



Elks National Veterans Service Commission 2017-18

WELCOME HOME GRANTS

Every night, more than 47,000 veterans are living on the streets. Each with a different story, they all shared a common pledge: to support and defend this country. The Elks have partnered with the VA to end veteran homelessness and ensure every veteran has a safe, stable home.

To do that, we need your help! The Department of Veterans Affairs has asked the Elks the focus on serving homeless veterans in key urban areas, where the need and the number of homeless veterans is highest.

Lodges near the urban areas list at right are eligible for Welcome Home Grants of up to \$2,500. These grants can be used to prevent homelessness, assist previously homeless veterans to adjust, and help veterans exit homelessness. There are many options for potential projects, and interested Lodges should contact the ENVSC office for lists of local needs and to be put in touch with potential partners in your area.

Applications become available online July 1, 2017, and are due March 31, 2018 at 11:59 P.M. Central Time. Applications will be approved on a rolling basis.

Welcome Home Grants are only available to Lodges in and surrounding these 8 cities.

- Chicago, IL
- Washington, D.C.
- New York, NY
- San Francisco, CA
- Los Angeles/Loma Linda, CA
- San Diego, CA
- Seattle, WA
- Miami, FL

Here are some examples of projects.

- Pack Welcome Home Kits for veterans moving into new homes. Hold a supply drive to gather common household items. Involve churches, schools, community groups and more to spread the word.
- Help veterans buy beds and other furniture for their new home.
- Hold budgeting and/or home-owning classes for veterans who aren't used to living on their own. Help veterans search for jobs in the community, and buy work clothes.
- Hold a housing fair for local veterans, and speak with local landlords about the benefit of renting to veterans.

Application Questions:

- Describe your Lodge's Welcome Home Grant project. How will your Lodge be addressing the issue of veteran homelessness?
- Which VA facility and/or local organization(s) will you be partnering with on this project?
- How will Elks be meaningfully involved in this project?
- What does the Lodge expect to accomplish with this project?

A budget is required. Welcome Home Grant applications are online only. Paper applications will not be accepted.

Visit www.elks.org/vets/welcomehome.cfm for more information.
Questions? Contact the Veterans Service Commission at 773/755-4812 or Vets@elks.org.