

National Grange Awards \$40,000 in Rural Life Initiative Grants

32 Projects Selected to Strengthen Hometowns Across America



WASHINGTON, DC – In late June, National Grange President Christine E. Hamp announced the nationwide launch of the Rural Life Initiative, a program designed to revitalize hometowns by funding community-based projects through local Granges. Following a year of successful pilot programs in seven states, the expanded initiative will support Granges making a difference in their communities.

The initial round of grants required applicants to include a focus tied to the National Grange’s signature program, Project Sustenance, which aims to address issues of food security, self-sustainability, and personal and community resilience. Additionally, applicants were required to identify at least one partner organization in their area to collaborate with, and also had to include a strategy for recruiting new members.

By the July 31, 2025 deadline, more than 60 applications from 46 Granges were submitted. Thirty \$1,000 grants will fund projects to be completed by September 30, 2025, while two \$5,000 grants have an extended deadline of December 31, 2025.

“These grants are about action – helping Granges respond quickly and creatively to the real, immediate needs they see in their communities,” Hamp said. “We hope they’ll also inspire Granges to leverage this momentum into securing outside funding and forge powerful partnerships that make a lasting impact in their communities.”

A wide array of project ideas was submitted, ranging from community gardens and personal education classes to dances, school supply giveaways, and support for a 5K fundraiser for local students. All applications were reviewed by National Grange staff and partners, with Granges receiving notification in early August.

The two \$5,000 grants were awarded to:

- **Little Lake Grange #670 (CA)** – for support for their Grange Garden and Grange Garden Education Project
- **Dry Creek Grange #646 (WA)** – for support for veterinary science classes for youth in the community

The \$1,000 grants were awarded to:

- Copake Grange #935 (NY)
- Eagle Grange #1 (PA)
- Harraseeket Grange #9 (ME)
- Lacombe Grange #907 (OR)
- Little Deschutes Grange #939 (OR)
- Matlock Grange #357 (WA)

- Meyersville Grange #188 (NJ)
- Mica Flats Grange #346 (ID)
- Mount Lookout Grange #339 (CO)
- Nyah Grange #133 (MT)
- Otter Creek Grange #1493 (KS)
- Pine Grove Grange #115 (WA)
- Pleasant Grove Grange #475 (OR)
- Pleasant View Grange #1459 (KS)
- Rio Linda Grange #403 (CA)
- Rockford Grange #501 (OR)
- Russellville Grange #91 (PA)
- Saco Grange #53 (ME)
- Senexet Grange #40 (CT)
- Sierra Valley Grange #466 (CA)
- South Fork Grange #605 (OR)
- Spring Hill Grange #909 (WA)
- Stevenson Grange #121 (WA)
- Stranger Creek Grange #374 (WA)
- Sunflower Grange #162 (CO)
- Tranquility Grange #344 (ME)
- Vassalboro Grange #322 (ME)
- VilleWorth Grange #1300 (NC)
- Whelan-Ewartsville Grange #114 (WA)
- Williamsburg Grange #225 (MA)

“I look forward to seeing these Granges really capture the success of their programs,” said Nona Bear, who helped facilitate the National Grange’s GPS to Success webinar where the grants were announced. “I was impressed by the creativity, the adaptability, and the exciting opportunities the selected Granges included in their applications. It was such a wide range of projects that show how Granges are staying in tune with what their communities need and trying to provide the solutions.”

As final reports are submitted, stay tuned to the National Grange’s *Grange Today!* newsletter and *Good Day!* magazine to see stories about the programs and the impact local Granges can make on their hometowns.

This will likely not be the only round of Rural Life Initiative Grants given this year.

“This is just the beginning for the Rural Life Initiative grants,” Hamp said. “We’re working to secure additional funding so we can open the door for even more grants – possibly with exciting new areas of focus. If your Grange wasn’t selected this time, don’t count yourself out. Each round will allow fresh ideas to have their chance to shine.”

Future grants will be announced on the National Grange’s social media and in the Grange Today! newsletter. Additional information can be found on the National Grange website at <http://www.nationalgrange.org/rural-life-initiative>.

Founded in 1867, the National Grange is the nation’s oldest rural community organization, dedicated to strengthening individuals, families, and communities through service, education, advocacy, and fellowship. With more than 1,400 local chapters in rural, suburban, and urban areas across the United States, the Grange empowers its members to address local needs, influence policy through grassroots action, and build values that strengthen communities.

Learn more at www.nationalgrange.org.