



Elks National Veterans Service Commission

FREEDOM GRANTS

Freedom Grant flexibility returns! Just like last 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 with significant Elks involvement, or Lodges can apply for a **\$1,000 grant (Freedom Grant Spark)** to hold a smaller project with more flexibility. Lodges will have the choice of applying for only one of these options. Choose wisely!

WHAT QUALIFIES:

Freedom Grant projects must serve veterans and/or military members in need or support or services. Projects must focus on one of these five areas: employment, homelessness and housing, military families, health, and educational support. Grants are competitive and projects that serve more immediate needs like health and homelessness will be prioritized.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Applications will be available online April 1 at 12:01 AM Central Time. Applications will close on April 20 at 11:59 PM Central Time. Recipients will be announced in mid-May. Applications must be detailed, complete and follow all grant guidelines.

HOW IT WORKS:

Grants are competitive and once submitted, applications cannot be edited. If you apply for a Freedom Grant Classic and your project does not qualify, you will not be able to reapply for a Freedom Grant Spark. Think carefully and be realistic about which grant type is best suited to your project plan.

Freedom Grant Spark Checklist (\$1,000)	Freedom Grant Classic Checklist (\$3,000)
If your projects involve a donation of funds or supplies, apply for a Spark.	If your project includes a high level of participation from Lodge members, apply for a Classic.
If a partner organization is handling the planning of the event, apply for a Spark.	If Elks will be spending time in direct service to, and interacting with veterans, apply for a Classic.
If you want to support a veterans' organization that is closed to volunteers or doesn't allow you to interact with veterans, apply for a Spark.	If your project involves multiple events or working with multiple community partners, apply for a Classic.
If your Lodge doesn't have the time/ resources to commit to direct service, apply for a Spark.	If this is an Elks-led project, in which the Lodge oversees funds at all times, apply for a Classic.
If your Lodge's involvement is limited to preparing bags or donating supplies, apply for a Spark.	If your project happens quarterly or monthly, apply for a Classic.

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.

Restrictions: No more than 10% of the budget can be dedicated to administrative or publicity expenses, including t-shirts. Budget cannot include cash prizes. 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 can't include alcohol. Receipts issued by the Lodge must clearly show items were provided at cost.