2020 1st Cycle Direct Effect and Expanded Effect Quality of Life Grant FAQ Sheet

Question: 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. Due to recent changes in the Reeve Foundation Quality of Life Grants policies, the standard waiting time between applications for grant recipients is one year following the close of your grant. The 2019 2nd 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: 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: 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.

Question: 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. Your project must serve a majority of people living with paralysis with 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: Should we add @grantinterface.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.

Question: 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 of 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, can be cut or copied from a Word document and pasted in the field.
Question: 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: 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: 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, though cross disabilities are also encouraged. 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: Can you apply to more than one tier for this grant cycle?

Answer: No, The Reeve Foundation does not permit more than 1 application per organization at a time, regardless of grant tier or program.

Question: 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: 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: On the “Organizational Information” section of your application you can describe the programs offered by your organization and clarify the facility type.

Question: 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).
Question: 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: Are wheelchair/scooter ramps permissible?

Answer: Yes, they are eligible for funding.

Question: 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: 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: 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: 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. If the playground were being moved within a similar vicinity that would be allowable, but not if it were to be moved to an entirely new location.

Question: 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 two line items, please indicate that the door openers will be installed by the purchasing company in the application and/or budget narrative. This should also be reflected in the accompanying vendor quote.
Question: 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: 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: 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: 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: Can the proposed project be shorter the 12-month grant period?

Answer: Yes.

Question: 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: 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 companies are not eligible for Quality of Life funding.
Question: 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: 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 as to which office the application is submitted through; please review your University’s grants procedures and submit the application through whichever office campus policy dictates.

Question: 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 proposal to QOL@Christopher Reeve.org and the proposal will be submitted to our review committee.

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

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: 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: 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: 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: 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, and you are encouraged to reply as often as possible. Many grants have been awarded to organizations after multiple declinations.

Question: 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: 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: For a wheelchair track and field program, would travel and/or registration costs for regional and national competitions be a fundable expense?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Does the Reeve foundation partially fund requests, or are requests funded as “all-or-nothing?”

Answer: The Reeve Foundation does consider partial funding when evaluating applications.

Question: Does the Reeve Foundation have any guidelines or requirements for reference list/bibliographic information?

Answer: No.

Question: I see that municipalities are eligible. We are also a local political subdivision as a park district. Are we eligible?

Answer: Yes, local park districts are eligible to apply.

Question: We are interested in applying for funds to purchase two pieces of equipment that would be used at a group home and a day facility, supporting adults and children with disabilities, including individuals living with paralysis, their families, and caregivers. If funded, the Foundation would purchase and own the devices. Through a cooperative agreement, the devices would be used in two facilities that are managed and staffed by a local education agency. Currently, the Foundation supports the education agency through similar arrangements (the Foundation owns buildings and vehicles while the agency leases them, etc.).
Answer: In accordance with our cooperative agreement with Administration for Community Living, we are unable to approve funding for sub-awards. This would qualify as a sub-award, which would make the proposed project ineligible.

Question: We are aware that the Foundation does not fund therapeutic programs. However, if the caregiver program were to include an art therapy element - for caregivers - to help them cope with caring for loved ones with paralysis - would this be an acceptable program element for funding?

Answer: Yes, art therapy for caregivers would be eligible, because it is not considered physical or rehabilitative therapy.

Question: Can we apply for support for a caregiving program either through the Direct Effect grant cycle now going on, or in the fall cycle, where caregiver programs are highlighted in High Impact Priority? Is one or the other cycle preferred for this type of program?

Answer: You can apply for a caregiving program through both our Direct Effect and High Impact Priority grant opportunities. The Reeve Foundation does not have a preference of which program you submit your application under.

Question: Would stipend payments for review groups be an acceptable request?

Answer: No.

Question: Do we need to obtain a Solicitation License to apply?

Answer: No.

Question: Is there a list of prior grantees on your website for the QOL grants?

Answer: Please click this link to access previous Quality of Life grantees: https://www.christopherreeve.org/get-support/grants-for-non-profits/past-quality-of-life-grantees

Question: Do we need to upload our organization’s (a) W-9 Form or (b) our Non-Discriminatory Policy to the application?

