

Class of 2026 Impact Grant Recipients

Augusta, Maine, Lodge No. 964 (Year 5) will give high school students an edge when it comes to choosing their career with Elks serving as mentors to teach essential job skills and help cultivate potential career paths through the *Edge Program*.

Blue Springs, Mo., Lodge No. 2509 (Year 4) will install carbon monoxide and fire detectors, along with other necessary safety equipment, and provide CPR classes to the community through *Saving Our Citizens and First Responders*.

Bremerton, Wash., Lodge No. 1181 (Year 7) will promote literacy and prepare elementary school students for natural disasters in an area that sits on two fault lines through *Reading for Readiness*.

Bristol County, R.I., Lodge No. 1860 (Year 18) will continue *East Bay Cares*, a food and supply project for area food pantries and other social service organizations.

Casa Grande Valley, Ariz., Lodge No. 1957 (Year 4) will build cooling stations and provide information and goods to combat heat stroke to individuals experiencing homelessness through *Casa Grande Homeless Assistance and Heat Relief*.

Danielson, Conn., Lodge No. 1706 (Year 3) will implement monthly reading programs, activities, and a "Little Free Library" initiative, ensuring children receive both books and healthy food to take home through *Turn the Page on Hunger and Literacy*.

Dover, Del., Lodge No. 1903 (Year 11) will continue the *Elks 1903 Pantry*, a mobile pantry for individuals experiencing homelessness.

El Paso, N.M., Lodge No. 187 (Year 9) will continue *TTP Community Outreach Campaign*, a program designed to raise awareness for—and package and distribute hygiene items to—local nonprofits.

Elmwood Park-Paterson, N.J., Lodge No. 60 (Year 3) aims to reduce Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and address post-partum depression by distributing Sleep Safe boxes containing educational materials and essential items to new parents living below

the poverty line through *Jessica Wishes You Sweet Dreams and a Safe Sleep (SIDS Prevention & Post-Partum Depression Education)*.

Elwood, Ind., Lodge No. 368 (Year 7) will promote literacy and combat hunger among local students through *Read & Feed: Fiction, Food and Fun*, a project utilizing food-themed books and corresponding dinners.

Erie, Pa., Lodge No. 67 (Year 8) will continue *Comfort Care 4 Vets (CC4V)*, a project dedicated to providing hygiene items and other non-food essentials to veterans through the Erie V.A. Medical Center.

Fayetteville-Springdale, Ark., Lodge No. 1987 (Year 12) will continue the *Veterans Impact Grant Project*, which meets the needs of veterans who are experiencing or have recently exited homelessness.

Fresno, Calif., Lodge No. 439 (Year 12) will continue the *Mt. Olympus Challenge*, a school-based program that teaches teens at risk of dropping out the importance of community service.

Galena, Ill., Lodge No. 882 (Year 4) will provide weekly recreational activities for adults with disabilities through *Big Beautiful World*.

Gilbert, Ariz., Lodge No. 2848 (Year 7) will provide boxes of food and new clothes to elementary school students through *Caring is Sharing*.

Greater Pine Island, Fla., Lodge No. 2781 (Year 8) will continue the *Elks Senior Housing Partnership* project, which helps older community members stay in their homes safely through home updates, ramps and hurricane preparedness support.

Groton, Conn., Lodge No. 2163 (Year 7) will run *Donation Station* in partnership with Groton Human Services to provide needed household items, such as paper towels, dish soap, and laundry detergent, to people experiencing homelessness and under-resourced families.

Hackensack, N.J., Lodge No. 658 (Year 5) will expand upon past Spotlight Grants to support family literacy and encourage the utilization of library programs through *Hackensack Elks Little Library Operation*, or *HELLO, Boxes*.

Hackettstown, N.J., Lodge No. 2331 (Year 5) will work with the local Hispanic community to provide youth enrichment programs, translation services, and adult ESL resources through *Conexiones Hispanas* or *Hispanic Connections*.

Hamilton, Ohio, Lodge No. 93 (Year 3) will address food insecurity among vulnerable seniors by employing a systematic approach to efficiently shop, box, and deliver food through *Food Security for our Butler County Seniors*.

Hickory, N.C., Lodge No. 1654 (Year 15) will continue the *Helping Hands* project, which provides meals to a soup kitchen.

Hopkins, Minn., Lodge No. 2221 (Year 14) will continue *Teaming Up for Teens*, a support program for teens experiencing homelessness.

Huntingdon, Pa., Lodge No. 976 (Year 4) will provide care packages and build ramps for veterans living below the poverty line through *Huntingdon Elks Veterans Relief Program*.

Kerrville, Texas, Lodge No. 2081 (Year 12) will continue to support community members with mental illness by hosting events and providing supplies through the *Bridging the Gap* project.

