sources relevant to the project only.

Question 23: Does the Reeve Foundation fund programs that provide communication support to non-speakers?

Answer: If the communication devices you’re requesting will serve a majority of nonspeaking individuals with paralysis and can also benefit others with disabilities they are eligible for funding. However, if the focus of your project is not on serving people with paralysis it will not be eligible.

Question 24: Would building a 1-mile long ADA accessible walking trail be considered major construction?

Answer: No. The fixing, regrading or creation of accessible trails and pathways are eligible for funding.

Question 25: Can the proposed project be shorter the 12-month grant period?

Answer: Yes.

Question 26: We are a nonprofit organization, but the idea would be to use the Quality of Life grant funds to offer to as many local businesses in our rural community as the money will allow, namely, a 90% subsidy (per business) on the installation of a power-operated door opener for their front entrance (with the owner paying 10%). Though we are a nonprofit, if we are offering this subsidy to for-profit businesses, would that still be allowable?

Answer: No, this would not be eligible for Quality of Life funding because it is providing sub-awards to for-profit businesses.

Question 27: Within your list of Funding Restrictions you state, “Projects that utilize contractors or vendors outside of the United States.” If the vendor is US based, but the product we are considering is made abroad, would we still be eligible to apply?

Answer: Since the vendor is U.S. based, the products are eligible. All equipment, products, etc. purchased should come from a U.S. based company.

Question 28: Would equipment that would be purchased from a vendor in Germany not be eligible for funding under the Direct Effect Quality of Life Grants since the vendor is located outside of the U.S.?
Answer: Equipment purchased from non-U.S. based countries are not eligible for Quality of Life funding.

**Question 29:** For the Tier 2 funding, is it accepted to propose a project that includes more than one area of focus (for example, transportation and respite components), or does it need to be one or the other?

**Answer:** For the Tier 2 funding – the project should focus on one specific program area, that allows it to be part of a cohort of similar grants (e.g., respite/caregiving) where we are able to discern the impact that the program as a whole is making. It also allows us the opportunity to bring groups of organizations within the cohort together to learn from each other, if for example, a cohort call was to be scheduled.

**Question 30:** Our nonprofit’s focus is on helping SCI individuals get into a recovery program where we directly give to the program rehab center for the individual’s recovery. Is this eligible?

**Answer:** This program is not eligible because it would be funding the rehabilitative therapy of those individuals. The Reeve Foundation is prohibited from funding anything that would be considered rehabilitative therapy, including any treatments using certified occupational or physical therapists.

**Question 31:** For Universities, do proposals need to be submitted through the Research office if there is a federal cooperative agreement?

**Answer:** The Reeve Foundation has no preference of what office the application is submitted through; please review your University’s grants procedures and submit the application through whichever office campus policy dictates.

**Question 32:** Does the Foundation do sponsorships? If yes, how should sponsorship requests be directed?

**Answer:** The Reeve Foundation does provide sponsorship opportunities, however not through the Quality of Life Grants Program. To apply for sponsorship, please email your request to QOL@ChristopherReeve.org and the request will be submitted to our review committee.

**Question 33:** How do you define low-income / poverty populations?

**Answer:** The Reeve Foundation does not have specific requirements as to the definitions of low-income and poverty populations and areas. However, in your proposal please include census information and other geographical data to affirm your organization’s programming is serving these populations.

**Question 34:** How does one budget for anticipated cost increases for equipment (e.g. electronic door openers) that our vendor has indicated will take place by 2020?

**Answer:** If possible, please have your vendor propose the estimated cost increase for the equipment and apply with as much information as possible. If changes were to occur after the grant is made the budget can be revised to accommodate those changes.

**Question 35:** What percentage of applicants are typically funded each cycle?

**Answer:** The percentage of applicants funded during each cycle varies from cycle to cycle due to volume of applications received and funding available. However the last cycle is broken down as follows for 1st
Cycle 2019: 22% of Direct Effect applications received funding, 16% of High Impact Priority applications received funding.

Question 36: What is the average funding amount for successful Tier 1 (Direct Effect) grants?

Answer: The Reeve Foundation strives to fund all projects at full funding of the request. Requested funds generally range from $5,000 to the full $25,000.

Question 37: Would modifications like regrading a sidewalk and curb into a physical therapy space qualify?

Answer: Any modifications that increase access to public buildings such as sidewalk and curb regrading are eligible for funding.

Question 38: We applied for a grant last spring but were denied. Is there a limit on how many times an organization can apply each year?

Answer: There is no limit for how many times an organization can apply for Quality of Life funding.

Question 39: Is the creation of outreach material for Nursing Home Transition (Tier 3) an allowable expense?

Answer: Yes, you can request funding for promotional and outreach materials.

Question 40: and I understand that rehabilitative therapy itself is not a fundable line item. I am wondering if we still could apply, but for a different service (i.e. equipment in a Loan Closet). Or, does the rehabilitative therapy restriction mean organizations which provide rehabilitative therapy are ineligible to apply?

Answer: The Reeve Foundation recognizes that organizations can have multiple programmatic offerings, some eligible for funding and some not. Programs such as rehabilitative therapies are ineligible but the organization itself remains eligible for alternative projects and programs if they serve the paralysis community. Since the loan closet would not be providing rehabilitative therapy it is an acceptable request.

Question 41: Given that we have received a Tier 1 grant in the past, can we apply for a Tier 2 grant for expanded services or the addition of new services for an existing program previously funded by the Reeve Foundation?

Answer: You are welcome to apply for the expansion or addition of services, however depending on the type of project you may not need to apply under Tier 2 (High Impact Priority). Tier 2 grants are for transportation, respite/caregiving, and disaster response preparedness. If your request does not fall within those categories, you should apply for Tier 1 (Direct Effect).

Additionally, the Reeve Foundation recently piloted a grant program, Expanded Effect. This new grant program is specifically for previously awarded Quality of Life grantees whose programs and/or projects have achieved demonstrable, successful impact. The Expanded Effect Quality of Life grants program will award approximately six (6) grants of up to $100,000 each and will support significant expansion of strategies and programs that are evidence-based, show innovate promising practices, and/or best practices in the field they serve to improve quality of life for people with paralysis, their families, and caregivers. If you feel your project would be better suited to this funding opportunity, we will be launching our next opportunity in February of 2020.