Answer: No, the Reeve Foundation does not require W-9 or Non-Discriminatory Policy uploads to the application.

Question: We need to re-pave the pathway from the building to the patio for individuals to safe access – it is a short distance from the building (guessing 30 feet or so, approximately) but not currently safe for wheelchairs. Is this allowable?

Answer: Yes, pathways that improve access are eligible.

Question: We’d like to purchase an awning or pergola of some kind, to provide protection from the sun. Probably free standing – but it may be attached to the building. Is this allowable?
Question: Our outdoor space is undefined, and we’d like to purchase fencing materials to provide a barrier. As an alternative, we’d like to purchase shrubs to create a perimeter. Are either of these options allowed?

Answer: The Reeve Foundation prefers to fund items related to a project or program that would directly impact individuals living with paralysis. As this is more of a general maintenance request, it would likely not be funded.

Question: We do not consider our work as rehabilitative therapy as we work to educate ALS patients to utilize their assistive technology/speech generating devices as well as create custom solutions for enhanced use of technology and our clients’ improved communication. We employ a speech language pathologist, an occupational therapist, and technical workers to assist in this holistic process. We offer evaluations for patients seeking speech generating devices and are unsure as to whether this would be considered “rehabilitative therapy”. Under your official definition, would you classify this service as rehabilitative therapy?

Answer: No, evaluations would not be considered rehabilitative therapy.

Question: Is widening a restroom doorway (along with other smaller restroom renovations) allowable, or would that be considered major construction?

Answer: No, widening a restroom doorway would not be considered major construction.

Question: Could work on a project begin a little bit before the funding cycle begins (i.e. work is scheduled to start May 1st but funding cycle doesn’t begin until June 1st), or does it need to wait and start after the funding cycle begins to be funded?

Answer: If the funds requested are for a part of the project that would begin after the initial start up of the project begins that would be acceptable. However, if funds were requested for a part of the project that has already begun that would not be allowable.

Question: We would like to propose funding for a training power wheelchair for use with many of our elementary age school students. Staff and families identify students who are candidates for power mobility and our having a training power wheelchair will help them evaluate their readiness for power mobility and identify the best type of chair. Training chairs are outfitted with a wide array of options to explore what is best for each child. The students served will be candidates for power mobility and early users for skill development. In addition, the chair will be used for students for whom power mobility can provide an incentive for actions that help improve strength and endurance in neck and trunk muscles, thereby improving overall posture. This in turn helps with visual skills, increased language skills, autonomy and independence. These activities and the associated equipment are not covered by insurance. The wheelchair will remain at the school; it will not be given to an individual. The program will be led by physical therapist. Classroom staff will be trained to work with the children to reinforce and increase repetitions. (physical therapists provide “habilitation” therapy, rather than
rehabilitative therapy. Habilitation is the process of training motor plans for the first time. Our question is whether this type of proposal would be acceptable under your funding guidelines and restrictions?

Answer: If the funds requested are for the wheelchair, that would be allowable as providing access to this type of needed equipment. Funds would not be allowable for any aspect of therapy as described above.

Question: We propose to have a series of adaptive driving training workshops using virtual reality technology. Can we work with local schools, parks, and libraries to promote the workshop?

Answer: Yes. It would be helpful to note in your proposal the partnerships that you have already developed and the outreach plans for those not yet in place to ensure that you will reach your targeted population and the number of people you plan to serve through this project.

Question: The training project would need to involve a specialist from driving school to give professional advice on assessing the driving ability of the participating individuals with paralysis. Can we include this service in budget planning?

Answer: Yes, but it must be made clear how this assessment and the specialist’s services directly impact people living with paralysis.

Question: The project would have the showcase of the adaptive devices of vehicles to the participants. Can we claim the cost of purchasing the devices as equipment expenses in the budget development?

Answer: Yes, but we would need to see how and why these devices were chosen and how they benefit people living with paralysis.