

National VFW and National VFW Foundation have grant programs that are available to Posts, Auxiliaries, and Districts to ASSIST in funding various programs in the VFW. The grants are a great way for the Post, Auxiliary, or District to get some financial assistance for their community programs. HOWEVER, each grant program has eligibility rules and limitations on how much support you can obtain through the grant. There is a set amount of money in National's budget to support the grant programs and when the money is gone, then the grant program is over until the next budget year. There are limits on how much can be disbursed for an event in order to allow more Posts to take advantage of the grant programs. Generally, the grants are not intended to fund 100% of a project cost but to provide some assistance to lessen the burden on the Post, Auxiliary, or District.

Below are the various grant programs available through National VFW or National VFW Foundation. Also attached is FAQs, guidelines, and rules for the grants.

Programs

- **Military Assistance Grant**- up to \$5000 per membership year-Our **Military Assistance Program (MAP)** is the outstretched hand between the local VFW and military community, offering support around the world.

Since 2005, MAP has sponsored events supporting more than 3.4 million service members and their families.

A large part of MAP is the Adopt-a-Unit program, providing VFW Posts and their Auxiliaries the opportunity to adopt hundreds of military units around the world. Adopt-a-Unit's goal is to develop supportive relationships with units before, during and after deployments to help deliver the vast network of resources the VFW has available to the military. <https://www.vfw.org/community/troop-support>

Max per Post per year is \$5,000

Food cost is limited to \$5 per person for catered meal and \$4 per person if Post purchases and prepares the food

- **Unmet Needs Grant** -Unmet Needs is there to help America's military families who have run into unexpected financial difficulties as a result of deployment or other military-related activity or injury. The program provides financial aid grants of up to \$1,500 to assist with basic life needs in the form of a grant - not a loan - so no repayment is required. To further ease the burden, we pay the creditor directly.

The needs of our veterans, service members and their families should never go unmet. Let us offer you a hand up when you need it!

For additional information, and to see if you or someone you know qualifies for a grant through the Unmet Needs program, please visit <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants>

VFW Foundation

- The VFW Foundation is offering a total of three grants beginning in October 2022. All grants will operate on a reimbursement basis. Applicants will need to do a project and then submit an application with proof of how the funding was spent. Applicants are highly encouraged to contact the VFW Foundation prior to starting a project to ensure it qualifies. Detailed guidelines can be found on the application forms of each grant. Questions may be directed to jcouch@vfw.org.

I. #StillServing Grants – Applications Available at www.vfw.org/grants

1. Community Support Grant

This Community Support Grant is offered exclusively to VFW Posts and Auxiliaries to offset expenses incurred while doing a community service project. Districts, Departments, VFW subordinate organizations, etc. may not apply. Both a VFW Post and its Auxiliary can receive funding of up to \$1,500. Applicants are limited to one Community Support Grant award during the October 1, 2022 – June 1, 2023, cycle.

2. District Corporate Partnership Grant

The District Corporate Partnership Grant is offered exclusively to offset expenses related to the community service projects of VFW or VFW Auxiliary Districts that include substantive involvement of a VFW National corporate partner's local affiliate. Posts, Departments, VFW subordinate organizations, etc. may not apply. Applicants are limited to no more than \$1,500 in funding through the VFW District Corporate Partnership Grant award during the October 1, 2022 – June 1, 2023, cycle.

II. Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant – Applications Available at www.vfw.org/utch

1. Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant

The Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant is a matching grant of up to \$1,500 available to VFW Posts and Auxiliaries for monetary and food donations to local food banks and pantries in their communities. The VFW Foundation will provide a \$1 match for every pound of food or dollar donated to these organizations. A Post or its Auxiliary may receive this grant but not both. Applications will be accepted through December 19, 2022. The grant will likely return for a second offering in spring 2023.

Student Veteran Support Grant

- The VFW recognizes that both funding and support for our student veterans and dependents at institutions of higher learning, can often be difficult to find. The **VFW's Student Veteran Support Grant** offers much needed assistance to support specific student veteran events. The grant, administered by the VFW Washington Office, focuses on supporting the overall student veteran population within the community, which consists of many student veterans at campuses across the country that are not affiliated with an SVA chapter. The grants will be disbursed to a VFW Post or Department that has submitted an application, to support the student veterans at the university or college.

