

# Gratitude Grants

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Community  
Investments  
Program





# Important Dates

- Applications open April 1, 2025.
- Bonuses are finalized by the end of April.
- 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



# Gratitude Grant Basics

- \$3,000 base grant
- Four \$500 bonuses available
- Funds local and charitable activities
  - Donations of funds or supplies to 501(c)(3) organizations are allowed.
  - Can be split between multiple projects

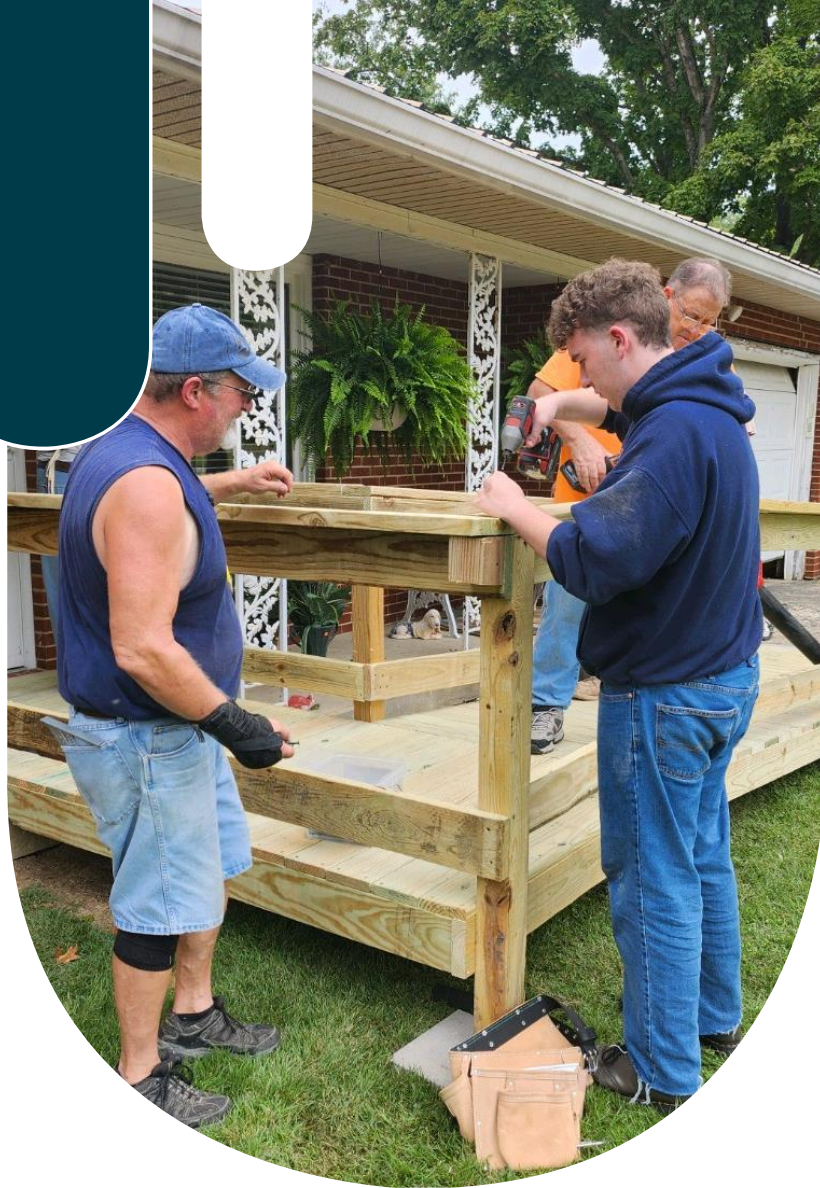


# Gratitude Grant Bonuses

- Four \$500 bonuses available to eligible Lodges
  - Membership Support Bonus
  - Fidelity Club Bonus
  - Chair Challenge Bonus
  - Fundraising Increase Bonus
- Bonuses are automatically added to applications







## Membership Support Bonus

- Lodges in which 15 percent of members donated \$10 or more to the ENF in the prior fiscal year are eligible for a \$500 bonus.
- Lodge status can be checked at the [ENF Member Support Report](#).

# Fidelity Club Bonus

- Lodges in which 5 percent of the prior fiscal year's donors are signed up for the Fidelity Club are eligible for a \$500 bonus.
- Lodge status can be checked at the [Fidelity Club Goal Progress Report](#).







# Chair Challenge Bonus

- Lodges that scored 550 points or higher in the prior fiscal year's Chair Challenge are eligible for a \$500 bonus.
- Current Lodge score can be found on the [Chair Challenge Score Report](#).



# Fundraising Increase Bonus

- Lodges that increased donations by 10 percent or higher over the previous year are eligible for a \$500 bonus.
- Lodge standing can be found on the [Current Year and Prior Year Fundraising Report](#).



# Gratitude Grant Bonus Dashboard

## Gratitude Grant Bonus Conditions

☒ Per-Member Giving: \$26.90

Congratulations! Your lodge has met the GER's current per-member giving goal for this year (\$5.00/member), which means you're eligible to apply for a Gratitude Grant next year. Your Lodge can also earn up to four \$500 Gratitude Grant bonuses by meeting the criteria described below.

☒ **Membership Support (Goal: 15%)**

Congratulations! 109 members of your lodge have donated this year, which is 64.1% of your membership. Since your donor support exceeds 15% of your 170 members, you have met this criteria.

☒ **Fidelity Club (Goal: 3 members)**

Congratulations! Your Lodge currently has 15 Fidelity Club members. Since your Fidelity Club goal is 3 members, you have met this criteria.

☒ **Chair Challenge Score (Goal: 550)**

Congratulations! Your Chairman Challenge Composite Score is currently 702.000. Since that score exceeds the Composite Score goal of 550, you have met this criteria.

☒ **Fundraising Increase (Goal: 10%)**

Congratulations! Your Lodge fundraising total this year, \$4,572.30, exceeds last year's total, \$1,919.00, by 138.264721209%, which means you have met this criteria.

# Supersize it with a Gratitude Grant

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- Gratitude Grants can be used to supersize a Beacon or Spotlight Grant.
  - Note: the supersized grant will maintain the original guidelines of the Beacon or Spotlight Grant.
- Supersize in the Budget section of the Beacon or Spotlight Grant application

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



# 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).



# Terre Haute, Ind., Lodge No. 86

- Communicated with partner organization to meet the needs of new mothers in the NICU
- Unique to Lodge's community



# Tahoe/Douglas, Nev., Lodge No. 2670

- Provided a mix of dictionaries and age-appropriate books
- Distributed at literacy events at two Title One schools
- Mix of English and Spanish books





# Florence, Colo., Lodge No. 611

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- Christmas in July at local nursing home
- Project took place at an overlooked time of the year
- Flexible to the needs of the partner





# 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 at the [CIP Participation Report](#).

# Gratitude Grant Toolkit

- Includes
  - CIP general guidelines
  - Gratitude Grant guidelines
  - Sample application from a real Lodge
  - 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!

