



Elks National Veterans Service Commission

FREEDOM GRANTS

The Elks have a long and impressive history of serving veterans. In 2018-19, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission will award **300** \$2,000 Freedom Grants to Elks Lodges to hold projects that serve veterans and active-duty military members.

NEW THIS YEAR: Freedom Grants will be approved on a rolling basis and awarded to the first 300 Lodges to submit eligible applications. Applications are online only, available starting July 1, 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.

Freedom Grants should be used for direct service to veterans and/or military members and their families. Meaningful Elk involvement is required. Grant funds must serve a population in need.

Restrictions: Grants may not be used for appreciations dinners, fundraisers or general community events. Grants may not be used for donations of funds or supplies.

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

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

Here are some examples of past projects.

- **Billings, MT, Lodge No. 394** partners with the Department of Labor and Industry to provide interview and resume training, and hosts a job fair and Boots to Business training.
- **Raleigh, NC, Lodge No. 735** provides meals and fly fishing supplies for Project Healing Waters. Elks also volunteer during the trips and provide space for veterans to create their own flies.
- **Vista, CA, Lodge No. 1968** partners with Operation Showers of Appreciation to provide cribs, car seats, and other supplies for military families expecting babies.
- **Tucson, AZ, Lodge No. 385** hosts monthly meals for residents from the VA's Blind Rehab Facility and distributes backpacks filled with clothing, food, and blankets to veterans experiencing homelessness.

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?
- How will Elks be meaningfully involved in this project?
- What does the Lodge expect to accomplish with this project?

A budget is also required. No more than 10% (or \$200) of the budget can be dedicated to administrative or publicity expenses, including t-shirts. Budget cannot include cash prizes.

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

Questions? Contact the ENVSC Office at 773/755-4736 or Vets@elks.org.