



Elks National Veterans Service Commission

FREEDOM GRANTS

Get ready for exciting changes in the Freedom Grant process in 2022-23! This year, Lodges will have two options when applying for a Freedom Grant. Lodges can apply for a \$3,000 grant (Freedom Grant Classic) to hold an active project that directly serves veterans in need, or Lodges can apply for a \$1,000 grant (Freedom Grant Spark) to hold a smaller project with more flexibility. There will be 200 Freedom Grants available for the Classic option, and 400 available for the Spark option.

WHAT QUALIFIES:

Freedom Grants must be used to serve veterans and/or military members and their families. Grant projects must serve a population in need. Projects must focus on one of these five areas: employment, homelessness and housing, military families, health, and educational support.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Applications will be available online April 1 at 12:01 AM Central Time. Applications will close on April 15 at Noon Central Time. Recipients will be announced in mid-May. Applications must be detailed, complete and follow all grant guidelines.

HOW IT WORKS:

Lodges will have the choice of applying for only one of these options. Choose wisely! Grants are competitive and once submitted, applications cannot be edited.

Which size grant should your Lodge apply for in 2022-23?

Freedom Grant Spark (\$1,000)	Freedom Grant Classic (\$3,000)
Does my project involve a donation of funds or supplies? ➤ If yes, then apply for a \$1,000 grant.	Does my project include a high level of participation from Lodge members? ➤ If yes, then apply for a \$3,000 grant.
Is a partner organization handling the planning of the event? ➤ If yes, then apply for a \$1,000 grant.	Will Lodge members be spending time in direct service to, and interacting with veterans? ➤ If yes, then apply for a \$3,000 grant.
Is my project a small or one-time event? ➤ If yes, then apply for a \$1,000 grant.	Will my project involve multiple events or working with multiple community partners? ➤ If yes, then apply for a \$3,000 grant.
Will a more accessible grant meet the needs of the veteran population my lodge is trying to help? ➤ If yes, then apply for a \$1,000 grant.	Will this be an Elks-led project, in which the Lodge oversees funds at all times? ➤ If yes, then apply for a \$3,000 grant.

Application Questions:

- Describe your Lodge's project. How is your Lodge serving veterans or active-duty military personnel with this grant? How will Elks be involved?
- What steps has your Lodge taken to plan or prepare for using this grant?
- Explain how this project will improve the lives of the individuals you are serving. Which of the five areas of increased need is this grant project addressing?
- What does the Lodge expect to accomplish with this project?

A budget is also required. No more than 10% (or \$250) of the budget can be dedicated to administrative or publicity expenses, including t-shirts. Budget cannot include cash prizes.

Restrictions: Grants may not be used for appreciation dinners, scholarships, fundraisers or general community events. Grants may not be used to serve Lodge members. Meals served at Lodges must be provided at cost and cannot include alcohol.