Grant Eligibility:

1. Applicants must be VFW members associated with an appropriate entity of the VFW (VFW Post, District, Department, or National).
2. Appropriate VFW Post, District, Department, or National leadership serve as the convening authority on the grant request and is responsible for receiving funds.
3. Funds must be utilized for events and outreach designed to assist and support veterans currently enrolled in institutions of higher learning.
4. Grants may be awarded up to \$500 to support each event, and grants can be awarded to a VFW entity twice each fiscal year, totaling up to \$1,000.

Link is here: <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support>

Application is here: <https://vfwprograms.formstack.com/forms/svagrantapplication>



Military Assistance Program Grant Guidelines

Purpose:

To provide financial assistance to VFW Posts/Depts. and Auxiliaries who sponsor events with their local military community. These funds are meant to build relationships and provide information on VFW programs and services.

How to apply for a MAP Grant:

1. Only a VFW or Auxiliary member may submit a MAP Grant Application.
2. The application must be signed and dated by the Post/Dept. Commander, Quartermaster or the Auxiliary President or Treasurer.
3. The grant is limited to basic food items and Non Alcoholic beverages for currently serving military and their family members only.
It does not cover equipment/venue rentals, gifts, decorations, entertainment, etc.
4. The grant does not cover public or formal events such as: Military Dining In/Out, Military Balls, Change of Command/Responsibility Ceremonies, etc.
5. The grant application must be submitted no earlier than 14 days prior to the event. Any exceptions to this must be submitted in writing to the Director VFW Programs for approval.
6. An After Action Report along with eligible receipts must be submitted within 14 days of the event. Non submission will result in the Dept./Post/Auxiliary being billed for the grant amount.
7. If the event receipts total less than the grant amount provided, the Dept./Post/Auxiliary will be required to refund the difference within 14 days.
8. If the event is cancelled a full refund is required. If rescheduled for a later date, a written explanation must be submitted to the MAP office detailing the new dates. It will be determined by the MAP office and VFW Program Director whether a refund will be requested or the Dept./Post/Auxiliary will be allowed to keep the grant amount.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
Office 816.756.3390
Fax 816.968.1157

WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Office 202.543.2239
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org
www.vfw.org

9. MAP Grants must be submitted through the following form:

[MAP Grant Application](#)

Note: Prior approval of similar events does not guarantee future approval. All applications must be signed and dated.

For any further questions or concerns please contact the MAP Office by phone at (816) 756-3390

Military Assistance Program Grant FAQ

What is a MAP Grant?

It is financial assistance given to a VFW Post or Auxiliary for troop support activities to build relationships and provide information to their local military about VFW programs and services.

Who can apply for a MAP Grant?

VFW Departments, Posts and Auxiliaries that desire to support their local military. The actual MAP application can only be submitted by a VFW or Auxiliary member and must be signed by the appropriate individuals which are specified in the MAP Grant Guidelines.

What kind of events can MAP Grant funds be used for

The most common events that we see include:

- Family Days, Picnics, BBQ's, Welcome Home and Deployment Ceremonies, Holidays and Festivals.

Note: MAP Grants cannot be used for Public Events and/or Formal Military events such as: Military Dining In/Out, Military Balls, Change of Command/Responsibility Ceremonies, etc.

What items can be purchased with MAP Grant funds?

Basic food and non-alcoholic beverages for currently serving military and their family members only.

Where do I get a MAP Grant Application?

The MAP Grant applications can be found behind the login on the VFW website at www.vfw.org. After logging in go to the My VFW tab and choose VFW Training and Support under the "General Member Tools & Resources" heading, then select Veterans & Military Support to find all of our resources.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
Office 816.756.3590
Fax 816.968.1157

WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
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Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org
www.vfw.org

When should I submit the MAP Grant Application?

Must be submitted no earlier than 14 days prior to the event.

How do I submit a MAP Grant?

MAP Grants must be submitted through the following form:

[MAP Grant Application](#)

For any further questions or concerns please contact the MAP Office by phone at (816) 756-3390

Unmet Needs Eligibility Criteria



The applicant is the service member, veteran, or eligible dependent listed under the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

The financial hardship must be due to one of the following:

- Currently on active duty, whose financial hardship is a result of a current deployment, military pay error, or from being discharged for medical reasons.
- Discharged on or after September 11, 2001, whose financial hardship is a direct result of your military service connected injuries and/or illnesses.
- Discharged prior to September 11, 2001, are on a fixed income that must include VA compensation for a service connected injury/illness and facing an unexpected financial hardship.

