

# RURAL LIFE INITIATIVE

## 2025

A Program of the National Grange  
Supported by Grange Advocacy

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This is just the beginning for the Rural Life Initiative grants. 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.

We are excited to see what Granges will create for their communities. The goal every single day is for the Grange to be stronger tomorrow than it is today.

*Christine Hamp,  
President of the National Grange and  
Grange Advocacy*

— ”

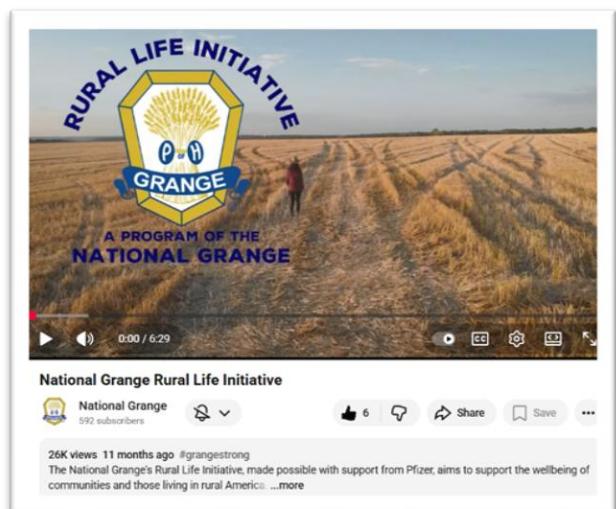


## WHAT IS RURAL LIFE INITIATIVE?

The Rural Life Initiative (RLI) began in 2024 as a pilot program in seven states, where it quickly demonstrated the power of locally led community action. Its early success inspired a nationwide rollout—the “Shortcuts to Success” round—giving Granges across all states the opportunity to apply for grants supporting winter community events. By the end of the year, over 34 State and Local Granges had received RLI support, enabling them to host more than 45 events and programs that strengthened community connections.

In 2025, the program grew even further—reaching more Granges, engaging new partners, and continuing to strengthen the health, vitality, and resilience of rural communities nationwide.

In this report, you’ll find stories and results from the Rural Life Initiative 2025, showing how local projects are creating lasting impact, bringing new energy to communities, and making the Grange stronger with every step forward.



### Watch the Video About RLI 2024



**ROCKFORD GRANGE, OR**  
RLI-Supported Event  
September 2025

## RLI 2025 RESULTS

In 2025, the Rural Life Initiative is focusing on attracting new members and building partnerships beyond the Grange, while helping local Granges strengthen their community connections through local events and activities.

**This year, the program offered two types of funding to support these goals:**

- **Summer Grants** – For projects held from July 1 through September 30, offering \$1,000 to help Granges organize short-term, event-based projects that brought people together and encouraged new member participation.

We received 41 applications, and 30 Granges were selected for funding.

- **Larger Grants** – For projects running from July 1 through December 31, offering \$5,000 for broader community initiatives that required more time and coordination.

We received 19 applications, and 2 Granges were selected for funding.

Choosing the recipients wasn't easy, since every proposal reflected great ideas and a strong commitment to improving rural life. Each Grange showed genuine dedication to its community, making the selection process inspiring and challenging.

**Across both funding types, RLI 2025 achieved strong engagement:**

- 60 proposals were submitted by 45 Granges across the country.
- 49+ events took place in 14 states between July and September 2025.
- Granges collaborated with 110+ community partners, including schools, local organizations, and civic groups.
- The program inspired 376 new prospective members who may soon become verified Grange members.

## RLI 2025 BY THE NUMBERS

  
TOTAL PROPOSALS RECEIVED

**60**

  
GRANGES PARTICIPATED

**32**

  
STATES REPRESENTED

**14**

  
EVENTS HELD

**49+**

  
COMMUNITY PARTNERS INVOLVED

**110+**

  
PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS

**370+**

## HOW RLI HELPS GRANGES TURN IDEAS INTO ACTION

**What makes RLI different** is that it doesn't tell communities what to do—it helps them do what they already know needs doing. Local Granges lead the way, identifying their own priorities and creating solutions that fit their unique circumstances.

**Every town has its own assets, challenges, and spirit**—and the best ideas come from those who live them every day. At its core, RLI strengthens not just programs but the relationships, trust, and shared purpose that sustain rural life itself.

**Each RLI round begins with a kickoff webinar** that introduces new ideas, practical tools, and examples from past projects. These sessions explain the requirements for each funding round and help Granges start thinking creatively about their own communities—what's needed, what's possible, and how to make it happen.

