Humanitarian Audiology Grant Program

The International Hearing Foundation, an affiliate of the Minnesota Medical Foundation, has received funding from Audiology Incorporated to support up to three projects in developing countries in 2012. The projects must be aimed at increasing access to hearing care in regions with limited service availability. Acceptable project goals include but are not limited to the following.

1. Improving educational programs, including vocational training, for hearing-impaired children and adults.
2. Providing audiologic diagnostic services for hearing-impaired children and adults who have access to educational and rehabilitative services.
3. Providing audiologic rehabilitation, including hearing aids, for hearing-impaired children and adults.
4. Providing medical services to hearing-impaired children and adults.
5. Providing training in service delivery to local residents to achieve greater access to audiologic services.
6. Funding equipment acquisitions for programs that have trained personnel for delivering audiologic services.
7. Research projects that focus on accessibility of hearing care in developing countries.

Each project will have a project leader based in the U.S. and a site coordinator based in the project country. The site coordinator will oversee the implementation of the project at the project location. A carefully planned outcomes assessment is required. Automated hearing test equipment will be provided for up to six months for projects that include hearing testing. The automated equipment is designed to test people who have normal cognitive function but do not necessarily speak English. Projects are expected to be completed within one year of funding. A six-month no-cost extension can be requested but is not encouraged. Priority will be given to individuals and organizations that have not previously been funded by this program. The review committee will strive to review each proposal within one month of receipt.

Priority will be given to projects that have measurable long-term impacts.

It is expected that up to three awards will be funded in 2012, with total expenditures of up to $10,000 for each award. The following costs are allowed.

1. Audiologic, educational, and vocational training equipment.
2. Hearing aids and other assistive devices.
3. Supplies required for delivery of audiologic services, personnel training, and research.
4. Travel expenses, not exceeding 20% of the total budget.

The following costs are not allowed.

1. Reimbursement for project staff time.
2. Capital expenses including construction and infrastructure development.
3. Operating expenses.
Application Process

A complete application must include the following.

- Completed application form
- Project Director Biographical Sketch
- Site Coordinator Biographical Sketch
- Project Narrative including midterm and final project goals
- A detailed budget. Proforma invoices for major expenses will be required before a grant is funded

The Project Narrative must be no more than five pages in length and must include the following.

- Complete description of project aims
- Complete implementation plan
- Short term and long-term benefits of the project
- Complete description of outcomes analysis

Applications will be reviewed as they are received. Funding decisions will be made by a subcommittee of the International Hearing Foundation Board of Directors. A final progress report is due within three months of completion of the project. The final progress report must include the following.

- Narrative description of project implementation
- Summary of successes and shortcomings of the project
- Outcomes analysis including short-term and long-term effects of the project
- Final financial report including all expenditures and copies of paid invoices.

Send completed application and materials to:

International Hearing Foundation
701 25th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55454