Kingman, Ariz., Lodge No. 468 (Year 8) will help veterans and their families move into permanent housing through *Operation Turnkey*. The Lodge will provide vital home supplies and mentorship throughout the year.

Lake Hopatcong, N.J., Lodge No. 782 (Year 5) will use its namesake natural resource to develop environmental sustainability by teaching students from families living in households below the poverty line the importance of water and lake ecology through *Lake Hopatcong Elks Floating Classroom*.

Laughlin, Nev., Lodge No. 2872 (Year 11) will continue its reading literacy program with a mobile incentive store, *Read to Succeed*.

Lynnwood, Wash., Lodge No. 2171 (Year 4) will create a learning center and provide support for families living under the poverty line who have infants and toddlers through *Lynnwood Elks Early Childhood Recourse Center*.

Marshalltown, Iowa, Lodge No. 312 (New) will expand its *Elks Outreach Project* to support individuals and families experiencing homelessness and housing instability by providing food assistance, clothing, and personal care services in an area without any permanent shelter support.

Middleboro, Mass., Lodge No. 1274 (Year 2) will foster community among local and hospitalized veterans through *Operation: Cup of Joe & What Veterans Need to Know*, a weekly coffee hour providing camaraderie, resources, and information about veteran benefits.

Olean, N.Y., Lodge No. 491 (Year 2) will continue *Embracing Veterans*, a comprehensive support program offering veterans social engagement, essential household supplies, and tailored peer mentorship to foster community integration and improve quality of life.

Orange, Calif., Lodge No. 1475 (New) will launch the *Hub OC Hygiene Marketplace*, a monthly, Elks-led mobile marketplace that promotes health by providing personalized hygiene, personal-care, and nutrition items to individuals experiencing homelessness across Orange County.

Phoenix, Ariz., Lodge No. 335 (New) will support high school students experiencing homelessness through its *Homeless Youth Empowerment Project*, delivering year-round care packages, clothing, transportation assistance, and milestone recognition to encourage youth to remain in school and build a path toward long-term stability.

Plainview, Texas, Lodge No. 1175 (Year 9) will sustain the *Elks 1175 Center*, a safe facility for veterans transitioning out of homelessness to stay and receive services.

Plant City, Fla., Lodge No. 1727 (Year 7) will assemble the *Weekly Everyday Blessings (WEB) Squad* to provide weekly meals, several holiday events, and support to a local foster care program.

Port Townsend, Wash., Lodge No. 317 (Year 9) will continue the *Elks 317 Supply Shop* to meet the immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness in the community.

Portsmouth, N.H., Lodge No. 97 (Year 4) will combat military suicide and depression by fostering relationships with those in service at the local naval base through *Liberty Investments Nurture Kinships*, or *LINK*.

Pratt, Kan., Lodge No. 1451 (Year 2) will address food insecurity and foster literacy among children by providing nutritious meals, interactive food activities, and one-on-one reading mentoring at the local library through *The Bookworm Bistro*.

Putnam, Conn., Lodge No. 574 (Year 4) will provide a Food Share Box and care packages filled with nutritional recipes to individuals experiencing food insecurity with *Elks Care, Food Share*.

Red Wing, Minn., Lodge No. 845 (Year 7) will continue *HeART (Hope for At-Risk Teens)*, a project that supports teens in their area with cooking classes, childcare supplies, winter clothing, school supplies, hygiene items and a food pantry.

Santa Maria, Calif., Lodge No. 1538 (Year 5) will host *Veteran Stand Downs & Lunches* to serve as a place for veterans to socialize, eat, receive supplies, and obtain information on services provided at the local, state and federal levels.

Saratoga-Wilton, N.Y., Lodge No. 161 (Year 5) will protect some of its most vulnerable citizens with programming aimed at preventing domestic violence and sexual assault and will provide support to survivors through *Engaging and Supporting Our Community to End Relationship Abuse and Sexual Assault*.

St. George 'Dixie,' Utah, Lodge No. 1743 (Year 12) will continue to connect and mentor students with the *Youth in Crisis* project.

Tifton, Ga., Lodge No. 1114 (Year 3) will continue the *Elks Community Outreach Program*, or *ECOP*, a facility maintenance initiative for local charities and nonprofits, aiming to relieve financial burdens, enhance safety, and help nonprofits help the community.

Vero Beach, Fla., Lodge No. 1774 (Year 12) will continue *Kids of Character*, a program that supports a local elementary school with uniforms and a weekly incentive store for good behavior.

Visalia, Calif., Lodge No. 1298 (Year 2) will offer free monthly clinics led by a certified trainer to empower veterans to train their own service dogs through *Veteran Service Dog Training Clinic*.

