

SUNFLOWER GRANTS: Sunflower Seeds for Sharing

June 7, 2025

Manhattan, Kansas

PowerPoint Script:

Slide #1: Welcome to the Sunflower Grants seminar! Yesterday, after the business meeting, you were given a brief overview of the P.E.O. Sunflower Grants Project. During the next 45 minutes, we hope you learn more. The presenters today are the 2024-2025 Sunflower Grant Board of Trustees - Margaret Ogle, HW, Topeka; Dee Holman, IV, Great Bend; and I am Debby Brewer, Chapter GR, Olathe. Rita Nienstedt, AU, Ottawa, and KSC Past State President, also joins us in the audience.

Slide #2: Our goal today is to give you tangible “seeds” to take back to your chapters to help them see Sunflower Grants as more than a name under the heading “Projects.”

Slide #3: P.E.O.s have always been concerned for one another. Remember that our original chapter was formed because one friend was left out! (of sorority pledging).

Slide #4: In 1929, even in the middle of national and worldwide turmoil, Kansas State Chapter had the courage to suggest outreach and made a real commitment, not just words.

Slide #5: Do you know how your dues are distributed? We know that \$4.50 from each of us goes to help fund this convention and \$6.00 goes to Cottey College, but did any of you have any idea that from 1949-1969 \$1, went to fund a P.E.O. Home?

Slide #6: In 1968, the cost for the construction of new housing was \$25,000, which translates into \$228,000 today. And assets of \$208,000 would be \$1,741,269. Would that have been enough over 55 years to staff and maintain a home?

In our research for this presentation, we found that Iowa, Georgia, Texas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Missouri, Illinois, and Colorado all tried to establish and maintain a home. All those have closed, and funds are now used in a manner similar to Sunflower Grants.

Two states, Nebraska and Idaho, have been successful with their Homes. Nebraska has a 20-room assisted living facility in Beatrice, and Idaho has a P.E.O. Chapter House with four suites and a series of private cottages on the same grounds in Caldwell.

Slide #7: Times change. Money matters, and to make the best use of it, a non-profit status was necessary. Our sisters have always been good stewards, had kind, generous hearts, and open hands.

Slide#8: You belong! And every P.E.O. has a part in the Kansas P.E.O. Sunflower Corporation - as a member, a contributor, a sponsor, or maybe as an applicant.

Slide #9: The next series of slides illustrates the application you have as a handout. Please ask any questions you might have about any part of it. As my mother used to tell me, “The only silly question is the one you didn’t ask!”

Slide #10: So, who is eligible for a Sunflower Grant? Over the past several years, we have received inquiries regarding refugees who are temporarily living in Kansas or students who are attending a Kansas college or university. So, the first requirement is that they be a U.S. citizen AND a permanent resident of Kansas.

Slide #11: The first two pages of the application form are a checklist for both the sponsor and applicant. Two of the most important pieces of this list are the letter from the sponsor and the letter from the applicant, in which they each give us more personal details about their situation and needs.

Be sure each item is checked off before you submit the application to the Board. Pay special attention to the list at the bottom of page 1. Two important things to remember are: The Board will never contact the applicant directly, nor should the applicant contact the Board. And second, grants are never paid to the applicant but are paid directly to the business or vendor.

Slide #12: Page 2 of the application gives you the dates the applications are due and a reminder that the entire process can take several months, so if the applicant needs immediate assistance, they should contact other agencies. ANY QUESTIONS over these two pages?

Slide #13: Page 3 is the Sponsor Recommendation Form. Especially important is all the sponsor's contact information. Suggestions are given here as to what the sponsor's letter should include. ANY QUESTIONS?

Slide #14: Page 4 is the Grant Application form and is self-explanatory. The amount requested is highlighted and will need to be backed up with documentation. Several times, we have applicants requesting payment of several medical bills. It is helpful to have this summarized on a separate page, along with the name and address of all the different vendors. ANY QUESTIONS?

Slide #15: This is the first page of the financial information. At the bottom, it lists income (\$) per month and income (\$) per year, depending on how often the monies are received. For example, a bonus or commission might be given once a year rather than monthly. ANY QUESTIONS?

Slide #16: The second page of the financials lists the applicant's expenses, and most of those will be monthly. Giving us a yearly total as well can sometimes be an eye-opener for the applicant as to how much they are really spending, especially in areas that could be reduced, such as eating out. ANY QUESTIONS?

Slide #17: The sponsor and applicant submit all forms and supporting documents to the current Sunflower Board President, who then forwards them to all other members before the scheduled meeting. Encourage your applicant to submit the application as early as possible in case extra documentation is needed. The Sunflower Board President should contact the sponsor to let her know the documents have been received, so if you don't hear from her, give her a call.

Slide #18: No comment

Slide #19: Where does the money for grants come from? Individual or chapter donations, memorial gifts, and, we hope, after you take all these "seeds" back to your chapters, fundraisers.

Slide #20: Every dollar matters for all of us, and every charity, church, and conservancy vies for them. Many times, the immediate impact of a donation is delayed or deferred or never known. Your dollars to the Sunflower Grants produce immediate, important, and often life-changing results. Talk to your

chapter, your friends, your neighbors, your co-workers, your minister, community organizations - everyone! We want to help wherever we can.

Slide #21: (This slide lists several examples of how our grants have helped.)

Slide #22: I'll give you a moment to read and absorb this quote by one of our founders. We, the Board of Trustees, can provide the **love** in the form of grants, but you must provide the **action** by being aware of those around you in need and sponsoring them. Serving on the Sunflower Board is inspiring and heartwarming and sometimes heart-wrenching in the stories we hear. Thank you for letting us share with you today about Sunflower Grants.

Now, what other questions do you have for us?