



2018-19 CIP Grant FAQs

1. Q: Why these changes?

A: Grant deadlines are transitioning to be in line with the Lodge year and the fiscal year. Feedback from Lodges has indicated that grant deadlines were confusing and cumbersome. By aligning the grant calendar with the Lodge year, we hope to cut down on confusion and allow for Lodge leadership in any given year to see the grant through from start to finish.

2. Q: Why are the Final Report Forms moving online?

A: Grant applications are already online. This move centralizes the grant process and allows Lodges to both apply for and report on grants in one place.

3. Q: What does the CIP hope to accomplish with these changes?

A: To hopes to improve grant efficiency, decrease the pool of unused grant funds and cut down on confusion among Elk volunteers looking to receive grants.

4. Q: When does the 2018-19 grant year begin?

A: All grant applications will open on July 1, 2018. Note that this is the same as in prior years.

5. Q: When 2018-19 are grant applications due?

A: All grant applications, with the exception of the Impact Grant, will close December 31, 2018.

6. Q: When do 2018-19 grant funds have to be used by?

A: All projects and funds must be expended by March 31, 2019.

7. Q: Why does it seem like we have less time to use grant money?

A: The shift in deadlines creates a shorter grant year in 2018-19. Think of the 2019 year as a transition year to get us on track with the Lodge year. Lodges have from July 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019 to use 2019 grant funds. In 2020, the grant applications will open April 1, 2019. Moving forward Lodges will have a full year to use grant funds.

8. Q: What if I usually run my grant activity in the spring? What will I do in the 2018-19 grant year?

A: We highly encourage Lodges that traditionally have projects in the spring to consider moving the project to early March 2019 in order to utilize a 2018-19 grant, or to cover those projects with a 2019-20 CIP grant.

9. Q: If I have an on-going Beacon Grant project that occurs in the summer of 2019, does that mean I miss out on funds from the 2018-19 grant year?

A: Absolutely not! Since this is a very specific circumstance, the CIP is happy to work with you to figure out a solution, please send an email to lodgegrants@elks.org.

10.Q: What will the grant timeline look like moving forward? Why go through all this trouble?

A: We have received feedback over the years that our deadlines are confusing and that it would be easier if the grant year aligned with the Lodge year. In 2018-19, grant application will open July 1 as usual, close December 31, 2018 and be used by March 31, 2019 to accommodate us opening the 2020 grant cycle on April 1, 2019. From there, grants will open on April 1 each year, applications will close on December 31, and all projects completed by March 31.

11. Q: What about Final Report Form deadlines?

A: This is big, so read carefully. Final Report Form deadlines will be based on the Lodge's project date. The online form will be due 30 days after the anticipated grant completion date. The Lodge will be locked out of applying for grants 60 days from that date. For example, if the Lodge's grant completion date is December 1, the due date for the Final Report Form is January 1. If we have not received the form by February 1, the Lodge will be locked out of applying for grants.

12.Q: I thought you wanted to make this easier, this sound so much more confusing. What gives?

A: With Final Report Forms going online and the new CIP dashboard, the grant process will be easier to keep track of than ever! You will no longer have to mail in forms and all deadlines will be clearly displayed on the dashboard. The dashboard will display the status of the Final Report Form and see when checks were mailed. See, easy!

13.Q: If the dashboard is so great, when will I be able to use it?

A: When the 2017-18 grant year closes, we will launch these new features. More specific details and resources regarding how to navigate the dashboard will also be available then.

IMPACT GRANT

1. Q: Why is the Impact Grant moving to a two-step application process?

A: The Impact Grant application process is moving to 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.

2. Q: Are the Impact Grant guidelines changing?

A: No. Impact Grants will still be awarded to Lodges that plan a large-scale, ongoing, Elks-led project that directly addresses a problem in their community. Impact Grants are designed to set a standard of excellence in community leadership through volunteerism, mentoring and service. Impact Grants are intended to raise the Lodge's profile in the community and inspire new members to join a Lodge that's making a difference.

3. Q: What does the first step entail?

A: 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.

4. Q: What is the ENF looking for in the Impact Intent?

A: Thoughtful and clear answers to all questions. Much like the full Impact Grant application, a demonstration of active Elk involvement is key. More information about what we're looking for can be found at enf.elks.org/ImpactGrants.

5. Q: When will I know if our Lodge is invited to fill out the full application?

A: Lodges moving on to the full application (step two) will be notified on August 24.

