

## **Forerunner Grant Program Overview**

Pilot Program June 1, 2025 to January 1, 2026

### **Forerunners Mission and Forerunners Values**

The Forerunners is a dynamic organization, and our mission is to represent the interests of retirees by providing fellowship, support, information and resources.

The Forerunners are launching a pilot program to support individual Chapters through dedicated grants. To facilitate this initiative, the Forerunners will set aside a designated budget amount specifically for Chapter Grants. This funding will be used to encourage innovative projects, strengthen community engagement, and support Chapter-led initiatives that align with the Forerunners' mission.

### **Budget Implementation for Chapter Grants**

The Forerunners will allocate (\$2,000) from the organizational funds to establish the Chapter Grants program for the pilot dating June 1, 2025 – January 1, 2026. Each Chapter will have an opportunity to apply for One Grant during the pilot period based on the guidelines set forth in the application process. Grant awards will be issued based on the availability of funds and the strength of the proposals received. After the pilot project is complete, the program's effectiveness and structure will be evaluated, and adjustments will be made based on feedback and outcomes.

### **Chapter Application Process**

Chapters are invited to submit grant applications to request funding for specific projects or initiatives. Applications should include the following:

- A description of the proposed project or initiative.
- Goals and expected outcomes.
- Budget estimates and use of funds.
- Timeline for implementation.

Grant applications will be reviewed based on relevance, feasibility, impact, and alignment with Forerunners' values. Applications shall be submitted by June 1, 2025 – November 28, 2025.

The Forerunners Grant Committee will review grant applications when received. Chapters will be notified of the committee's decision in a timely manner.

### **Pilot Year Evaluation**

At the conclusion of the pilot program, the Forerunners will conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the Chapter Grants program. This evaluation will consider the feedback from participating Chapters, outcomes of funded projects, and overall program effectiveness. Adjustments to the program's funding, guidelines, and application process will be made as needed to better serve the Forerunners Chapters.

## **Funding Sources & Member Investment**

1. Member Contributions & Fundraising  
Voluntary Donations – Retirees can make individual contributions toward specific chapter projects.
2. Membership Dues & Special Contributions – Allocating a portion of collected dues toward grant initiatives.
3. Cost-Sharing Initiatives  
Shared Member Payments – Splitting costs among attendees for meals, outings, or transport.  
Project-Specific Investments – Members contributing to projects they are directly involved in to reinforce a sense of ownership.

## **Suggested (but not limited to)**

### **Chapter Grant ideas for making initial connections with your Chapter**

#### **Personalized Invitations & Outreach**

- Handwritten Notes or Calls – A personal touch can make retirees feel valued and welcomed.
- Spotlight Stories – Feature retirees in newsletters or meetings, highlighting their experiences.
- Mentorship Opportunities – Pair new retirees with long-standing Chapter members to foster connections.

#### **Engaging & Interactive Events**

- Transportation to events. Combine with other Chapters to attend Forerunners Annual Luncheon. Help subsidize a portion of the luncheon cost.
- Skill-Sharing Workshops – Retirees can teach and learn new skills like photography, baking, or DIY crafts.
- Trivia & Game Nights – Host themed trivia nights or board game socials.
- Guest Speakers & Special Presentations – Invite local historians, authors, or experts for engaging talks.
- Legacy Projects – Encourage retirees to document and share their career experiences for future generations.

#### **Community & Social Initiatives**

- Chapter Challenges & Contests – Introduce friendly competitions (photo contests, recipe swaps, etc.).
- Walking or Fitness Groups – Organize weekly walks or exercise meetups to promote health and wellness.
- Intergenerational Projects – Connect retirees with younger generations through joint activities.

#### **Flexible Participation Options**

- Hybrid Meetings – Offer both in-person and virtual participation to accommodate preferences.
- Volunteer Recognition – Celebrate retirees who actively contribute through awards or acknowledgments.

#### **Grant Committee Members Contact Information**

Feel free to contact any Committee member, if you have any questions. We are here to assist you in the grant process!

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**Application and Evaluation forms are available on CE Retirees Website**

[www.consumersenergy.com/work-with-us/careers/retirement/retiree-news](http://www.consumersenergy.com/work-with-us/careers/retirement/retiree-news)

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