



Elks National Veterans Service Commission

FREEDOM GRANTS

The Elks have a long and impressive history of serving veterans. In 2017-18, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission will award 200 \$2,000 Freedom Grants to Elks Lodges to hold projects that serve veterans and active-duty military members. This is an increase from 180 in 2016-17!

Freedom Grant applications become available online July 1, 2017, and are close July 31, 2017 at 12 p.m. (noon) Central Time. Recipients will be announced in late August. Freedom Grants are available for use between August 31, 2017, and July 31, 2018.

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

- **Barre, Vt., Lodge No. 1535** hosts a Veterans Day meal and celebration at the Woodbridge Nursing Home. Elks also create Welcome Home kits for residents at a transitional housing facility.
- **Lakeland, Fla, Lodge No. 1291** hosts an Elk's Day Outing and picnic for veterans from the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital, as well supplies personal care items and t-shirts to veterans in need.
- **Painesville, Ohio, Lodge No. 549** partners with the V.A. to assist homeless and low-income veterans and their families with warm winter clothing. Elks also take hospitalized veterans to a local baseball game.
- **Davenport, Iowa, Lodge No. 298** participates in the local Stand Down for homeless veterans by preparing and serving meals, and providing backpacks full of personal care and other needed items.

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.