

# Spotlight Grants

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Community  
Investments  
Program





# Important Dates

- Applications opened April 1
- 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

# Spotlight Grant Basics

- **\$2,500** grant is available to every Lodge
- Used for one of seven ready-made projects
- Projects focus on three issues facing every American community
  - Family literacy
  - Veteran homelessness
  - Food and essential needs insecurity
- Cannot be split between multiple projects



# Warm Welcome to the Library

- Partner with the local library
- Provide coats to children and introduce families to all that their neighborhood library branch has to offer
- Can be done in partnership with Operation Warm, but not required



# Suds & Stories

- Make the local laundromat a center for childhood literacy and development
- While guests do their laundry, entertain their children with literacy activities



# Community Baby Shower

- Consult with local hospitals, women's shelters, and other organizations
- Purchase supplies such as
  - diapers
  - baby formula
  - blankets
  - children's books
- This project requires a literary aspect



# Welcome Home

- Help make a house a home to veterans transitioning from homelessness
- Contact groups such as the VA, which can identify when and where veterans are transitioning into permanent housing
- Supply basic home goods such as furniture, appliances and cutlery, or home items that are requested



# Stand Down

- Coordinated by local V.A. Medical Centers and other service providers that offer various services and resources to veterans experiencing hardship or housing insecurity
- Purchase supplies like clothing, tents or hygiene supplies, or cook a meal for the veterans that attend



# Adopt-a-Haven

- Partner with an emergency shelter or a transitional housing facility specifically for veterans
- Offer positive social and material support through maintenance projects, monthly dinners or other social events



# Hunger and Essential Needs Assistance

- Provide essential needs assistance by providing food, hygiene products, and other items not covered by SNAP
- Lots of project ideas
  - Provide baskets of essentials
  - Deliver meals to seniors
  - Start community garden
  - Build Little Free Pantry
- Do not wait until the holidays to provide support





## What Are Essential Needs?

- Items crucial for maintaining basic hygiene, health, and well-being
  - Food
  - Hygiene Products
    - Soap, Shampoo, Deodorant
  - Household Cleaning Supplies
  - Diapers and Formula
  - Tents and Sleeping Bags
  - Winter Clothing
- Not pins, flags, Elks-logo shirts or hats, sports equipment, luxury goods, electronics, or entertainment products

# Merging a Spotlight Grant

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- Beacon Grants can be merged with a Spotlight Grant to make a \$6,500 Beacon Grant

Merge Spotlight + Beacon

- Spotlight Grants can also be combined with the Lodge's Gratitude Grant

Yes! Please combine my lodge's Spotlight Grant with a Gratitude Grant

# Final Reporting

- Be sure to keep your receipts!
- All receipts should include:
  - Store name
  - Date of purchase
  - All items purchased
  - Total spent
- Detail the specifics of the project
- Don't copy and paste from the application





# 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](#)

# Spotlight Grant Toolkit

- Includes
  - CIP general guidelines
  - Spotlight Grant guidelines
  - Sample applications from real Lodges
  - Individual project plans
  - 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!

