

# Beacon Grants

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Community  
Investments  
Program





# Important Dates

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- Applications open April 1, 2024
- Applications close January 22, 2025
- Projects need to be completed, and all funds must be spent, by March 31, 2025

# General CIP Guidelines

## Grants should follow IRS-defined charitable categories:

- Relieve the poor, distressed or underprivileged
- Advance education and science, but not through scholarships
- Lessen the burdens of government
- Combat juvenile delinquency and community deterioration
- Lessen neighborhood tensions

## Grants may not be used for:

- Fundraisers or memorials
- General community events
- Poster or essay contests
- Appreciation meals or events
- Youth awards nights or scholarships
- The benefit of Lodge members or families
- Hoop Shoots, State Major Projects, or National Elks Programs
- Salaries for Lodge employees or volunteers
- Projects that have already happened
- Donations to individuals

# Beacon Grant Basics

- A \$4,000 grant available to every Lodge
- Active projects that can be completed annually
- Can be split into two projects



# Merging a Beacon Grant

- Beacon Grants can be merged with a Spotlight Grant to make a \$6,000 Beacon Grant.

Merge Spotlight + Beacon

- Beacon Grants can also be combined with the Lodge's Gratitude Grant, or supersized with all three.

Yes! Please combine my lodge's Beacon Grant with a Gratitude Grant to increase our maximum grant request to \$6,000.00.

# What Makes a Great Beacon Grant?



- Lodge-led
  - Lodge oversees grant funds and project details
- Ongoing
  - Annual projects
- Active
  - Lots of Elk involvement!
- New
  - Don't have an annual project? Start one!

# 2023-24 Beacon Grant Examples

## Charleston, Ill., Lodge No. 623

- Identified a need that they could fill
- Got involved with diverse partner organizations
- Had significant member involvement—a key factor in a successful project!



# 2023-24 Beacon Grant Examples

Rice Lake, Wis., Lodge No. 1441

- Noticed a need unique to its community
- Stepped up to provide relief for an essential need
- Furthered a sense of community with local young people





# Final Reporting

- Be sure to keep your receipts!
- For donation receipts, we need either:
  - A copy of the cashed check, which can be acquired through your bank.
  - A thank you letter from the organization that received the donation (typed on official letterhead, with the amount donated specified).





# Staying in Compliance

- Overdue Final Reports
  - Due 30 days after project completion
  - Out of compliance after 60 days
- Malfeasance
- Delinquent Dues
- Compliance status can be found in the [CIP Participation Report](#).

# Beacon Grant Toolkit

- Includes
  - CIP general guidelines
  - Beacon Grant guidelines
  - Sample applications from real Lodges
  - Project ideas
  - Final Report information
  - FAQs



# Questions?

- The CIP office is here to help you throughout the grant process, from the application to the Final Report.
- We can be reached by phone at 773/755-4730, or by email at [LodgeGrants@elks.org](mailto:LodgeGrants@elks.org).

Thank you for using CIP grants to make a difference in your community!

