



Community Investments Program

#ElksAlwaysCare





Malley's Dream

- “Unite the forces of the Order into a mighty army for the service of mankind”
- More than **400,000** Elks volunteer hours logged in 2025-26

What is the CIP?

- More than **\$18.8 million** invested in Elks communities through Lodge grants
- Every Lodge can receive up to **\$11,500** for local charitable projects
- **20+ years** of helping Elks build stronger communities!

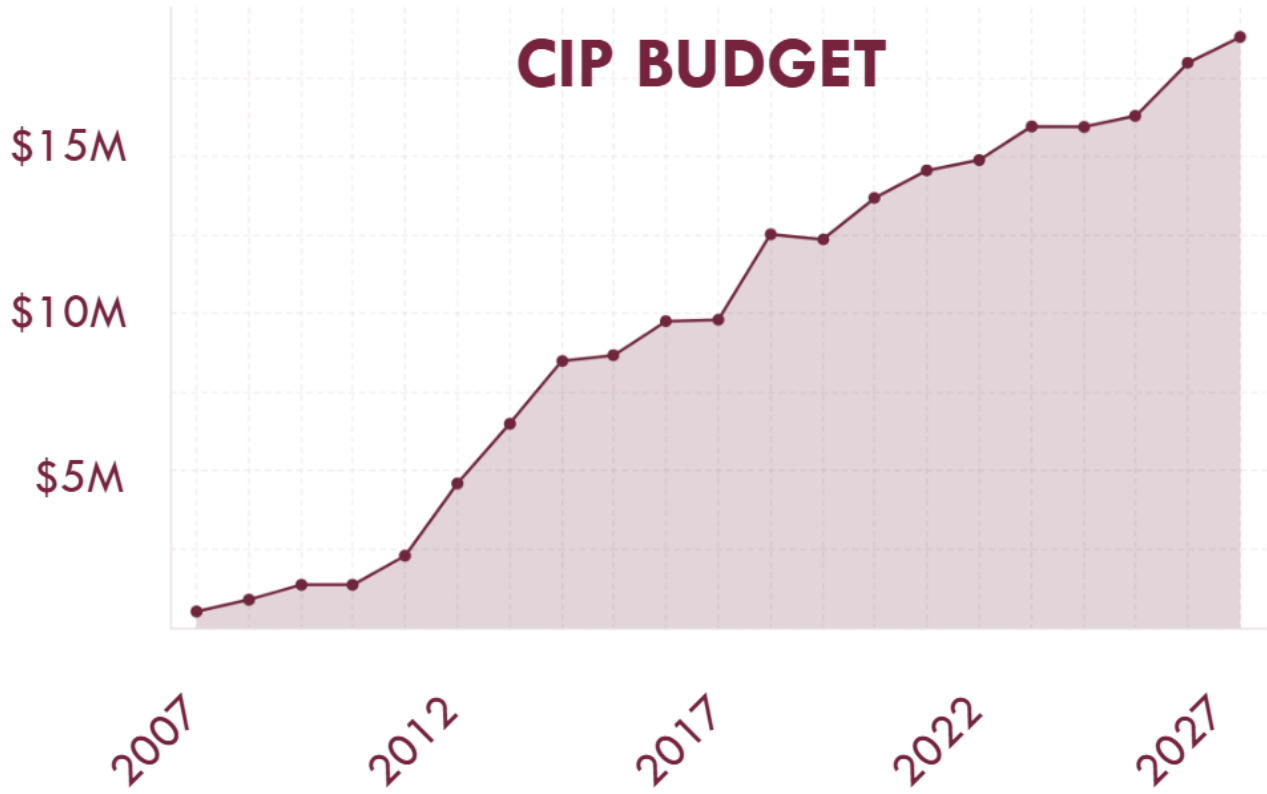




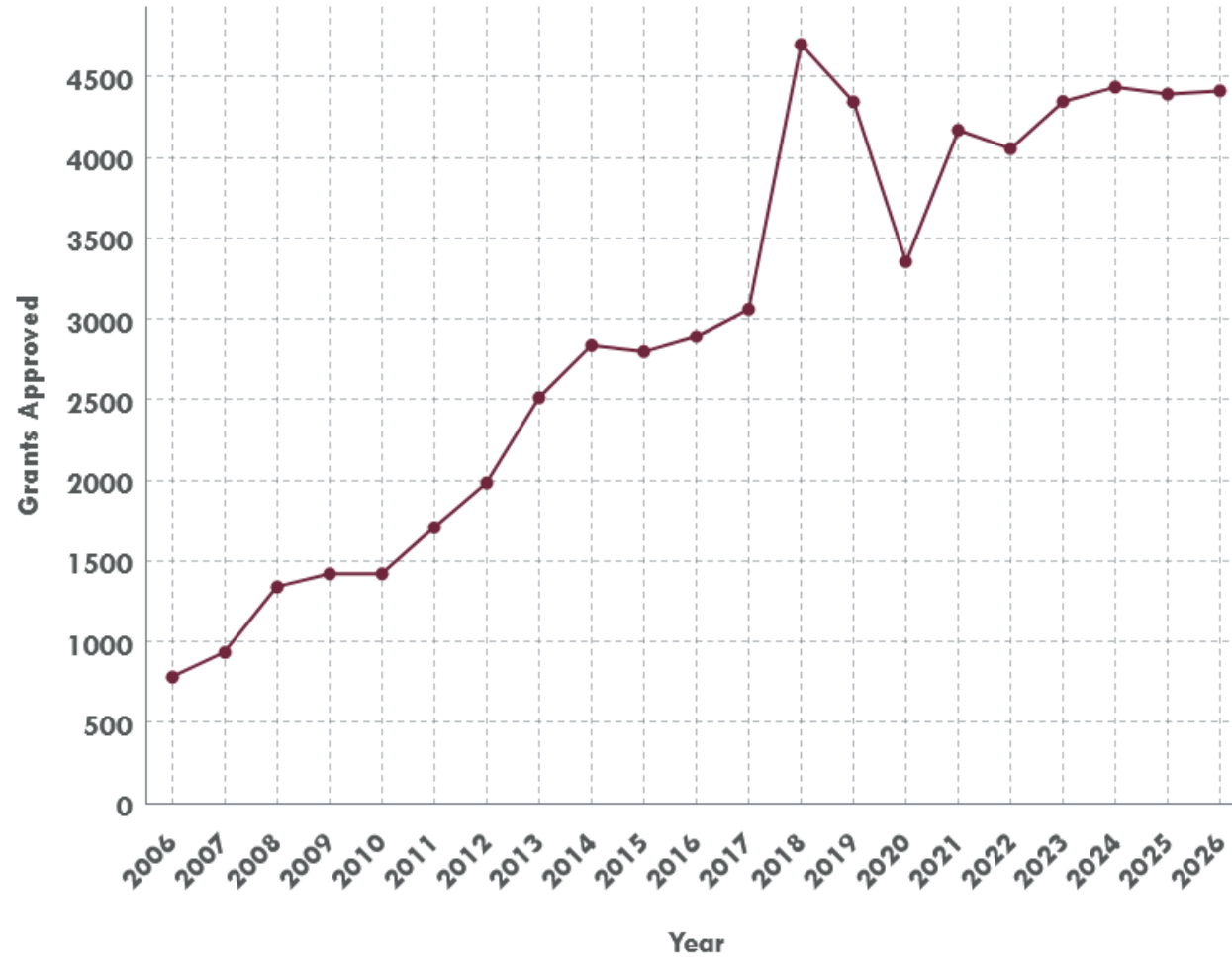
CIP Ethos

- Energize Lodge membership
- Raise the Lodge's profile in the community
- Encourage former members to return to the fold
- Gain the notice of people who want to be a part of an organization doing great things

CIP Budget



Lodge Grants



Gratitude Grant Basics

- Available to Lodges that have met the Grand Exalted Ruler's per-member-giving goal in the prior fiscal year
- **\$3,000** base grant
- Up to **\$5,000** total





Gratitude Grant Bonuses

Four **\$500** bonuses available:

- Membership Support Bonus
- Fidelity Club Bonus
- Chair Challenge Bonus
- Fundraising Increase Bonus

Gratitude Grant Dashboard

Gratitude Grant Bonus Conditions

☒ Per-Member Giving: \$29.31

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! 156 members of your lodge have donated this year, which is 61.4% of your membership. Since your donor support exceeds 15% of your 254 members, you have met this criteria.

☒ Fidelity Club (Goal: 11 members)

Congratulations! Your Lodge currently has 12 Fidelity Club members. Since your Fidelity Club goal is 11 members, you have met this criteria.

