



Elks National Veterans Service Commission

FREEDOM GRANTS

The Elks have a long and impressive history of serving veterans. In 2016-17, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission will award 180 \$2,000 Freedom Grants to Elks Lodges to hold projects that serve veterans and active-duty military members.

Freedom Grant applications become available online July 1, 2016, and are due July 31, 2016 at 12 p.m. (noon) Central Time. Recipients will be announced in late August. Freedom Grants are available for use between August 31, 2016, and July 31, 2017.

Freedom Grants are **competitive** and will be awarded to Lodges whose projects are judged to best serve the needs of veterans and/ or active-duty military members. Meaningful Elk involvement is strongly encouraged and increases chances of approval. Here are some examples of past projects.

Freedom Grants **must focus** on one of these five areas of increased need.

- Employment
- Homelessness and Housing
- Military Families
- Health
- Educational Support

- Fort Wayne, Ind., Lodge No. 155 runs a [Welcome Home](#) program for 80 homeless veterans in their community living in transitional housing. The Elks shop and fulfill homeware and hygiene supply wish-lists for these veterans.
- Eugene, Ore., Lodge No. 357 sponsored a dental van at the Lane County Stand Down for Homeless Veterans. Elks help to run the event, including processing patients at the dental van.
- Onancock, Va., Lodge No. 1766 created a program to assist with renovations and build handicap ramps for disabled veterans in need of home repairs. The Elks work social service organizations to identify veterans in need, and do all of the repairs.
- Eagle River, Alaska., Lodge No. 2682 hosts the Single Soldiers Christmas Dinner for active duty military personnel spending their first holiday season away from home.

Application Questions:

- Describe your Lodge's Freedom Grant project. How is your Lodge serving veterans or active duty military personnel with this grant? *(Do not list current Lodge programs unless this grant expands those programs.)*
- Which of the five areas of increased need is this grant project addressing? Please choose one of the following five categories; employment; homelessness and housing; military families; health; or educational support.
- How will Elks be meaningfully involved in this project?
- What does the Lodge expect to accomplish with this project?

A budget is required. Freedom Grant applications are online only. **Paper applications will not be accepted.**

Visit enf.elks.org/FreedomGrant for more information.

Questions? Contact the Lodge Grants Office at 773/755-4730 or LodgeGrants@elks.org.