6. Q: How long will our Lodge have to fill out a full application?

A: From September 1 through October 31.

7. Q: When will I know if our Lodge has been awarded an Impact Grant?

A: Mid-November.

8. Q: What if our Impact Grant idea changes between the first and second step?

A: 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.

9. Q: What about Impact Grant renewals?

A: The process for renewal funding in year 2-3 and year 4+ will remain the same.

ANNIVERSARY GRANTS

- 1. Q: The Anniversary Grant was advertised as one-time only. Why is it being offered again?**

A: The Anniversary Grant has received an incredible response so far, with nearly 1,500 Lodges having taken advantage. With such an incredible response, we want to kick off the Elks' next 150 years of service by offering the grant again.

- 2. Q: How does a Lodge become eligible to apply?**

A: Similar to last year, all Lodges are eligible for this grant. Your Lodge does not need to meet the GER's per-member-giving goal. However, your Lodge must be in grant compliance.

- 3. Q: When are applications available?**

A: July 1 to December 31, 2018. The Lodge has until March 31, 2019, to use the grant.

- 4. Q: If my Lodge received an Anniversary Grant in 2017-18, can we receive another one in 2018-19?**

A: Yes. The Lodge can apply for the 2018-19 Anniversary Grant on July 1, 2018.

- 5. Q: Does the Anniversary Grant have to be used for the same thing?**

A: No, the Lodge may do something different with the Anniversary Grant in the 2018-19 grant year. Keep in mind that though donations qualify, we highly encourage your Lodge to consider using the Anniversary Grant in an active way. We want you to serve your communities in ways that will raise the Lodge's profile, energize membership, encourage former members to return to the fold, and gain the notice of people who want to be part of an organization that's doing big things.

GRATITUDE GRANTS

1. Q: How does a Lodge become eligible to apply?

A: Lodges will no longer have to wait to apply for the Gratitude Grant. Eligibility will be based on meeting the goal in the prior fiscal year. For example, if the Lodge reached the \$4.75 per-member-giving goal in 2017-18, you can apply on July 1, 2018. Meeting the goal in 2018-19 will qualify the Lodge for the grant in 2019-20.

2. Q: How will this affect my Lodge in upcoming years?

A: The new rule stipulates that to become eligible for the Gratitude Grant the Lodge must reach the per-member-giving goal in the prior fiscal year. Essentially the Lodge is being rewarded for the previous year's fundraising results. For example,

- Per-member-giving goal met by **March 31, 2018**—the Lodge receives a 2018-19 Gratitude Grant, available July 1, 2018.
- Per-member-giving goal met by **March 31, 2019**—the Lodge receives a 2019-2020 Gratitude Grant, available April 1, 2019.
- Per-member-giving goal met by **March 31, 2020**—the Lodge receives a 2020-2021 Gratitude Grant, available April 1, 2020.

3. Q: When are 2018-19 Gratitude Grant applications available?

A: July 1 to December 31, 2018. The Lodge may use the Gratitude Grant between the date the application is approved and March 31, 2019.

4. Q: How much time does my Lodge have to meet the per-member goal for giving to the ENF?

A: Gratitude Grant eligibility is now based the Lodge reaching the per-member-giving goal in the prior fiscal year. If the Lodge met the 2017-18 goal, the Lodge will be able to apply on July 1. If the Lodge did not meet per-member-giving in 2017-18, the Lodge is not eligible for the grant in 2018-19.

5. Q: Will the ENF notify my Lodge when it becomes eligible?

A: Yes! The ENF will send periodic emails alerting Lodges once they meet the per-member goal for giving to the ENF.

6. Q: Will Lodges still be eligible for the \$500 bonus?

A: For 2018-19 grants, yes.

7. Q: Are the guidelines changing?

A: Guidelines will remain the same. Complete Gratitude Grant guidelines can be found at enf.elks.org/GratitudeGrant.

FREEDOM GRANTS

1. Q: When are applications available?

A: July 1, 2018. The first 300 qualifying applications will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis, much like the Promise Grant process.

2. Q: Who is eligible to apply?

A: All Lodges are eligible to apply for a Freedom Grant. Eligibility is not dependent on meeting the GER's per-member-goal for giving to the ENF. However, there are only 300 Freedom Grants available, which will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis, much like the Promise Grant process.

3. Q: Who reviews Freedom Grant applications?

A: The Elks National Veterans Service Commission staff.