



Rhode Island State Grange Membership Program Book

October 2025 - September 2026

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GRANGE PROJECT
SUSTENANCE

GROWING FOOD SECURITY, SELF-SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE IN AMERICA'S HOMETOWNS



The National Grange's mission is to strengthen individuals, families, and communities through:

- Service
- Education
- Nonpartisan grassroots advocacy
- Agricultural awareness

In 2025, National Grange launched "Project Sustenance," a Grange-wide initiative focused on addressing food security and personal sustainability within our communities, including civic engagement. Every Grange is encouraged to participate in this initiative by building or expanding programs that promote self-sufficiency, community sustainability, and access to nutritious food.

To accomplish the work of this charge - Rhode Island State Grange will provide seed grant funding, not greater than \$500 per RI Grange, to execute a "Project Sustenance" Project.

Be relevant! Time is in short supply for the DO-er. Grange needs laborers. We are seeking community members who want to invest their time and efforts into building the social capital of the areas served by each of our Granges. To attract these individuals, we need to offer them something they value. Something we all value (Grangers and non-Grangers) – historical evaluation informs us this is Education.

STEP 1 - Each Grange must identify a need in your community. Outreach to other local nonprofits serving your same geographic areas, this may be helpful to inform your Grange about what your community needs help with.



STEP 2 - **Pick a** modest-sized **project** that your Grange can execute to help your community effect positive change. This demonstrates the value of your Grange.

Project Sustenance - Rhode Island State Grange Seed Grant Program

RULE 1: Each Grange will choose their own education program/community resource, their membership will vote on it. The voted program will be advised to the State Membership Department with a proposed budget for the program, once approved then the grant funding of up to \$500 will be provided within two weeks. This grant opportunity provides financial support to Granges to secure educational programs that serve a charitable purpose. Specifically, those that deliver on **our mission.**

PROJECT CRITERIA: Programs should **address one of the three areas of Project Sustenance: food insecurity, community/personal sustainability, and civic engagement.** This includes developing life skills like Healthy Eating, Financial Management, and Self-Care, as well as fostering Agricultural Awareness, and empowering Rhode Islanders to understand and use their collective voice in civil discourse to advocate for positive change in Rhode Island. This is Grange Strong.

The initiative will work in conjunction with the membership department's contests, which will specifically reward collaboration across internal departments (Deaf & Health, Women's/Family Activities, Information, Youth, etc.) as well as with other community stakeholders (FFA, 4-H, Farm Bureau, food pantries, RI School for the Deaf, Dept. of Health, Veterans Affairs etc.).

How do we pay for it?

Be it resolved that the Rhode Island State Grange Executive Committee on November 29, 2024 approved a request for \$10,000 for the membership year 2024 - 2025 to be dispensed in grants of up to \$500 for educational programs that serve a charitable purpose. And at the 2025 Rhode Island State Grange Session, you!!!! The Rhode Island State Grange delegation voted both to spend \$10,000 to renew this Project Sustenance Seed Grant program AND you voted to spend up to \$10,000 to build a Rhode Island State Grange website!



"In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."

\$10,000 for one grant each to Rhode Island's Grange.

Grange can work together to multiply their seed grant funding.

15 Community Granges, 4 Pomona Granges, and 1 Junior Grange

RULE 2: The Project Sustenance program must be:

1. **open to the public**
2. **free of charge**
3. **The programs cannot be a part of a "Grange meeting" in anyway.**

Any received grant monies not spent for the approved/stated charitable purpose be returned to the Rhode Island State Grange by September 15, 2026. This program is administrated by the Rhode Island State Grange Membership Department with fiscal services facilitated through the Treasurer of the Rhode Island State Grange. Approved grants will require receipts for all payments rendered. Services and goods provided without receipts will be considered in-kind.

RULE 3: SUBMIT A PROGRAM PROPOSAL

A COMPLETE PROPOSAL INCLUDES:

1. Brief NARRATIVE (1-2 PARAGRAPH) description of the proposed project
2. BUDGET (SAMPLES TEMPLATE PROVIDED), and
3. Project Sustenance RISG Proposal FORM

Learn more about this membership program at a Question and Answer session on December 13th at 8pm virtually. Every Grange should have at least one representative on the call.

Two question and answer virtual open meetings for Granges to learn where to start and next steps.

1st Q&A, **December 13, 2025; 8pm** via Zoom

2nd Q&A, **January 4, 2026; 2pm** via Zoom



IMPORTANT DATES

DEGREE DAY:

May 30, 2026 (1st - 4th degrees)

PROGRAM REPORTS DUE AUGUST 31, 2026

to Kelly Riley; RISG Membership Director via email:

Statemembership@rigrange.org

All completed programs will be entered into RISG membership contests.

RETURN OF ANY UNSPENT GRANT FUNDS:

SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS for Community Granges, Pomona Granges, and individual Grangers will be presented at the RISG Celebration Banquet at State Session 2026; October 2026. Any junior awards will be presented at their award day. Awards will be given based on program reports, recommendations, and nominations.