

EXPAND YOUR LODGE'S IMPACT ON ITS COMMUNITY

Maine Masonic Charitable
FOUNDATION



GUIDELINES FOR MATCHING GRANTS

MATCHING GRANT PROGRAMS

As part of its commitment as a 501/c3 Public Charitable Foundation, MMCF provides matching funds to Lodges in the Grand Jurisdiction to assist them in bringing assets to bear to meet needs in the communities they serve. These grants are made available under five governing categories of interest:

- A. Community Betterment Grants
- B. Masonic Bikes For Books
- C. Youth Activities Grants
- D. Project Graduation
- E. Seniors Programs/Activities Grant

Each Lodge is eligible for matching grants totaling \$5,000 (with a maximum to be used in any one category of \$3,000) during each MMCF fiscal year which runs from April 1st to March 31st .

To be eligible for matching funds the applicant must

1. define the intended use of the funds;
2. the amount of charity funding the applicant is assigning to the grant's purpose;
3. the overall cost of the project which is the subject of the grant;
4. state whether or not the grantor's funds for the project are in hand; and
5. state the number of fraternal and non-fraternal hours of labor that will be expended in the project.

If the criteria of eligibility are met, MMCF will match \$1.00 for every \$1.00 the Lodge is spending on the project subject to a \$3,000 annual cap on funds to be matched within each category [Lodge provides \$3,000 and the Foundation will provide \$3,000]. This cap can be spread over multiple grants within the same category (i.e., \$300 for one Community Betterment project and \$1,200 for a second Community Betterment project) as long as the total sought for matching funds does not exceed the cap of \$3,000 per category.

Grant applications will be accepted for review and potential funding in the following broadly defined categories.

A. Community Betterment Grants: These grants are intended to bolster the efforts of a Lodge in improving the communities they serve. They may fund a project run exclusively by a Lodge, may be used in conjunction with funds from other community not-for-profit organizations, or supplement the work done by a community or local government entity.

B. Masonic Bikes For Books: These grants are intended to provide supplemental funding to a Lodge to purchase bicycles and other materials related to operating a program designed to encourage children, through their schools or local libraries, to read. The program must be operated in a manner that allows children to have an opportunity to win a bicycle in a drawing from entries placed in an eligibility pool which represent a child's accomplishment of a reading goal. (i.e., one entry per book read by the child). The specifics of the program are at the discretion of the Lodge and school.

NOTE: A Lodge can do one or multiple schools and matching funds will be provided up to \$3,000 in total.

ALSO NOTE that MMCF will provide up to \$10 per bike to offset the cost of a helmet for each bike recipient, safety helmets for all readers who are awarded bikes, irrespective of where the bikes are purchased.

C. Youth Activities Grants: These grants are intended to supplement the efforts of a Lodge that reaches out to the youth in a community assisting them in ways which enhance their lives as members of the community. They can apply to fund projects which provide facilities or facility repair; provide admission or stipend for program attendance; or other youth related activities which conform to the general idea of the purpose of this category of grant.

NOTE: These grants cannot be used to provide academic scholarships.

D. Project Graduation: These grants are intended to supplement the efforts of a Lodge that wishes to provide a Project Graduation Program or bolster the efforts of schools or school related groups which are providing an alcohol / drug free program for high school graduates.

D. Seniors Programs/Activities Matching Grants: These grants are intended to supplement the efforts of a Lodge that wishes to provide a service, project or activity that will benefit a senior or seniors (adults over 55) in the community.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A MATCHING GRANT

If you have any questions about what might qualify for a Matching Grant, please do not hesitate to call the Executive Director at (603) 677-2436 or the Grand Lodge staff at (207) 843-1086 .

When completing the application for a Matching Grant enter the full cost of the project and, depending upon the project cost, enter the amount the Lodge seeks to have matched.

1. Matching funds will be awarded at a rate of \$1.00 for each \$1.00 of Lodge funds designated for the grant up to \$3,000 which would yield up to \$3,000 in matching funds.
2. The cost of the project which is the subject of the grant must be equal to or exceed the total of both Lodge funds and matching funds. Projects costing \$3,000 or more with a \$3,000 Lodge participation will receive the full \$3,000 matching grant. Projects with a total cost of less than \$3,000 will receive funds (Lodge and Grant) which equal the cost of the project. For example: If a project costs \$1,200.00 the Lodge should fund \$600.00 and receive an \$600.00 grant to fully fund the project.

To ascertain the proper Lodge participation amount for a project costing up to \$6,000, divide the project cost by 2. One half would be the amount provided by the Lodge with the remaining half provided by the MMCF grant.

Applications will be reviewed and approved by the Executive Director. The Grand Treasurer will issue checks to the Lodge (mailed to the Lodge Secretary on file in Groupable) for the Lodge to then distribute to the beneficiary.

The guiding principal for all Matching Grants is that the funds will benefit a group of people or an organization, not a single person. With the exception of the Seniors Projects/Activities Matching Grants, which can be used to benefit one person [examples...(1) a Lodge can provide \$400 and apply for a matching grant of \$400 to provide an elderly person with \$800 to buy fuel for the winter, (2) a Lodge can provide \$1,000 and apply for \$1,000 in matching funds to provide \$2,000 to help an elderly person with the costs of a chair lift in their home].

Note: No Lodge may benefit financially from any approved grant. They are intended to bolster the charitable work being done by the Lodge in their community.