☒ Chair Challenge Score (Goal: 550)

Congratulations! Your Chairman Challenge Composite Score is currently 766.000. 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, \$7,445.82, exceeds last year's total, \$4,772.30, by 56.0216247931%, which means you have met this criteria.

Gratitude Grant Basics

- Donations of funds or supplies to 501(c)(3) organizations allowed
- Can be split between multiple projects
- Supersize Beacon or Spotlight Grant



Penn Yan, N.Y., Lodge No. 1722



Beacon Grant Basics

- **\$4,000** grant available to every Lodge
- Beacon Grant projects are
 - Lodge-led
 - Ongoing
 - Active





Beacon Grant Basics

- Active participation is required
- Can be split between two projects

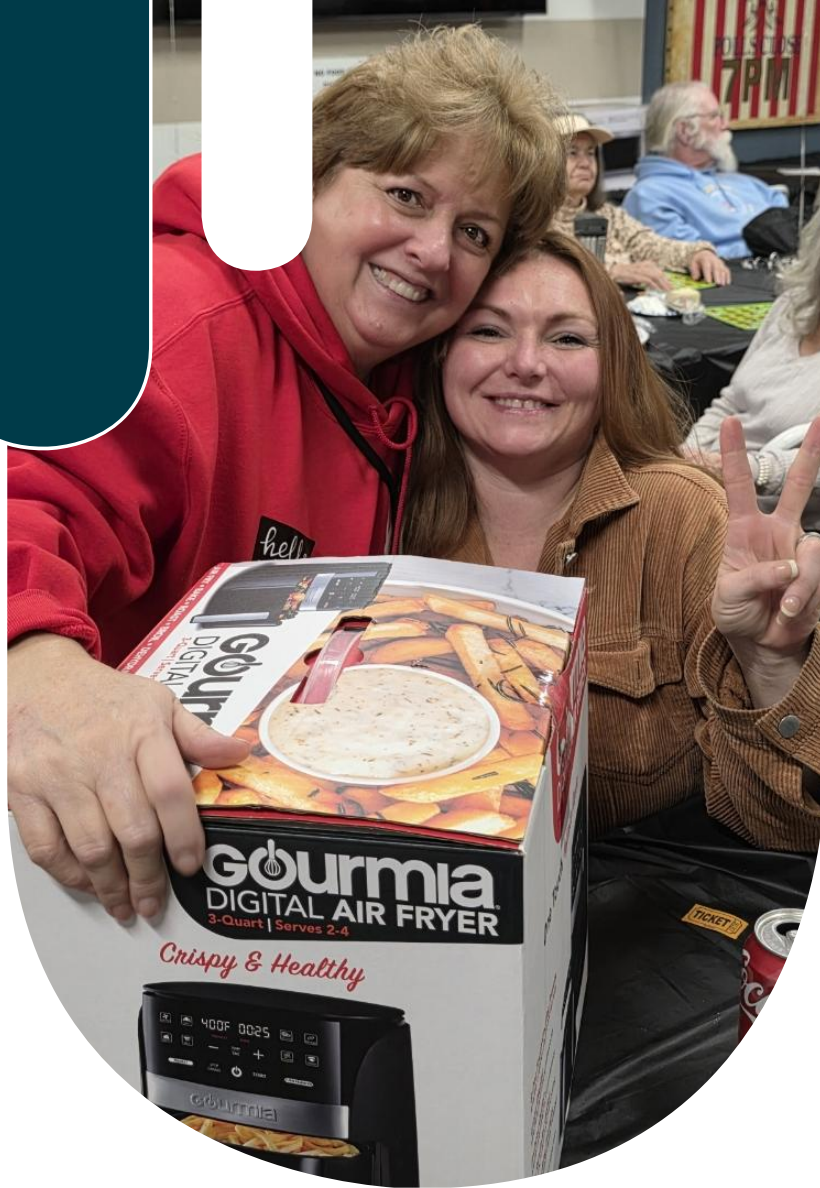
Onancock, Va., Lodge No. 1766



Spotlight Grant Basics

- **\$2,500** grant available to every Lodge
 - Increased to **\$2,500** in celebration of America 250!
- Focus on issues facing almost every American community
 - *Family literacy*
 - *Veteran homelessness*
 - *Hunger and essential needs insecurity*
- Cannot be split between multiple projects, but can be merged with Beacon Grant





