



Oregon State Grange 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 not less than seven years for the purpose of reorganization of that Grange. Should it not be possible in those seven years to reorganize that Grange, the Oregon State Grange By-Laws (section 4.17.6) require that those assets pass into another restricted fund and can only be used for the described specific purposes. This grant program falls within those guidelines and the grants to Community/Subordinate Granges will come from that fund.

The philosophy of the matching grant program is to improve the appearance and functionality of our Grange halls while involving Grange and community members in the project. This application is for you to show us how your project qualifies by explaining:

- What your project is about and the benefits to the Grange and community
- When specific steps will occur and who will do them
- Who was involved and how did you obtain the matching funds

The grant program objectives are:

- Allow Subordinate/Community Granges to access needed funds for planned hall improvement, not reimburse for previously completed projects
- Encourage members to work toward the betterment of their Grange Hall
- Give the Grange a better standing in the neighborhood

This program is set up with these specific goals:

- Money granted be in the form of a “matching grant”
- Enhance the appearance and/or improve the hall functionality to raise the profile of the Grange in the community (priority given to these projects)
- Engage the Grange members and the community in the project

To grow and thrive Granges must constantly accept new members and 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. Still, with a generally smaller membership in many Granges, as well as aging buildings, this has become a reality. By making these funds available for hall improvements they should give the Grange a better outside appearance to the community and help recruit new members. These grant funds can help with achieving the program goals, but the Subordinate/Community Grange membership must also be engaged to make that happen, thus the reason for the “matching” grant. For this program to work and be successful the Grange receiving the grant must be willing to match or exceed the funds received with either dollars, in-kind donations, volunteer labor, or a combination of these three.

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.



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PROGRAM CRITERIA

The Matching Grant is now being offered **twice** per calendar year, one in the spring and one in the fall. Both grant cycles will have \$35,000 available with a cap of \$5,000 for each applicant Grange. Any unawarded grant money from the spring cycle will be added to the funds to be awarded in the fall. This allows for \$70,000 to be invested in our Subordinate/Community Granges each year!

	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Fall</u>
Applications accepted:	January 1 - March 1	July 1 - September 1
Application deadline:	March 1	September 1
Grants awarded:	by May 31	by December 31

*****Applications must be postmarked or emailed by the deadline.***

Oregon State Grange has dedicated \$70,000 annually to this program. Individual grants are awarded up to \$5,000 with requests for smaller amounts welcomed. Each grant awarded will be matched by the Grange receiving the grant with matching dollars, in-kind donations, volunteer labor, or a combination of these three.

A designated grant committee will review the grants and make their recommendations to the Oregon State Grange Executive Committee who will have final authority over the awarding of the Grant.

Projects must be approved by a vote of the Subordinate/Community Grange before any grant application is submitted. Meeting minutes should reflect that a vote was taken and the minutes may be requested by the Grant Committee.

Projects are to be completed within one year of the date the grant is awarded.

A final report must be filed with the State Master/President by or before the end of the award year (May 31 or December 31). The final report form will be sent with the original acknowledgment of the awarding of the grant.

The Oregon State Grange Executive Committee hopes that by offering a spring and fall cycle to the grant process we will be better placed to help our Subordinate/Community Granges when they are facing emergencies. Feedback from the Grange listening sessions also encouraged an increased dollar amount to service more Granges in one year.