The financial hardship cannot be caused by:

- Civil, legal or domestic issues, misconduct, or any issues that are a result of spousal separation or divorce.
- Financial mismanagement by self or others, or due to bankruptcy.

All grants are paid directly to the creditor and not to the applicant. The applicant must provide the most current bills due. We will render payment for eligible current bills only.

Expenses Eligible for payment:

- Household expenses – mortgage, rent, repairs, insurance.
- Vehicle expenses – payments, insurance, repairs (major repairs for vehicles over ten years old will not be considered).
- Utilities.
- Children's school or childcare expenses.
- Medical bills, prescriptions & eyeglasses – the patient's portion for necessary or emergency medical care only.

Ineligible Expenses:

- Credit cards, military charge cards or retail store cards.
- Cable, Internet, or secondary phones.
- Cosmetic or investigational medical procedures & expenses.
- Taxes - property or otherwise.
- Furniture, electronic equipment or vehicle rentals.
- Any other expenses not determined to be a basic life need.

The eligible and ineligible expense lists are not all inclusive. Each case will be carefully reviewed for its own merits. Upon approval, payments will be made for you directly to the creditor. All applications are individually reviewed and the VFW reserves the right to make exceptions on a case-by-case basis. For more information, contact Unmet Needs at 1-866-789-6333.



Unmet Needs Program FAQ

What does the Unmet Needs Program do?

- Unmet Needs provides grants (not loans) and referrals to other organizations to active duty service members, veterans and their immediate families to assist with basic life needs.

Who is eligible to receive assistance?

The applicant must be the service member, veteran or eligible dependent listed under the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). The financial hardship must be due to one of the following:

- a) Currently on active duty, whose financial hardship is a result of a current deployment, military pay error or from being discharged for medical reasons.
- b) Discharged on or after September 11, 2001, whose financial hardship is a direct result of your military service connected injuries and/or illnesses.
- c) Discharged prior to September 11, 2001, are on a fixed income that must include VA compensation for service connected injuries/illnesses and facing an unexpected financial hardship.

Who is not eligible to receive assistance?

- Anyone who has not served in the military or the financial hardship is caused by one of the following:
 - a) Civil, legal or domestic issues, misconduct or any issues that are a result of spousal separation or divorce.
 - b) Financial mismanagement by self or others, or due to bankruptcy.

How can I contact the Unmet Needs Program?

- The Unmet Needs program is located in the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Headquarters in Kansas City.

Mailing Address:

Unmet Needs
Program 406 W.
34th Street Kansas
City, MO 64111

Toll Free Number: 866-789-6333

FAX Number: 816-968-2779

Email Address: unmetneeds@vfw.org

Website: www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants

How do I get an application for the Unmet Needs financial grant?

- The application can be found online at <http://www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants> by clicking the Unmet Needs online application (**Chrome is recommended for the online application**). Applications cannot be completed unless all required fields are met. Once the application is submitted a notification email will be sent to you with further information.

How does the Unmet Needs application process work?

- Once an application has been submitted, the Unmet Needs caseworkers review the application and contacts the applicant if necessary for any additional required documents or information. All expenses are verified with the creditors. Payments are sent directly to the creditor to ensure proper disbursement of funds.

What additional documents are needed for the Unmet Needs Program to process an application?

- All required documents are submitted with the online application and cannot be submitted without them. Depending on the situation, additional documentation may be requested by the Unmet Needs caseworker.

What kind of expenses does the Unmet Needs Program assist with?

- Unmet Needs assists with any expenses that are classified as “basic life needs”, which includes, but is not limited to the following: household expenses such as mortgage, rent, repairs, insurance, vehicle expenses such as payments, repairs, insurance, utilities and primary phone, school or childcare expenses, and medical bills, prescriptions and eyeglasses – the patient’s portion for necessary or emergency medical care only.

What kind of expenses does the Unmet Needs Program not assist with?

- Unmet Needs does not assist with any expenses that are not classified as “basic life needs”, which includes, but is not limited to the following: credit cards, military charge cards, or retail store cards, cable, internet, secondary phones, taxes – property or otherwise, furniture rentals, or any expense not determined to be a basic life need.