Spotlight Grant Basics

- Require active participation
- Donations will be considered on a case-by-case basis
 - Out of 200 approved applications, less than ten have been approved as donations

Family Literacy

- Warm Welcome to the Library
 - Provide coats while introducing students to the resources of the library
- Suds & Stories
 - Entertain children with literacy activities while caretakers do laundry
- Community Baby Shower
 - Host a baby shower with a focus on early childhood literacy





Veteran Homelessness

- **Welcome Home**
 - Provide Welcome Home Kits
- **Stand Down**
 - Host or participate in a local Stand Down event
- **Adopt-a-Haven**
 - Partner with a shelter or transitional facility specifically for veterans

Hunger and Essential Needs Assistance

- Provide food or other essential needs to community members
- Essential needs include
 - Food (including pet food)
 - Hygiene products
 - Cleaning supplies
 - Tents and sleeping bags
 - Diapers
 - Winter clothing



✓ YES

✗ NO



Food
(including pet food)



Decorations



Hygiene Products



Pins or Buttons



Cleaning Supplies



Clothing Items with
the Elks Logo



Tents and Sleeping
Bags



Sports Equipment



Menstrual Health
Products



Flags



Diapers and
Incontinence Supplies



Electronics



Winter Clothing



Luxury Goods

Merging with a Beacon Grant

Merge Spotlight + Beacon

Spotlight Grants can be merged with a Beacon Grant
for a **\$6,500** Beacon Grant.



Tempe, Ariz., Lodge No. 2251





What About the Impact Grant?

- The vision has been realized as we invest more in **every** Lodge
- New Impact Grants will **not** be offered
- We remain committed to Impact Grant renewal projects

Active Projects:

- Put Elks in direct contact with their communities
- Create meaningful volunteer opportunities
- Raise the Lodge's visibility
- Strengthen community partnerships
- Grow membership and engagement





Important Dates

- Beacon, Gratitude and Spotlight Grant applications due **January 20, 2027**
- Projects completed by **March 31, 2027**

Final Reporting

- Brief questions about the project
- Must include receipts for all items purchased and donations made
- Due **30 days** after project end date that is specified in the application





Out of Compliance

- Overdue Final Reports
 - Final Reports due 30 days after the project end date
 - Out of compliance 30 days after due date
 - Need an extension? Call us!
- Malfeasance
- Delinquent on Grand Lodge dues

Identifying Needs

- Take stock of issues in your community
- Reach out to town representatives, nonprofit organizations, schools, community members and Lodge members
- Create an action plan





Project Plans

20 Project Plans for

- Assisting Individuals or Families with Insufficient Resources
- Serving Veterans
- Serving Youth
- Combatting Food Insecurity

Harness Lodge Support

- Talk to Lodge members!
 - What causes motivate members?
 - Frequent updates at meetings and in newsletters
- Mobilize Lodge committees



ScholarCIP Initiative

ENF Scholar Database

Search below for Elks scholars by sponsoring state, sponsoring Lodge, college or major. Prior to 2001, the online list of ENF scholarship winners is incomplete. If you'd like to get in touch with Elks scholars near you, email scholarship@elks.org.

Find an ENF Scholarship Winner!

Sponsoring State

Any State

Sponsoring Lodge

Any Elks Lodge

Program Year

All Years

College

Any College

Field of Study

Any Major

Search



Preventing Burnout

- Set realistic goals
- Take regular breaks
- Seek support
- Recognize achievement
- Stay connected

Marketing Projects

- Reach out to local organizations for partnerships
- Contact local newspapers, TV stations, and radio stations
- Photograph your events
 - Clean off lens
 - Don't crop anyone out
 - Candid shots



CIP Resources

- Grant webpages
- Grant Toolkits
- CIP Grant History
- Final Report webpage
- Grant webinars
- CIP Participation Report
- CIP Staff



Beacon Grant
Toolkit



Gratitude Grant
Toolkit



Spotlight Grant
Toolkit



CIP Program
Toolkit



Grants
Coordinator



Final Reporting



Webinars



Veterans
Resources



Exalted Rulers



CIP Participation
Report



CIP Grant History



Grant Compliance

Connect with Us!

- CIP Club
- Social media
 - Facebook
 - Instagram
 - @elksinaction
 - #ElksAlwaysCare





Questions?

- The CIP office is here to help!
- 773/755-4730
- LodgeGrants@elks.org

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