



PROPOSAL GUIDELINES – Sierra Leone

What is Right Sharing of World Resources?

RSWR is a Quaker organization supported primarily by the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in the United States. RSWR has two main goals: 1) Provide grants for women in the developing world to begin small income-generating businesses so that they may help themselves and their families out of poverty. 2) Help Quakers in the United States learn about the negative effects of poverty in the developing world and the negative effects of materialism in North America.

What types of projects does RSWR support?

RSWR supports income-generating, self-employment projects for poor women who are members of a self-help group. The project must include a revolving loan component. We believe that small scale income-generating projects offer a means of establishing self-sufficiency to very poor people. By requiring that the project include a revolving loan program, we can multiple the impact of our grant as the funds are revolved many times to many different women within the community.

Why do we call our grant recipients “Project Partners”?

Burdens of materialism and poverty affect all peoples, in the developing and developed world. The projects RSWR supports in the developing world build awareness and capacity in the beneficiaries as well as assisting them by providing employment alternatives so that they can move out of poverty. Likewise, RSWR strives to provide awareness building and alternatives for lifestyle changes for Quakers in the United States as we seek God’s leading in our lives. RSWR believes that we have much to learn from one another as we work together in partnership.

Who may apply?

In Sierra Leone, all groups must be self-directed by the women beneficiaries themselves. The leadership and management must come from within the group. The group cannot be formed or managed by outside coordinators. Additionally, the group must be registered with the local authorities and have a bank account, and the signers on the bank account must be three women who are members of the group.

What size grants does RSWR provide?

Up to US \$5,500 for a one year project. Each group may receive only one grant. Exceptions can be made to this only if it is clearly shown that a second grant will support a different group of women.

How do we apply for RSWR grants?

You must write up a proposal describing your project. Be sure to follow the guidelines below so that your proposal fits RSWR criteria. RSWR has two funding cycles. We accept proposals from the Western and Northern Provinces of Sierra Leone from January 1 to June 30 and from the Eastern and Southern Provinces from July 1 to December 31.

We strongly recommend that proposals be received by us at least a month in advance of these deadlines so that there is time for revisions if necessary. In addition to your proposal, send your **detailed project budget** and **your group's last annual financial report**.



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What does RSWR look for in a project?

- A)** A clearly described proposal for an income generating activity which will improve the quality of life for project participants. An income generating activity proposal must include the following:
1. Number of participants. An optimal project will serve between 20 and 40 women.
 2. An economic plan showing anticipated income and expenses of the business or businesses the women will undertake. It is expected that the women will be able to earn a net income of at least \$1.25 per day from their businesses after all expenses and savings are deducted.
 3. A loan repayment plan for the repayment of the seed money back to the group (including interest charged and monthly repayment amount). Currently, RSWR expects interest charged to be between 18% and 24% per annum or 1½ - 2% per month. This covers the current cost of inflation and administrative expenses necessary to carry the project into the future.
 4. There should also be an explanation of how the group will revolve the funds. It is acceptable for the group to allow each woman to receive up to three loans (after paying back the previous one) before the funds are revolved to new women. But some groups may decide to give fewer loans to each woman to revolve the funds faster.
 5. A savings plan to encourage the beneficiaries to begin the discipline of saving some money each month for family emergency needs.
- B)** An explanation of how the work can become self-supporting or can find local sources of support after RSWR funding ends.
- C)** An understanding that the project is compatible with the three principles which guide RSWR:
1. Local Self-Reliance – Businesses should be locally-based. Production should be geared toward local consumption and should serve the local community.
 2. Sustainability – Economies should be sustainable in a number of ways including environmental, fiscal, social, political, and cultural.
 3. Mutual Support and Accountability – Beneficiaries must be part of a group which offers support and accountability to its members.
- D)** The project beneficiaries must be only women and the beneficiaries themselves must be the ones who design the project, choose the businesses, and set the repayment terms and interest rate. Because women empowerment is one of the goals of RSWR, **no men** may be involved in the project in any way.
- E)** Budget categories must be within the following guidelines: at least 60% for seed money, no more than 15% for training, no more than 5% for travel, no more than 15% for administration.



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Where should we send our proposal?

Proposals should be sent by email to:

Sarah Northrop, Program Director

sarahnorthrop@rswr.org

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