

Beacon Grants

Community
Investments
Program





Important Dates

- Applications open April 1
- Applications close January 21, 2026
- Projects need to be completed, and all funds must be spent, by March 31, 2026

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!

Red Wing, Minn., Lodge No. 845

- Completes two annual projects
 - Bicycle Safety Rodeo
 - School Supplies Distribution
- Significant Lodge member participation





Galena, Ill., Lodge No. 882

- Bowling outing for people with special needs
- Connect with local partner to reach population
- Complete a project that serves multiple needs

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.

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

