

Seniors Matching Grant Applications

Policy Statement

The Masonic Charitable Foundation of the Grand Lodge of Maine now has five matching fund programs by which it matches funds contributed by a Lodge (or raised by a Lodge) up to Five Hundred Dollars. These five programs are the Masonic Bikes for Books program, Project Graduation, Youth Activities, Community Betterment and Seniors Activities/Projects. The first three are fairly specific. The fourth and fifth, Community Betterment and the matching grants program for Seniors, can be used for a variety of projects selected by the Lodges.

The goal of the Foundation in its Seniors Matching Fund Program is to support Lodges by providing encouragement and some financial assistance to help them accomplish projects which will better the lives of the Senior Residents in their communities, provide opportunities for Masons to work together and give the Lodges greater visibility in the communities where they are located.

The Foundation wants to encourage Lodges to be creative in identifying projects in their own communities and in devising ways to accomplish those projects. Consequently there are no fixed rules or criteria. That being said, an application is strong if:

1. The project is a Lodge project rather than some other organization's project;
2. The public sees that the Lodge is an active party in accomplishing the project.
3. The project involves more than simply sending a check;
4. The Lodge raises its share of the funds by a public fundraiser;
5. A significant number of Masons are contributing their own time to the project;
6. Members of the public are contributing time to the project;
7. The project is of benefit to many Seniors in the community.
8. The matching funds are used in the local community.

Conversely, an application is weaker to the extent that any of these factors are absent or minimal. Where one or more of the above factors are weak, the other factors should be very strong.