



Freedom Grant Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to apply?

All Lodges are eligible to apply for a Freedom Grant! Eligibility is not dependent on meeting the GER's per-capita goal for donations to the ENF.

How much are Freedom Grants worth?

\$2,000.

When will Freedom Grant applications become available?

2016-17 Freedom Grant applications are online starting July 1, 2016 and due July 31, 2016, at 12 p.m. noon Central Time.

How can Freedom Grants be used?

Freedom Grants must be used to serve the needs of veterans and/or active-duty military members. Freedom Grants must focus on one of these five areas of increased need.

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

How were these five areas of need identified?

We know that Elks have busy lives, and so we've done the research to help ensure that Elks' time and grant funds are used in the most effective ways.

These five areas were identified as being of the greatest need through research and data obtained from the government and Veterans Administration, through partnerships and collaboration with leading veterans service organizations, and through engagement with veterans and veterans advocates.

Can a Freedom Grant be used as a donation?

Meaningful Elk involvement is strongly encouraged in all Freedom Grant projects. Since Freedom Grants are competitive, projects with meaningful Elk involvement are more likely to be approved. However, Freedom Grants may be used for donations.

Can the Freedom Grant be used to fund a project my Lodge already holds?

Like all Lodge grants, it should be used to expand the Lodge's charitable activities. Grants are not intended to help Lodges financially or to fund events that have been going on for years. Ideally, grants should be used to start new projects or expand current ones.

What does it mean that Freedom Grants are competitive?

In 2016-17, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission will award Freedom Grants to 180 Lodges. All applications received between July 1 and July 31 will be evaluated and 180 grants will be awarded to Lodges whose projects are judged to best serve the needs of veterans and/or active-duty military members.

Lodges that do not receive Freedom Grants are encouraged to adapt their projects and apply for Gratitude or Beacon Grants to hold their projects. Visit the Community Investments Program webpage for more information, elks.org/cip.



Elks National Foundation

Can the Freedom be used in conjunction with other grants?

Yes. Freedom Grant funds can be used in conjunction with a Gratitude or Beacon Grant, as long as the activity meets the guidelines of each grant. Applications must be submitted separately. If combining grants, please mention this on each application, and ensure that the budgets on both grant applications correspond and are not the same. So, if the Lodge were to use the Freedom Grant with the Beacon Grant, the budget on both applications needs to be at or above \$4,000.

Can I split the Freedom Grant between two or more projects?

Yes, Freedom Grants can be used for more than one project. However, we encourage Lodges to focus on one or two things in order to make a bigger impact.

Where can I find more information about Freedom Grants?

Complete Freedom Grant guidelines can be found here at enf.elks.org/FreedomGrant.

My Lodge needs to change how we use our Freedom Grant. What should I do?

Any and all changes to approved Freedom Grant activities **must** be approved by the Lodge Grants Office in advance via email or over the phone. Grant changes within appropriate guidelines can then be approved.

My grant activity is complete. What now?

Tell us about it! When the activity is complete and the grant funds are spent, it's time to submit a Final Report Form to the Lodge Grants office. This form is mailed to each Lodge with the grant check and approval letter. If you've misplaced the form, you can download an editable copy from the Freedom Grant webpage.

The Final Report Form should include itemized receipts and documentation of how all grant funds were spent, as well as information about the event. Attachments, photos, thank you notes and other information is always welcome.

How can I spread the word to the community?

Use the News Release Generator to spread the word about your Lodge's good deeds to the community. Visit our website to get started, enf.elks.org/cipresources.

For the complete guidelines, please visit enf.elks.org/FreedomGrant or contact the Lodge Grants Office at LodgeGrants@elks.org or 773/755-4730.