How long does the application process take?

- The applications are processed in the order in which they are received. It can take up to 20 business days to process an application once received.

What is the normal timeline for helping an individual through Unmet Needs?

- The length of time to process a request for assistance depends upon the information provided on the application and the amount of research conducted. After verification of the emergency from the service member and contacting creditors, a check is normally processed within 3 business days and an additional 5-7 business days for mailing of funds to the creditor.

How can I help?

- Contact your local VFW State Department or local VFW Post to let them know you’re here to help. You can also send a monetary donation to the VFW Foundation to support the Unmet Needs Program.

Donations can be made:

By mail:

VFW Foundation
406 West 34th Street, Ste.
920 Kansas City, MO 64111
Memo – Unmet Needs

Online:

Head to www.vfw.org/Contribute or click the direct link below:

<https://heroes.vfw.org/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=1993&ea.campaign.id=49903&ea.tracking.id=homepage>

By Phone:

Call the VFW Foundation office directly at 816-756-3390

Post and District Grants

For more than 11 decades, VFW Posts have been the pillars of support in their communities. From building local playgrounds and organizing clothing drives, to military support events and disaster relief efforts, we take great pride in our long history of service to communities across the globe. Read on for more information about the current grants we have available.

VFW Foundation leadership and staff are proud to assist VFW and VFW Auxiliary members with service projects that increase their members' impact upon their communities. The VFW Foundation is currently working to outline its grant offerings for the 2022-23 fiscal year. As we work hard to ensure your Post and Auxiliary has the support it needs, please check back with us later this fall for the release of new grant application forms and information.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact VFW Foundation Grant Manager Jason Couch at JCouch@vfw.org.

VFW #StillServing Community Support Grant

VFW #StillServing Community Support Grant has been designed to aid VFW Posts and Auxiliaries with projects that support, enrich and give back to their communities. Eligible applicants may apply for up to \$1,500 each through reimbursement for qualifying projects.

There are two qualifying project types for which an eligible applicant may be awarded funding:

- Community outreach projects operated directly by the Post or Auxiliary. Examples include but are not limited to: Hosting a PTSD stand down event, a clothing drive for unemployed veterans, maintaining Post owned vehicles that transport veterans to medical appointments, etc.
- Repairs or renovations to Post buildings outside of a canteen area. The grant application must clearly indicate how the repair/upgrade

allows the Post to better serve their community.

Applications for the VFW #StillServing Community Support Grant will be accepted through June 1, 2023, or until all grant funding is exhausted.

VFW #StillServing District Corporate Partnership Grant

The VFW #StillServing District Corporate Partnership Grant has been designed to support community service projects that involve a local branch or affiliate of a VFW National corporate supporter (e.g. BURGER KING®, Sport Clips, Walgreens, Humana, Ace Hardware, etc.) may be eligible to receive up to \$1,500 in grant funding. This grant is available to VFW and Auxiliary Districts.

Examples of eligible projects include:

- Hosting a community wellness event where representatives from Humana or Walgreens are present to provide information.
- Holding a fundraiser for Unmet Needs at a local BURGER KING® or Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship at a local Sport Clips location.
- Collaborating with a local Ace Hardware Store to place flags at veteran grave sites.

Applicants must demonstrate in their grant application how the corporate partner is working with them. This may be in the form of an email or letter from the corporate representative. Posts/Auxiliaries are encouraged to include pictures, copies of media coverage, screenshots of social media posts, etc. to demonstrate publicity received during the service project. For a list of eligible corporate supporters, please visit vfw.org/grants-supporters.

Applications for the VFW #StillServing District Corporate Partnership Grant will be accepted until June 1, 2023, or until all grant funding is exhausted.

How to Submit a Request for a #StillServing Grant

To apply for either of the VFW Foundation's #StillServing grants, simply click the apply now buttons under the grant listings above to access the applications. Completed application forms can be submitted along with proof of spending by email to jcouch@vfw.org, or by mail to: Jason Couch, Grants Coordinator, VFW Foundation, 406 W. 34th St., Suite 920, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Grant requests will be reviewed in the order they are received. Applicants can expect to be notified of a decision within 90 days of their request being received by the VFW Foundation. If the request has been approved, a check or notification of ACH (an electronic funds transfer) from the VFW Foundation will be included with a letter that is mailed shortly after review.

