



Overview of Grants

Grant	Amount	Focus	Description	Application Deadline
Anniversary Grant	\$1,500	Local community needs and/or projects	One time grant for this year only to celebrate 150 years of Elksdom	May 31
Gratitude Grant	\$2,000 - \$2,500	Local community needs and/or projects	Used to support local charities and/or activities. Greater latitude on recipients than other grants	May 31 each year (must achieve ENF per capita donation goal first)
Beacon Grant	\$2,000	Ongoing programs	New event or expansion of existing event.	March 31 each year
Promise Grant**	\$2,500	Youth Activities	Targeted towards events that bring youth and Elks together	First 500 to apply beginning July 1
Freedom Grant**	\$2,000	Veterans/Military	Targeted towards veterans or active military personnel	End of August
Impact Grant**	\$2,500 up to \$10,000	Large scale service projects	Intended to set a standard of leadership, volunteerism, mentoring and service	Last day of August
Lodge Assistance Grant		Driving Local Support	Allow local businesses to donate money via ENF for charitable cause	

** Denotes grants that are competitive grants. Meaning the project is evaluated against grant applications from other lodges around the country.



Grants Process

- Plan your project
 - Identify your area of focus / target community
 - Determine which grant is appropriate for the project
 - Enlist your membership to participate
 - Define how to market and promote the project
 - Identify a project owner/leader if possible
- Develop your grant application
 - Fill out the application online (<http://www.elks.org/enf/grants>)
 - Review with the Grants Committee (optional)
 - Submit it prior to the application deadline
 - Lodge Secretary and ENF Grants Coordinator both have access to do so
- If rejected, evaluate, modify and resubmit
 - Most of the grants allow for an iterative process rather than one time application
 - Contact GL and identify reasons for rejection if not already provided



Lessons Learned / Tips

- Be thoughtful of the type and/or focus of the project
 - Emphasis on interaction with the community and people
 - Less successful with “things” such as memorials
- Ensure the Elks are the primary driver of the project
- Consider including monies/donations above and beyond the requested grant amount. Indicates commitment on the part of the Lodge.
- Ensure the targeted audience or recipients of the money can be identified and described
- Be as specific as possible in the application
 - Event details, Target audience / recipient
- Understand the nature, scope and time required of reporting requirements particularly of Impact Grants
- Have a marketing plan / approach
- Consider appointing a Grants Coordinator / Committee



Challenges

- Choosing the “right” project
 - Community need
 - Involvement of Elks members
 - Of interest to members
- Finding the organizer / leader
- Member Participation
- Reporting



How to Drive Member Participation

- Belief in the **Impact** of the project
 - > Has value and meets a need
 - > Is of interest to people
- Personal invitation
 - > Ask individuals vs. newsletter blanket request
- Social / group interaction component
- Recognition and reward
- Free food
- Convenient scheduling



How to Drive Member Participation

- Partner with other organizations
 - Churches, youth groups, community organizations
 - Students needing community service hours
- Be specific
 - Time commitment, responsibilities, expectations
- Organizer vs. Helping Hand
- Focus on the volunteer experience
 - Friendly, social environment
 - Task completion vs. volunteer experience



Resources for Local Lodges

- National Elks web site (<http://www.elks.org/ENF/community>)
- State web site (<http://www.mnelks.org/committees-grants.html>)
 - Community Investment Program Field Guide
 - Sample applications from MN Lodges
 - Tips and Tricks
 - Mid Year Convention presentations
- Contacts at other Lodges
 - ENF Grant Coordinators within Local Lodges
 - Gretchen Peterson Tammy Lehn, Mike Curran (contact info in state directory)
- ENF CIP Contacts
 - Colleen Muszynski (enfprograms@elks.org or lodgegrants@elks.org)



Grants Around the State

- Sample applications available on www.mnelks.org
- Promise Grants
 - Drug Awareness at the local fair and kids Christmas party
 - Free meals at the youth center
 - Kids Christmas party
 - Bike rodeo for local youth
 - Arts classes at the local college for youth
- Beacon Grants
 - Veterans family dinner night
 - Warm coats for warm hearts
 - Kids Christmas party
 - Free meals at the youth center
 - Military veterans expo