

Impact Grants Guidelines

What would your Lodge do with \$10,000?

An Impact Grant must:

1. Address a need in an Elks community.
2. Have significant Elks involvement and visible Elks identification. The Elks must be the driving force in the planning and implementation of the project.
3. Raise the Lodge's profile in the community, and help to inspire new members to join the Lodge.
4. Improve the lives of community members as a whole, not simply an individual or family.
5. Be implemented between the dates of January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2016.
6. Involve a Lodge committee of at least three members to oversee and report to the Elks National Foundation on the project's progress on a quarterly basis.
7. Not duplicate or fund any Elks National Foundation or Grand Lodge programs, including, but not limited to, Hoop Shoot, Drug Awareness Program and Veterans Service. However, these target populations may still be served through new projects funded by an Impact Grant.

An Impact Grant cannot be used to:

1. Fund a one-time item purchase, such as a flagpole, plaque or vehicle, unless it is part of an ongoing Elks-supported project.
2. Be a small part of a large community capital campaign fund, such as those used to fund new community centers or park renovations.
3. Purchase land or buildings for an Elks Lodge, or renovate or expand current Lodge buildings.
4. Establish or increase an existing permanent foundation, trust, or permanent interest-bearing account.
5. Directly benefit Elks members or Lodge employees, unless they are part of the community served as a whole.
6. Pay salaries or other personnel costs, other than necessary, one-time-only contracted technical expertise, as outlined in the grant proposal and approved by the Elks National Foundation.
7. Pay individual travel expenses of any kind, unless travel is essential and integral to the project's implementation, as outlined in the grant proposal and approved by the Elks National Foundation.
8. Help any individual(s) to obtain an academic degree or professional advancement, or pay for individual(s) to attend a seminar or conference.
9. Support the operating or administrative expenses of any organization through a donation.
10. Reimburse the applicant for expenses associated with projects already undertaken and in progress, or for projects that are already completed. The ENF will only provide funds to service projects that have been reviewed and approved prior to their start.

Lodges are permitted to partner with other community service organizations. If partnering with another organization(s), please consider the following:

- Lodges must clearly demonstrate that the project is initiated, controlled and conducted by the Elks Lodge involved. Non-Elks participation is permitted.
- There must be significant Elks involvement. A substantial number of Elks must actively participate by giving their time and resources to the project.
- The project must have clearly visible Elks identification designed to make the public aware of Elks involvement. The project must help to raise the Lodge's profile, and gain the notice of people who want to be involved with a group doing good, charitable work in the community.
- Note that projects involving partnerships with schools will receive additional scrutiny, due to school restrictions and schedules.

If your Lodge receives a grant:

- Lodges are invited to reapply for grant funds for up to two consecutive years for the same project. After three years, Lodges may continue to apply for funding, but these projects will be considered for funding after all new and under-three year projects are first awarded.
- Grant awards will be made payable to a special account that the Lodge establishes for this project. Grants may not be paid to an individual or partner organization.

- Lodges can partner on a project to address regional needs. In this case, one Lodge would serve as the lead applicant for the group. In addition, the Impact Grant oversight committee would require representation from each participating Lodge. Only one application will be accepted for each project.
- Lodges are required to report quarterly to the Elks National Foundation on the funds spent and project progress. Monthly bank statements from the Impact Grant account must be included with these reports.