



The Smile Train
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Partnership and Grant Principles & Guidelines

The Smile Train funds hundreds of programs throughout the world dedicated to helping poor children with cleft lip and palate and improving the safety and quality of cleft care. This list of guidelines has been developed to clarify our principles and the grant approval process.

10 Principles of The Smile Train

1. Insure patient safety—our #1 priority.
2. Focus exclusively on the problem of clefts.
3. Foster self-sufficiency through free training and education.
4. Provide free surgery for children who can't afford it.
5. Embrace an interdisciplinary team approach.
6. Invest in research to find a way to prevent clefts.
7. Leverage technology to accelerate learning results.
8. Partner with other cleft organizations and share resources.
9. Operate the most cost-efficient cleft organization in the world.
10. Work ourselves out of a job.

General Guidelines

- The Smile Train funds programs and projects that exclusively focus on helping children with cleft lip and palate.
- We fund treatment for poor children in developing countries through partnerships with local medical professionals, hospitals, and organizations.
- The Smile Train does not fund treatment missions unless there is no other source of cleft treatment within the country.
- The Smile Train funds programs that help the maximum number of children for the minimum amount of money.
- We do not fund large capital expenses such as the construction or maintenance of facilities, or major equipment expenditures.
- Smile Train funds should not replace any other existing funding source.

Treatment Partnerships

- Treatment Partnerships involve an on-going relationship with The Smile Train and require a long-term commitment.
- The goal of a Treatment Partnership is to help provide free surgical treatment for children who would not otherwise be helped.
- Treatment Partnerships significantly increase the number of cleft surgeries performed at a qualified hospital/center.
- Treatment Partners must meet and adhere to The Smile Train Safety and Quality Improvement Protocol.
- Treatment Partners are reimbursed based on the number of patients treated.
- All Treatment Partners are required to participate in Smile Train Express, an online patient record-keeping database.
- The Smile Train only funds the following cleft surgeries: Primary Lip/Nose Unilateral Repair, Primary Lip/Nose Bilateral Repair, Primary Cleft Palate Repair, Fistula Repair, Secondary Cleft Palate (Velopharyngeal) Repair, Lip/Nose Revision, Alveolar Bone Graft.
- Treatment Partners must perform at least 80% primary surgeries and no more than 20% secondary surgeries with Smile Train funding.
- Funding ranges from \$5,000 to \$50,000 a year.

Applications are reviewed throughout the year. Only complete applications will be reviewed. Normally applicants may expect to receive notification within six weeks of submitting a complete application.

Treatment Grants

- Treatment Grants are for medical professionals, hospitals, and organizations that provide treatment for poor children with clefts in developing countries, but who may not meet the requirements to become a Treatment Partner.
- Treatment Grants are designed to supplement care for children who would not otherwise receive help through free treatment (i.e. surgery, orthodontia, speech therapy), improving the quality of treatment, or providing for related expenses such as equipment, outreach programs, patient travel, etc.
- Treatment Grants may also be designated for a specific project or need that helps poor children with cleft lip and palate.
- Grants range from \$500 to \$10,000.

Education & Training Grants

- Education & Training Grants are designed to improve the safety and quality of cleft care performed by existing cleft care professionals.
- Preference is given to those who are involved in Smile Train Treatment Programs.
- Education & Training Grants are designed to support in-country training and education, not U.S.-based training.
- Education and training sponsored by The Smile Train should lead to improved treatment for poor children.
- The grants are not designed for training fellowships in developed countries.
- The grants are not intended for funding individual travel needs to conferences/symposiums.
- Grants range from \$500 to \$10,000.

Research

- All Smile Train research grants are awarded and administered by ASPSPSEF.
- Smile Train sponsored research is open to health care professionals with research projects in the areas of etiology, treatment, or care of children with cleft lip and palate.
- To apply for Smile Train research funding, contact ASPSPSEF.