



Freedom Grant Frequently Asked Questions

How is the Freedom Grant process different this year?

In 2018-19, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission will award Freedom Grants to the first 300 Lodges that apply for eligible charitable projects for veterans. Applications will be evaluated as they are received, until all Freedom Grants are awarded. If necessary, Lodges will receive follow up by email to request further information, or changes to part of the application.

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

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-member-giving goal for donations to the ENF.

How much are Freedom Grants worth?

\$2,000.

When will Freedom Grant applications become available?

2018-19 Freedom Grant applications are online starting July 1, at 12 p.m. noon Central Time. Lodges are encouraged to submit applications early for the best chance to receive a grant.

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 a requirement for all Freedom Grant projects, and grant funds may not be used as donations or for fundraisers.

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.



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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 ENVSC office in advance via email. Grant changes within appropriate guidelines can then be approved. If you have questions, feel free to contact the ENVSC office before submitting a proposal to revise the project.

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 through the Grants Dashboard.

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 ENVSC Office at vets@elks.org or 773/755-4736.