

# EXPAND YOUR LODGE'S IMPACT ON ITS COMMUNITY



## 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 and District Associations (“DA”) 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

Except as noted below each Lodge or DA is eligible for one or more grants totaling \$1,000 in each category during each MMCF fiscal year which runs from April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> .

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 \$2.00 for every \$1.00 the Lodge or DA is spending on the project subject to a \$500.00 annual cap on funds to be matched for each category. This cap can be spread over multiple grants within the same category (i.e., \$300 for one Community Betterment project and \$200 for a second Community Betterment project) as long as the total sought for matching funds does not exceed the cap of \$500 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 or District Association in improving the communities they serve. They may fund a project run exclusively by a Lodge or DA, 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 or DA 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 or DA.

NOTE: A Lodge or DA is eligible for one matching grant per school up to a limit of three (3) schools served.

MMCF provides \$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 or DA 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 or DA that wishes to provide a Project Graduation Program or bolster the efforts of schools or school related groups which are providing such 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 or DA that wishes to provide a service, project or activity that will benefit 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 Grand Secretary at 843-1086.**

Grants may be applied for online or by submitting the approved form, a copy of which is attached and available on the Foundation website [www.masoniccharitablefoundation.org](http://www.masoniccharitablefoundation.org) or by following this link below:

<https://www.masoniccharitablefoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2014-09-12-charitable-foundation-grant.pdf>

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 \$2.00 for each \$1.00 of Lodge or DA funds designated for the grant up to a \$500.00 which would yield \$1000.00 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 \$1,500.00 or more with a \$500.00 Lodge participation will receive the full \$1,000.00 matching grant. Projects with a total cost of less than \$1,500.00 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 \$400.00 and receive an \$800.00 grant to fully fund the project.

To ascertain the proper Lodge participation amount for a project costing up to \$1500.00, divide the project cost by 3. One third would be the amount provided by the Lodge or DA and two thirds will be the amount provided by the MMCF grant.

Applications will be reviewed by the MMCF Distributions Committee and approved by the Grand Secretary. The Grand Treasurer will issue checks to the Lodge or DA for distribution to the beneficiary.

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