Grant funding is dependent on availability, and the applications will be removed from the website once all available funds have been exhausted or when the deadline of June 1, 2023, has passed.

PLEASE NOTE: #StillServing Grant Guidelines are general in nature, and the VFW Foundation reserves the right to amend, modify or waive these guidelines, in whole or in part, if the VFW Foundation deems it is in its best interest to do so. Final approval of grant awards and funding amounts are subject to exclusive determination and discretion of the VFW Foundation Board and its decisions are not subject to review.

If you have any questions about any of the information cited in this overview, please contact Grants & External Relations Coordinator Jason Couch at jcouch@vfw.org before applying.

Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant

Join us in our fight against food insecurity!

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the demand for food assistance has increased at an alarming rate. In response, the VFW is once again teaming up with Humana to mobilize donors and volunteers for the annual Uniting to Combat Hunger (UTCH) campaign. We are focusing our efforts on collecting monetary donations to Feeding America®, our nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization. We are challenging VFW Posts to support their local food banks by reaching out to their communities to collect cash donations. As an incentive, VFW Posts may be eligible to receive a matching grant of up to \$1,500!

Applications for the UTCH Grant will be accepted until funds are exhausted.

Please direct any questions you may have to jcouch@vfw.org.



UNITING TO COMBAT HUNGER (UTCH) GRANT FALL 2022

In 2018 the VFW joined forces with Humana to establish the Uniting to Combat Hunger (UTCH) campaign. As of October 2022, the initiative has raised the equivalent of more than 4 million meals to address food insecurity in America. To reward the efforts of VFW Posts and Auxiliaries that support the campaign, the VFW Foundation offers the Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant. Posts and Auxiliaries may qualify for an unrestricted grant by meeting the following criteria:

1. For every \$1 raised by a VFW Post/Auxiliary to support Uniting to Combat Hunger, the VFW Foundation will provide a \$1 match in the form of an unrestricted grant to the VFW/Auxiliary Post. A minimum of \$500 must be raised to qualify for the matching grant. An applicant may receive up to \$1,500 in UTCH grant funding.
2. For every pound of food donated to a food bank, food pantry or community kitchen, the VFW Foundation will provide a \$1 match. A minimum of 500 lbs. must be collected to qualify for the matching grant.
3. For every \$1 spent on food purchased to support a food pantry ran by the Post or Auxiliary, the VFW will provide a \$1 match. A minimum of \$500 must be spent to qualify and the applicant must prove that the food pantry has been operating for at least one year and show that it is sustainable.

Donations of food and financial contributions to UTCH may be combined in the grant application. For example, a VFW Post or Auxiliary that donates \$500 and 500 pounds of food to a food bank could receive a \$1,000 grant.

While not required to do so, applicants are strongly encouraged to partner with their local Humana associate(s) on UTCH activities.

UTCH GRANT GUIDELINES

1. UTCH grants are restricted to VFW Posts and Auxiliaries. Other VFW entities are not eligible to receive this grant. To qualify, a Post must be in good standing with the VFW National organization, meaning they have a fully completed election report on file, are not in financial arrears and are not on suspension.
2. Grants will be made to Posts or Auxiliaries for completing the following on or after July 1, 2022:
 - a. Making financial contributions to a local food bank, food pantry or community kitchen. If you donate to an organization that provides programs in addition to providing food, you must provide the VFW Foundation with a letter from them stating that your donation is restricted to their food pantry service. Applicants may alternatively donate through www.vfw.org/UTCH, or via check made out to VFW Foundation, designating UTCH in a cover letter or the memo portion of the check.
 - b. Donations of food may be made to any food bank, food pantry or community kitchen that provides meals or food to anyone seeking assistance regardless of their immutable characteristics or beliefs.
 - c. Purchasing food to distribute through an existing food bank operated by a Post or Auxiliary.
3. Only a VFW Post or its Auxiliary may receive this grant. For example, if a Post receives this grant its Auxiliary may not, if an Auxiliary receives this grant the VFW Post may not.

