



Preserving Historic Fraternal Lodges Grant Guidelines

Preserving Historic Fraternal Lodges

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, fraternal orders proliferated across the U.S. At one point, nearly every town in Indiana had at least one fraternal organization, and for generations lodges built by Masons, Odd Fellows, Elks, Knights of Pythias, and other orders became important community landmarks.

Today, participation in fraternal organizations is on a steep decline. As numbers dwindle and members age, orders struggle to maintain their structures, leaving hundreds of significant buildings at risk. In 2023 and 2024, Indiana Landmarks named Fraternal Lodges to our 10 Most Endangered landmarks list, working with individual property owners to devise strategies for their preservation. This grant program is an extension of Indiana Landmarks' ongoing preservation efforts around fraternal lodges.

Grant Details and Eligibility

The Historic Fraternal Lodges Grant Program will consider two types of preservation-related activities for funding:

Rehabilitation: This includes funding for qualified rehabilitation expenses (for more information, please refer to the [Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties](#) or reach out to Indiana Landmarks staff). Eligible rehabilitation projects must directly help preserve the historic structure. Work on surrounding hardscape/landscape elements are not eligible. The maximum award amount is \$5,000 per property and requires a 1:1 match.

Planning: This includes funding for historic designations, feasibility studies, and other preservation-related planning services. The maximum award amount is \$2,000 per property and requires a 1:1 match.

Ongoing or recently completed projects will be considered in grant applications and would be a partial or complete reimbursement of the project cost.

Eligible sites must be a historic fraternal lodge that is either listed or eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, either individually or within a historic district. Buildings constructed as lodges but no longer functioning as such are eligible for the program. Applicants are required to provide a history of the significance of the property. Reaching out to the Indiana Landmarks Regional Office in your area is highly encouraged. Eligible properties must be located in Indiana.

When Applications May be Submitted

Applications may be submitted at any time but will be reviewed on a quarterly basis for approval. All applicants will receive approval or denial determination letters. Grant checks are issued the month following approval.

Applications must be submitted to

mdollase@indianalandmarks.org

Grantee Requirements

Grant recipients must be registered as a nonprofit corporation in the state of Indiana. Community-based groups such as Main Street, historic, or preservation organizations should be classified as a 501(c)3 public charity; fraternal societies should be classified as a 501(c)8 or 501(c)10 by the Internal Revenue Service. Municipal governments may also apply. All grant recipients are required to submit periodic progress reports on dates determined by Indiana Landmarks staff.

Grant recipient must include appropriate acknowledgement of Indiana Landmarks' financial support in all printed and digital materials generated for the project. Acknowledgement language will be provided by Indiana Landmarks.

Grant recipient agrees to allow Indiana Landmarks signage to be placed at the project site. Signage will be provided by Indiana Landmarks.

Grant recipient must be or become a member of Indiana Landmarks by the time the grant is awarded. Click here for membership information:

indianalandmarks.org/join-give/membership

Photos or renderings of the site are required with the grant application.

Grant recipient must submit copies of research papers, photographs, video and audio recordings related to the project to Indiana Landmarks as these materials become available.

Questions?

Please reach out to Mark Dollase at mdollase@indianalandmarks.org or call **317-639-4534**.

I verify that I have read and agree to all Preserving Historic Fraternal Lodges Grant Guidelines:

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
SIGNATURE:

DATE: