Wil and Rachel Blechman Fund
Grant Guidelines 2026-2027

1. The purpose of this fund is to award grants to initiate or support Kiwanis programs focusing on one or more of the five domains of healthy child development for ages 0-5 years (physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and language development, including early literacy.) Collaboration with non-profit organizations skilled in early child development is encouraged but not required. Grants are awarded to a Florida District Kiwanis Club or division by use of the official application form that is provided by Division Trustees.

2. Grants are awarded by the Board of Trustees of the Foundation at their annual meeting (during the CKI Convention in late winter). Deadline for receipt of this application by the Florida Kiwanis Foundation is December 15th. All applications are reviewed by the Grants Committee in advance, with recommendations for action by the full Board at its meeting. If applications are received outside of the deadline, they will be accepted and reviewed. Based on the timing of the received application, funds may not be available for disbursement.

3. Grant application forms may be downloaded from the Foundation website (floridakiwanisfoundation.org) or secured from Division Trustees, who should review the completed application with the club or division contact person to ensure that the application conforms to these guidelines. After securing endorsement of the application from the Division Lieutenant Governor and Division Foundation Trustee, the contact person provides the completed application to the Division Trustee, who in turn endorses and submits the application to the Chair of the Grants Committee for action by the Board of Trustees.

4. Grants must be used to assist Florida District Kiwanis Clubs or divisions with a project, new or ongoing, that supports the **physical, social, emotional, cognitive and/or language development** of children 0-5 years or educates Kiwanis members about the importance of including an early childhood focus within Kiwanis programs, activities and service to others. Projects must be service-based (pass-through projects are not eligible).

5. It is NOT a requirement that Grant funds be used for capital expenses; however, Grants requested for capital and equipment items are defined as items that are relatively permanent, items that will be in place and in use for a period of three to ten years. Grants for this fund are for projects and activities that have a significant impact on children's development. These funds can be used for administrative costs, but grants are not awarded for payment of salaries.

6. Grants may be made to initiate a project, including a major change, addition, or renovation to an existing project or program for early childhood development.

7. Funds to sustain the functioning of a project on an on-going basis must be provided by a club or division.

8. Grants will not be approved if a request is received after the project is completed (no reimbursements).

9. The Wil and Rachel Blechman Fund annual fiscal year budget for grants normally does not exceed a total of $8,500.

10. These Guidelines assist the Board of Trustees and its Grant Committee to make informed decisions about the best use of Foundation funds to support clubs and divisions with worthy projects. Each grant application is considered on its individual merits, in the best judgment of the Foundation Officers and Trustees, in the best interests of the applying club or division, and principally within the mission of the Florida Kiwanis Foundation.

11. It is critical that the human factor remains central to this process. The voice, intent, and judgment of the applicant must be clearly reflected in the application. AI is a helpful and valuable tool to support clarity, organization, and refinement, but it should enhance—not replace—the existing FKF form. It may only be used for supporting documentation.