



## Matching Grant Program



The By-laws of the National Grange and the Oregon State Grange require that assets from a Dormant Grange must be held in trust by the State Grange for a period of not less than 7 years for the purpose of reorganization of that Grange. Should it not be possible in that 7 year period to reorganize that Grange, the Oregon State Grange By-Laws require that those assets pass into another restricted fund and can only be used for specific purposes as described in section 4.17.6 of the Oregon State Grange By-laws. This new grant program falls within those guidelines and the grants to Community/Subordinate Granges will come from that fund.

This program has several objectives:

- 1) To allow Subordinate/Community Granges to access needed funds for hall improvement.
- 2) To give the Grange a better standing in the neighborhood.
- 3) To encourage members to work toward the betterment of their Grange hall.

In carrying out these objectives this program is set up with a couple of specific goals:

- 1) That the money granted be in the form of a “matching grant” to engage the entire membership of the applying Grange.
- 2) That the purpose of the grant, first and foremost, be to enhance the appearance and/or improve the functionality and raise the profile of the Grange in the community.
- 3) Priority will be given to projects that address outward appearance or hall functionality.

In order to grow and thrive Granges must constantly be taking in new members and must be seen as a vital part of the community. Encouraging prospective members to join an organization whose hall is in disrepair is not an easy task, but with a generally smaller membership in many Granges, as well as aging buildings this has become a reality. By making these funds available to Subordinate/Community Granges for the purpose of hall improvement they should accomplish two things, 1) Give the Grange a better outside appearance to the community and 2) Help with recruitment of new members. These funds can help with those two goals but the Subordinate/Community membership must also be engaged to make that happen, thus the reason for the “matching” grant. In order for this program to work and be successful the Grange receiving the grant must be willing to match the funds received with either dollars, in kind donations or volunteer labor.

The Executive Committee of the Oregon State Grange agrees that helping existing Granges, and by extension their Grange communities, is the best possible way to use the assets and honor the memory of former Granges.