



Impact Grants

Why does the ENF offer Impact Grants?

Impact Grants provide Lodges with the opportunity serve the community with an ongoing, Elk-led project. With an Impact Grant, your Lodge can create a new project, or strengthen an existing one to make your community a better place.

Who is eligible to apply?

All Lodges are eligible to apply for an Impact Grant! Eligibility is not dependent on meeting the GER's per-capita 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 Impact Grants will be awarded?

In 2016, up to \$500,000 in Impact Grants will be awarded. Funding for this program is limited and only a select number of Lodges will be awarded a grant. In 2015, we awarded Impact Grants to 53 Lodges, and we received 168 applications.

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

Impact Grants will be awarded between \$2,500 and \$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. This will help the Lodge to raise its profile and gain members. To see a list of this year's Impact Grant recipients, visit our website, www.elks.org/enf/community/ImpactGrants.cfm.

An Impact Grant **cannot be a donation** to another organization 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?

Because Impact Grants are competitive, only the strongest projects will be funded. Once an application is submitted, it is final. Lodges will not be contacted with any questions after an application is submitted. Unlike our other grants, applications may not be amended once submitted and the ENF will 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.

For the complete guidelines, please visit www.elks.org/enf/community/ImpactGrantsDetails.cfm.

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

While one-time events do qualify for Impact Grants, we are generally looking for projects that allow for ongoing Elk involvement.

Additionally, keep in mind that Impact Grants are competitive. Impact Grant projects that include weekly or monthly involvement from members will score much higher than projects that only include one event.



Elks National Foundation

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 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 because it often doesn't allow for sufficient Elk involvement. Many times, building projects require specialized skills that preclude Elks from being actively involved. And remember, donations and sponsorships do not qualify. Impact Grants must have significant and active Elk involvement to be approved.

My Lodge has an idea for an Impact Grant project, but isn't sure how to start. What should we do?

We encourage all Lodges to contact the Lodge Grants 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.

First, Impact Grants require Elk involvement, and Elks must be leaders and/or equal partners in the project. Second, 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.

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

No. Lodges may only submit one Impact Grant application each year. Please consult with the Lodge and decide on one project that the Lodge as a whole would support, and submit an application for that project.

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

There is no limit. However, consideration is first given to new Impact Grant projects and to projects that have received Impact Grant funding for less than 3 years. If any funds remain in the \$500,000 Impact Grant pool after that, grant projects that have received funding for 3 years or more will be considered.

How does the scoring work?

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.

How does my Lodge apply, and what are the important dates?

- 2016 Impact Grant applications become available June 17, 2015.
- 2016 Impact Grant applications are due online September 4, at noon (Central Time). Late applications will not be accepted. *No exceptions.*
- For more information, please visit www.elks.org/enf/community/ImpactGrantsdetails.cfm.
- 2016 Impact Grant recipients will be announced in late October 2015.
- The impact Grant period runs along the calendar year. Impact Grants for 2016 may be used between January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016.

Where can I learn more?

Visit our main Impact Grant webpage at <http://www.elks.org/enf/community/ImpactGrants.cfm> or contact the Lodge Grants office at LodgeGrants@elks.org or 773/755-4730.