VFW FOUNDATION

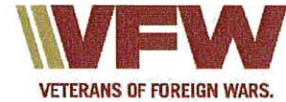
UNITING TO COMBAT HUNGER (UTCH) GRANT FALL 2022

4. The grant that the Post or Auxiliary receives from the Foundation may be utilized by the Post or Auxiliary for any purpose, so long as it is in accordance with VFW or Auxiliary by-laws. **The maximum amount for a UTCH grant back to the Post or Auxiliary is \$1,500.** A Post or Auxiliary may receive multiple grants during the year so long as the total amount awarded by the VFW Foundation does not exceed \$1,500.
5. **This is a retroactive grant; applicants will submit their requests after their projects have been completed.** VFW Posts and Auxiliaries must document financial contributions and volunteer hours; for example, a copy of the VFW Foundation receipt for the UTCH grant, photos or social media/news article screenshots of qualifying volunteer event, etc. The exact donation amount and number of volunteer hours must be specified on any such documentation. Supporting documentation must be provided at the time of submission.
6. The VFW Foundation reserves the right to make changes to the application procedure at any time.

Little Free Pantry Additional Funding Opportunity

The VFW Foundation will reimburse Posts/Auxiliaries for up to \$500 for constructing and establishing a little free food pantry at their Post home or local community center, providing food at no cost to the recipients. A Post/Auxiliary must provide receipts showing all expenses incurred in placing the pantry upon submitting their request. Please be advised that a grant awardee may receive no more than \$1,500 total in UTCH grant funding. For example, a Post could donate to a food bank totaling \$1,500 and receive \$500 for expenses incurred placing a little free pantry. However, if a Post donated \$1,500 to a local food bank, they could not receive any additional funding for also placing the little pantry. For design plans more information, please visit <https://www.littlefreepantry.org/>

Please see the next page for the application form. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Jason Couch at 816-968-1174 or at jcouch@vfw.org.



STUDENT VETERAN SUPPORT GRANT GUIDELINES

Purpose:

To provide financial assistance to VFW Posts, Departments and Auxiliaries who host or sponsor events in their community designed specifically to reach and support student veterans. These funds should be used to help build and foster community relationships and provide information on VFW programs and services. This grant is facilitated by VFW National Veterans Service to help promote partnership and outreach to nearly one million veterans currently enrolled on college campuses around the country.

How to apply for a Student Veteran Support Grant

The applicant will access and complete the online application at VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/SVAGrantApplication.

- Only a VFW member may submit a Student Veteran Support Grant Application on behalf of a VFW Post/District/Department.
- The online application must be authorized by the Post/District/Dept. Commander or Quartermaster
- The grant funds can and should be utilized to assist you directly with your event which could include, but are not limited to: Securing an event space, securing a guest speaker, providing snacks and refreshments, or having items available for distribution
- The grant application should be submitted **NO LATER THAN** 14 days prior to the event. Any exceptions to this must be submitted in writing to the Director, National Veterans Service for approval

An After Action Report (AAR) must be submitted to VFW National Veterans Service within 30 days after the event. Receipts are not required. However, a detailed breakdown of expenses should be included in the AAR.

If the event receipts total less than the grant amount provided, the Dept/Post/Auxiliary will not be required to refund the difference.

If the event is cancelled, the grant recipient must notify VFW National Veterans Service as soon as possible, and a full refund is required. However, if the event is rescheduled for a later date, a written explanation must be submitted to the Director, National Veterans Service detailing the new dates.

Note: Prior approval of similar events does not guarantee future approval. All applications must be signed and dated. For any further questions or concerns please contact the VFW Washington Office by phone at 202.608.8321.



Student Veteran Support Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the main purpose behind the Student Veteran Support Grant and what are we trying to accomplish?

A: The VFW and its partners are committed to fostering the relationship between nearly one million student veterans at local colleges and universities, and in local communities. The VFW stands ready to provide student veterans with support and resources to host an event focused on educating both their members and their communities on the topics that are of concern for veterans and their families. Collectively, we believe in gathering veterans and their families, community members and concerned citizens together, to connect in a positive environment.

GI Bill benefits are the most widely utilized benefits available to veterans. Moreover, veterans on college campuses have demonstrated an eagerness to not only organize but to lead in their communities while pursuing higher education. By supporting student veterans, the VFW has a unique opportunity to not only showcase the amazing work of our organization by offering support to campus activities, facilitating access to earned VA benefits, and awarding scholarship and fellowship opportunities, but the VFW can also harness this leadership potential to grow our organization for future generations of veteran leaders.

Q: Do I have to be a member of the VFW to be eligible to apply for the Student Veteran Support Grant?