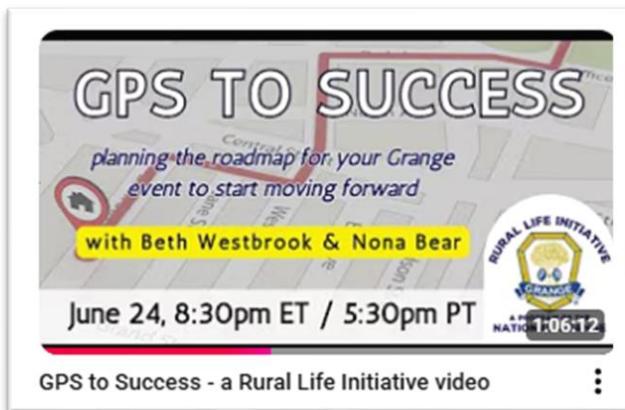
**Watch past RLI webinars:**



[New Ideas, New Approaches](#)



[Shortcuts To Success](#)



[GPS To Success](#)

## **32 GRANGES AWARDED ACROSS 14 STATES IN 2025**

### **The \$5,000 grants were awarded to:**

1. Dry Creek Grange, Washington
2. Little Lake Grange #670, California

### **The \$1,000 grants were awarded to:**

1. Copake Grange, New York
2. Eagle Grange #1, Pennsylvania
3. Freeport Grange [Harraseeket Grange #9], Maine
4. La Pine Grange [Little Deschutes Grange #939], Oregon
5. Lacomb Grange, Oregon
6. Matlock Grange, Washington
7. Meyersville Grange, New Jersey
8. Mica Flats Grange #436, Idaho
9. Mt Lookout Grange, Colorado
10. Nyah Grange, Montana
11. Otter Creek Grange, Kansas
12. Pine Grove Grange, Washington
13. Pleasant Grove Grange, Oregon
14. Pleasant View Grange, Kansas
15. Rio Linda Grange, California
16. Rockford Grange, Oregon
17. Russellville Grange, Pennsylvania
18. Saco Grange #53, Maine
19. Senexet Grange #40, Connecticut
20. Sierra Valley Grange #466, California
21. Southfork Grange, Oregon
22. Spring Hill Grange, Washington
23. Stevenson Grange, Washington
24. Stranger Creek Grange 374, Washington
25. Sunflower Grange #162, Colorado
26. Tranquility Grange No. 344, Maine
27. Vassalboro Grange, Maine
28. VilleWorth Grange, North Carolina
29. Whelan-Ewartsville Grange #114, Washington
30. Williamsburg Grange, Massachusetts

## RLI 2025 IN ACTION - A GLIMPSE OF LOCAL EVENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

In 2025, the Rural Life Initiative (RLI) supported over 49 events nationwide. Below, we're highlighting a selection of inspiring events to showcase the creativity, community spirit, and impact of RLI projects—and to encourage your Grange to participate in upcoming rounds.

**Little Lake Grange #670, California**, created the Grange Garden Education Project—an ongoing community program that invites residents to learn about herbs and home gardening through hands-on classes, educational garden tours, and seasonal workshops focused on food, wellness, and family health.



Little Lake Grange Medicine Chest Garden Demonstration and Education Project in Ful... ⋮

[Watch “The Garden in summer fullness”](#)



Little Lake Grange Medicine Chest Garden Demonstration and Education Project ⋮

[Watch “Building the Garden”](#)

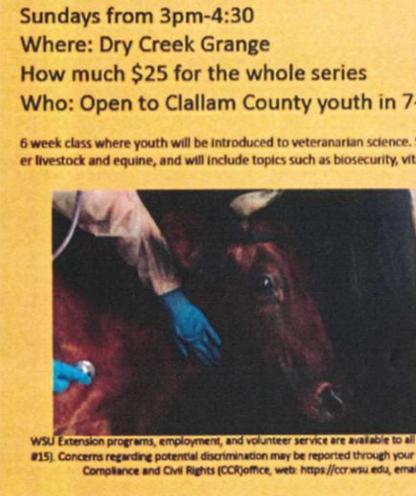
**Dry Creek Grange, Washington**, partnered with Clallam County 4-H to host a six-week veterinary science program for youth in grades 7–12, engaging 21 students interested in future careers working with animals, including veterinary medicine.



**RURAL LIFE INITIATIVE**  
A PROGRAM OF THE  
**NATIONAL GRANGE**

**Veteranarian  
Science Class**

6 week class where youth were introduced to veterinarian science. Species covered both small pets and larger livestock and equine, and included topics of biosecurity, injuries, illnesses, and careers with animals.



**RURAL LIFE INITIATIVE**  
A PROGRAM OF THE  
**NATIONAL GRANGE**

**Veteranarian  
Science Class**

When: Oct - Nov , exact dates tbd  
Sundays from 3pm-4:30  
Where: Dry Creek Grange  
How much \$25 for the whole series  
Who: Open to Clallam County youth in 7-12th grades

6 week class where youth will be introduced to veterinarian science. Species will cover both small pets and larger livestock and equine, and will include topics such as biosecurity, vital signs, illnesses, and careers with animals.

