



**Elks National Foundation, Inc.**

## Impact Grant FAQs

### **Who is eligible for an Impact Grant?**

All Lodges are eligible to submit an Impact Intent to be considered for an Impact Grant! Eligibility is not dependent on meeting the GER's per-member-giving goal for donations to the ENF.

*(Lodges must, however, be in full compliance with the Grand Lodge per-capita assessment, Section 16.010. This refers to Grand Lodge dues and does not relate to the ENF donations.)*

### **How many new Impact Grants will be awarded?**

In 2024, up to \$100,000 in new Impact Grants will be awarded. This is a competitive process—and only a select number of Lodges will be awarded a grant. In 2021, we awarded new Impact Grants to 14 Lodges, and we received 164 Impact Intents.

### **How much funding will a Lodge receive with an Impact Grant?**

Impact Grants are \$10,000. Applications should request the full amount.

### **How much funding will a Lodge receive with an Impact Grant after the first year?**

Impact Grant Renewals range from \$2,500 to \$10,000. Lodges may apply for any amount in this range, and if approved may not necessarily receive the full amount of funding requested.

### **How can Impact Grants be used? What are the restrictions?**

Impact Grants are designed to set a standard of excellence in community leadership through volunteerism, mentoring and service. Grants should be used for ongoing, Elks-led projects that give Elks a chance to become involved in solving problems in the community. Impact Grants are an opportunity for your Lodge to serve the community in a meaningful and visible way, which can help the Lodge to raise its profile and even gain members. To see a list of this year's Impact Grant recipients, visit [enf.elks.org/ImpactGrants](http://enf.elks.org/ImpactGrants).

An Impact Grant **cannot be a donation** to another organization in any form and must have significant Elks involvement. It cannot be a one-time purchase or be a small part of a large community capital campaign. It cannot be used to improve Lodge buildings in any way and must be a strictly charitable project.

### **What does it mean when you say Impact Grants are competitive?**

Impact Grants are competitive in that there is limited funding and only the strongest projects will be funded. Once an Impact Intent or full application is submitted, it is final. Unlike our other grants, Impact Intents and applications may not be amended or edited once submitted and the ENF may not follow up with the Lodge to ask for more information or give the Lodge a chance to change the grant application if it is not within guidelines.

### **Can I send in attachments to support my Impact Grant application?**

No. We will not accept any attachments or information beyond what can be provided in the online application. You cannot mail, fax or email additional information. If this information is sent to the ENF, it will not be considered when reviewing and scoring the application.

### **My Lodge wants to split the Impact Grant between two projects. Is this okay?**

No. Lodges must use the Impact Grant for one project.

### **My Lodge wants to use the grant to hold a big one-time event. Is this okay?**

No. Lodges must use the Impact grant for ongoing projects.



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## **My Lodge wants to use an Impact Grant for a building project. Does this qualify?**

This is within Impact Grant guidelines, however, it is very rare for a building project to be approved. Often, projects of this nature don't offer sufficient Elk involvement. Many times, building projects require specialized skills that preclude Elks from being actively involved. Remember, donations and sponsorships do not qualify. Impact Grants must have significant and active Elk involvement with the target audience to be approved.

## **My Lodge has an idea for an Impact Grant project but we're not sure how to start. What should we do?**

We encourage all Lodges to contact the CIP office before applying for an Impact Grant. We're happy to talk about ideas, offer advice and even review parts of the application before it is submitted. We're excited about the possibilities for Impact Grants and would love to help your Lodge with advice about planning. However, once an application is submitted it is considered final and complete.

## **My Lodge wants to partner with a local organization on our Impact Grant project. Is this a good idea?**

Yes! Many Lodges have project partners. Partnerships help Lodges to pool resources, recruit more volunteers, share experience and gain more publicity. There are two main things to consider when partnering on a project, though.

1. Impact Grants require Elk involvement, and Elks must be leaders and/or equal partners in the project.
2. Impact Grants may not be used to make donations, fund other organization's operations, or simply donate to existing projects. Make sure you and your project partner are on the same page about these requirements. Clear communication will only help the project.

## **How does my Lodge apply for an Impact Grant?**

The Impact Grant application process has two important steps. The first step, or Impact Intent, entails the Lodge communicating basic details about the project. The Impact Intent will include questions about who the Lodge hopes to help and how. Impact Intents will be reviewed in September, and the ENF will select Lodges to move on to the full Impact Grant application.

## **Why did the Impact Grant move to a two-step application process?**

The Impact Grant application process involves two-steps to save volunteers time and to encourage a more collaborative grant application process. Volunteers will not need to fill out a large, involved application and wait months to hear back if the project does not qualify. Likewise, an invitation to move on to the full application gives the Lodge a chance to receive formal feedback and advice from the ENF.

## **My Lodge has a few different ideas. Can we submit more than one Impact Grant Intent?**

No. Lodges may only submit one Impact Grant project idea for consideration each year. Please consult with the Lodge and decide on one project that the entire Lodge supports and submit an Impact Intent and, if invited, an application for that project.

## **All the Lodges in my district would like to come together to apply. Is that possible?**

While we encourage Lodges close in communities to work together to put on charitable programs, Impact Grants must be issued to one Lodge, and cannot be split between Lodges.

## **What is the ENF looking for in the Impact Intent?**

Thoughtful and clear answers to all questions. Much like the full Impact Grant application, a demonstration of active Elk involvement is key. More information can be found at [enf.elks.org/ImpactGrants](http://enf.elks.org/ImpactGrants).

## **When will I know if our Lodge is invited to fill out the full application?**

Lodges moving on to the full application (step two) will be notified in September.



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## **How long will our Lodge have to fill out a full application?**

From September 1 through November 1.

## **What if our Impact Grant idea changes between the first and second step?**

Lodges may not change their Impact Grant plan between the first and second steps. An invitation to the full application is based on the information contained in the Impact Intent. Any changes to the goals and scope of the proposed project will result in the Lodge not being funded.

## **How does the scoring work on the full application?**

Impact Grant applications must score a minimum of 70 points to be considered for funding. Point totals for each section are listed on the application, and Impact Grant scoring form is available on the Impact Grant webpage.

## **When will I know if our Lodge has been awarded an Impact Grant?**

December.

## **How many consecutive years can a Lodge receive an Impact Grant?**

Impact Grant funding pools are split between new and renewal grants with consideration given first to new Impact Grant projects and to projects that have received Impact Grant funding for less than 3 years. If funds remain in the renewal Impact Grant pool, grant projects that have received funding for more than 3 years will be considered.

## **How will the Lodge be alerted to the status of the Impact Intent and/or full application?**

In September, emails will be sent to the Project Manager regarding the Impact Intent decision. In December, the project manager and secondary contact as listed on the Impact Grant application will be sent an email indicating a funding decision. A formal letter to the Lodge mailing address will follow.

## **What's the Impact Grant timeline?**

- **April 1 – August 15:** Impact Intents open.
- **September 1 – November 1:** Impact Grant applications open.
- **December:** New Impact Grant Class announced.
- **Reminder!** Impact Grants runs on a calendar year. Impact Grant projects run **January 1** through **December 31**.