



Beacon Grant Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to apply?

All Lodges are eligible to apply for a **\$2,500** Beacon Grant! Eligibility is **not** dependent on meeting the GER's per-member goal for giving.

When are Beacon Grant applications available?

April 1 through December 31, 2019

How can Beacon Grants be used? Are there any restrictions?

Beacon Grants must be used for a new, Lodge-led, charitable activity. After the first year, the project should be ongoing. A Beacon Grant project must include meaningful, hands-on Elk involvement. No donations. Beacon Grants are not meant to offset costs of charitable activities the Lodge already holds.

Ideally, Lodges will use their Beacon Grant for the same successful, ongoing project each year. If your Lodge received a 2018-19 Beacon Grant, it should use a 2019-20 grant to continue that project. If your Lodge has never received a Beacon Grant, it must use the Beacon Grant to start a new charitable project.

Basic CIP grant guidelines stipulate that grant funds cannot be used to host fundraisers, essay or poster contests, youth awards banquets, Hoop/Soccer Shoot events, appreciation dinners, general community events or to fund scholarships. Visit enf.elks.org/BeaconGrants for the basics.

What does it mean for a Beacon Grant project to be ongoing?

The Lodge is committed to running it at minimum on an annual basis. For example, a one-time purchase of a freezer for a soup kitchen would not be eligible for a Beacon Grant because it is a donation—not an activity—and a one-time occurrence. The Lodge will not be donating the same freezer every year.

What does Lodge-led mean?

Lodge involvement should be an integral part of the project. Elks should be in charge of grant funds as well as planning and running the project. For example, a donation to sponsor a Special Olympics event and providing some Elk volunteers is not eligible for the Beacon Grant because the Lodge is not in charge of the funds. Instead, the Lodge should start its own project, like quarterly dances at the Elks Lodge for youth with disabilities, and then partner with Special Olympics for outreach.

Can the Beacon Grant be used to expand a project my Lodge already holds?

Yes. A Lodge may use a Beacon Grant to expand an already-existing project, but only if the full \$2,500 in Beacon Grant funds goes toward expansion the first time and continues at that expanded level in the future. Here are some things to consider:

- ★ The application must clearly show how the project will be expanded upon. This means that details about how the project has been run in the past, and how the Lodge intends to expand the project must be clear.
- ★ The budget must also clearly reflect this expansion. The full grant must go towards expanding the project and cannot replace costs. If the Lodge's project is being expanded upon, we would expect the budget for the project to be over \$2,500.

Can I split the Beacon Grant between two projects?

No. Beacon Grant funds cannot be split between two projects. All \$2,500 must be used to benefit the same population in need.



Elks National Foundation

Can grant funds be used for publicity or administration expenses?

Grant funds should be focused on project essentials and serving people in need. Up to 10 percent of your Lodge's grant budget can be dedicated to administration, promotion or publicity. These expenses might include, but are not limited to, paid advertisements in the local newspaper/on the radio, t-shirts or other non-essential merchandise.

Can the Beacon Grant be used in conjunction with other grants?

Yes. Beacon Grant funds can be used in conjunction with a Spotlight, Freedom, Gratitude, Impact, or Promise Grant. This needs to be shown in the budget of both applications. So, if the Lodge were to use the Beacon Grant with the Promise Grant, the budget on both applications needs to be at or above \$5,000.

Can I use the Beacon Grant as a donation?

No. A Beacon Grant may not be used as a donation. Beacon Grant projects must include meaningful, hands-on Elk involvement. If your Lodge has a check presentation as a part of the Beacon Grant, it does not qualify for funding.

Will Beacon Grant funding be available next year for the new project my Lodge is starting?

Yes. Your Lodge should count on using the Beacon Grant for the same project each year.

Where can I find more information about Beacon Grants?

Complete Beacon Grant guidelines can be found here: enf.elks.org/BeaconGrants

After applying for a Beacon Grant, I received an email asking for more information. Does this mean my application is rejected?

No. We follow up with the majority of Lodges. Often, follow-up emails simply request more information, or ask the Lodge to alter part of the grant. If a Lodge submits an application that does not qualify, the ENF will follow up with the Lodge and offer a chance to apply for a different activity. When the ENF follows up with your Lodge, it opens up your Lodge's application for editing. All of your Lodge's previous work on the application will remain. Your Lodge can then go back into the application, add additional information and submit the application again.

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

Any and all changes to approved Beacon Grant applications must be approved by the ENF in advance. We ask that the Lodge alert the CIP Office of these changes via email for review. Email LodgeGrants@elks.org

My Beacon Grant project is complete. What now?

When the activity is complete, it's time to submit a Final Report. This form is accessible through the [CIP Grants Dashboard](#). Final Reports will be due 30 days after the anticipated grant completion date. The Lodge will be locked out of applying for grants 60 days from that date. If you need to adjust this date, please email LodgeGrants@elks.org.

The Final Report should include receipts and documentation of how all grant funds were spent, as well as information about the event. Photos, newspaper stories, and other information is always welcome.