Only the first 30 registrations will be accepted  
Registration link: <https://ccr.wsu.edu>



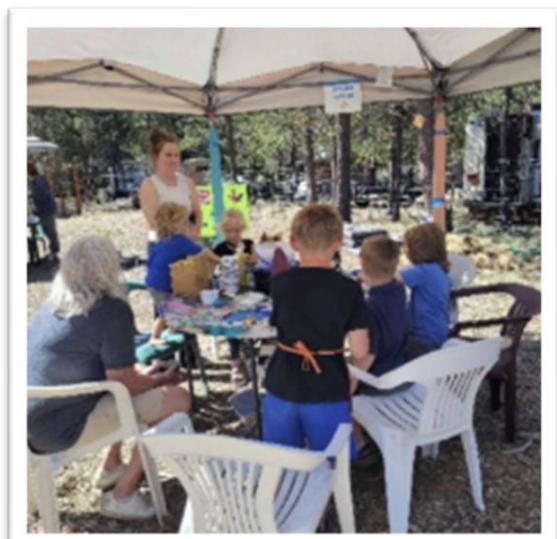
**Eagle Grange #1, Pennsylvania**, held “Prep for Success” - an event where students of all ages were invited in for free school supplies, hygiene items, and shelf-stable food items, as well as receive free back-to-school haircuts.



**Meyersville Grange, New Jersey**, hosted a screening of “Saving the Great Swamp, the Battle to Beat the Jetport”. The film tells the story of the community effort to save the Great Swamp area in Morris County in the early 1960s and protect it from being developed into a jetport.



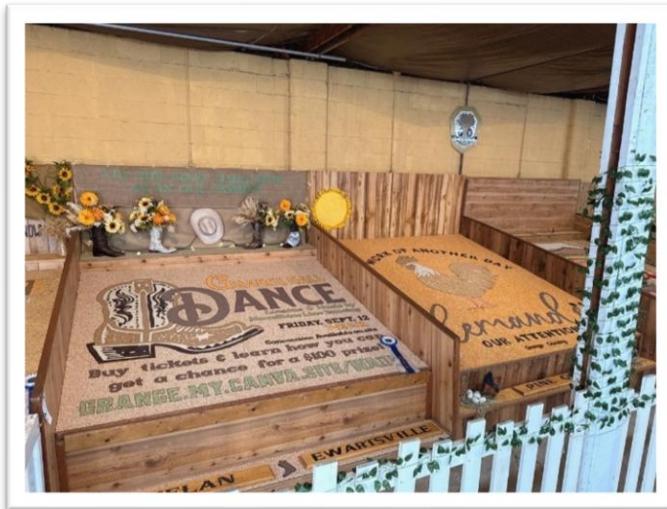
**La Pine Grange [Little Deschutes Grange #939], Oregon**, organized “Drop-In” Garden Day Camp for kids at the local Community greenhouse.



**Mica Flats Grange #436, Idaho**, started “Fit and Fall Proof” - the senior (60+) exercise program.



**Whelan-Ewartsville Grange #114, Washington**, hosted “The Good Old Fashion Grange Hall Dance” - the event was more than a dance. It was a reintroduction of Whelan-Ewartsville Grange as an active presence in the community.



**Nyah Grange #133, Montana**, hosted the “Family Folk Art Workshop”, part of a series of community events they organized, where three local licensed therapists did educational talks and presented materials related to the connections between art, music and creativity to mental health and resilience, as well as information about natural enzymes in the soil which can be absorbed through the skin during gardening that act as anti-depressants and help release the body’s natural feel-good chemicals.



**Rockford Grange #501, Oregon**, held “Yes, We Can! Preservation Festival”, which included a lecture on food preservation.



**Copake Grange #935, New York**, hosted the “Mental Health Matters: Building a Community of Support” event, marking a first step in empowering participants to develop their skills and strengths, increase knowledge and awareness, practice better self-care, and strengthen relationships with loved ones and the broader community.



**Otter Creek Grange #1493, Kansas**, held a “Quilt Raffle” aimed at supporting the reduction of student lunch debt at the local school.



**Sunflower Grange #162, Colorado**, hosted “Grange Tomato Tasting Fall Festival.”

Why Tastings? Heirloom Tomatoes are delicious. Tastings encourage growing plants in general because people get to try the final product which is so much tastier than grocery store produce.



## **STAY TUNED**

The Rural Life Initiative continues to grow, and we are actively working each year to make new rounds of funding possible. Updates and announcements will be shared in the ***Grange Today!*** newsletter and the quarterly ***Good Day!*** magazine, so be sure to watch for future RLI opportunities.

If you're not yet subscribed, you can sign up here to stay informed:

[www.nationalgrange.org/subscribe](http://www.nationalgrange.org/subscribe)

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