A: Yes. Not only must you be a VFW member to apply for the Student Veteran Support Grant, but the event must be associated with an official entity of the VFW such as a VFW Post, District, or Department and approved by the appropriate authority (eg: Post Quartermaster, District Commander, etc.).

Q: Where can I find the application and more information about the program?

A: The application can be found on the VFW website using the following link: VFWprograms.formstack.com/forms/SVAGrantApplication. You can also find the report form, FAQ and other resources on the Student Veteran Support Grant webpage.

Q: Is there a timeline of when the event we are applying for must take place?

A: There is no timeline of when the event should be completed but keep in mind that it can take approximately 2-3 weeks to receive, approve and process the grant applications for payment. The grant application should be submitted **NO LATER THAN** 14 days prior to the event.

Q: If approved, what can the grant funds be utilized for?

A: The grant funds should be utilized to assist you directly with your event which could include but are not limited to: Securing an event space, securing a guest speaker, providing snacks and refreshments, or having items available for distribution.

Q: Will we be required to provide receipts for the grant funds utilized during our Student Veteran Support event?

A: No, you are not required to provide receipts but should provide a detailed breakdown when completing your required post-event report.

Q: Where can I find the required post-event report?

A: The report can be found on the VFW Student Veteran Support webpage at vfw.org/StudentVeteran. This report should be submitted to VFW National Veterans Service within 30 days after the event has been completed.

Q: Are we required to partner up with the VFW or any other VSO for the event?

A: Yes, you are required to partner with a local VFW Post, District or Department. The proper authority of this entity must approve the event prior to application. Partnering in this way will ensure your event can be as successful as possible.

Q: Are we allowed to use the VFW name, logo and programs during the event as resources/promotion tool?

A: Any use of the VFW name and logo should be approved through VFW Washington Office prior to the event, but we encourage using our organization's brand and branded resources whenever possible.

Q: Will the VFW have any promotional tools or program information that we can request for our event?

A: Yes, the VFW has brochures, flyers, business cards available upon request through your local VFW Post, District or Department, but quantities may be limited.

Q: If approved for the grant how much will we receive and by what payment means?

A: The VFW Student Veteran Support Grant is a maximum of \$500 and will be paid via direct deposit directly to the entity hosting the event (eg: VFW Post/District/Department). ACH is the preferred method of payment, but a check can be issued if necessary. Check processing does take longer so keep that in mind when planning your event. All information needed to process the disbursement will be provided to the applicant upon approval of their application. Payment will not be made to individual VFW members.

Q: How often can we apply for the Student Veteran Support Grant?

A: The VFW Student Veteran Support Grant can be applied for twice in one fiscal year. The maximum dollar amount awarded in one fiscal year is \$1,000. We encourage you to visit our website at vfw.org to stay up to date on the latest programs and opportunities available.

Q: Are we required to use the grant funds for the same event or multiple events?

A: No, the grant funds can be utilized for multiple events. Ensure that you are completing the post-event report form for each event and providing a breakdown of how the grant funds were used.

Q: When is the deadline for the grant application?

A: Currently there is not a deadline for the application. Only a limited number of grants will be provided so ensure that you are submitting your application as soon as possible.

Q: Do you have any examples of events that we can conduct that would assist in our planning process?

A: Yes, please see the list below of event examples. The VFW encourages Student Veteran Support to “think outside the box” in creating events to initiate the discussion on campus or in the community on veteran issues and resources. Events do not need to focus solely on the veterans’ community, but should portray veterans as leaders in the veteran advocacy space.

Example Events:

- Have a walk, run or road march or any physical activity/sporting event which culminates with a gathering to discuss veteran concerns and resources
- Provide a guest speaker or participate in a town hall meeting
- Conduct a clean-up or community service event with a gathering afterwards to discuss veteran concerns
- Participate in a partnered event with local first responders
- Partnered event with other campus groups or military veterans outreach group to start community discussion on veteran issues
- Have a campus-led volunteer event at local VA health care facility
- Open-invitation cook-out/BBQ to promote the “Five Signs” of emotional stress and highlighting mental health resources

The VFW reserves the right to determine other qualifying factors based on individual proposals. Certain kinds of events that we will **not** consider include, but are not limited to:

- Beer bashes/private parties or other events that promote substance abuse or alcohol consumption
- Politically motivated events
- Events not inclusive to the campus community or the community in which you reside.