

Gratitude Grants

Community
Investments
Program





Important Dates

- Applications opened April 1
- Bonuses are finalized
- Applications close January 20, 2027
- Projects need to be completed, and all funds must be spent, by March 31, 2027

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 10 percent of the prior fiscal year's donors were Fidelity Club members 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 to the ENF 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: \$77.05

Congratulations! Your lodge has met the GER's current per-member giving goal for this year (\$5.15/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! 40 members of your lodge have donated this year, which is 19.5% of your membership. Since your donor support exceeds 15% of your 205 members, you have met this criteria.

Fidelity Club (Goal: 5 members)

Congratulations! Your Lodge currently has 11 Fidelity Club members. Since your Fidelity Club goal is 5 members, you have met this criteria.

Chair Challenge Score (Goal: 550)

Congratulations! Your Chairman Challenge Composite Score is currently 647.000. 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, \$15,795.09, exceeds last year's total, \$8,402.00, by 87.9920257082%, which means you have met this criteria.

Supersize it with a Gratitude Grant



- Gratitude Grants can be used to supersize a Beacon or Spotlight Grant
 - The supersized grant will maintain the 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

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)



El Reno, Okla., Lodge No. 743

- Provided support for survivors of sexual and domestic violence
- Underserved population, especially in rural areas



San Mateo, Calif., Lodge No. 1112

- Summer event with the VA
- Veterans Day packing event for veterans experiencing homelessness and active-duty service members





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.

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

