



Elks National Veterans Service Commission 2020-21

FOCUS GRANTS

Every night, more than 40,000 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 areas, where the need and the number of homeless veterans is highest.

Lodges in and around the 8 cities listed at right are eligible for Focus Grants of up to \$10,000. Grants can be used to prevent homelessness, assist previously homeless veterans to adjust, and help veterans exit homelessness.

Applications become available online April 1, 2020 and are due December 31, 2020 at 11:59 P.M. Central Time.

Grants are competitive and will be awarded to Lodges with the intention of spreading resources equally to each area. Please work together with Lodges in your region to coordinate outreach and work together.

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.
- Host weekly meals and regular events for veterans at local transitional housing facilities.

Application Questions:

- Describe your Lodge's Focus Grant project. How will your Lodge be addressing the issue of veteran homelessness? Be specific.
- Which VA facility and/or local organization(s) will you be partnering with on this project? We encourage partnerships, but please remember that Focus Grant funds may not be donated.
- How will Elks be meaningfully involved in this project? How many Lodge members will participate and what will they do?
- What does the Lodge expect to accomplish with this project? How will this project improve the lives of the veterans you are serving?
- A detailed budget is also required.

Applications must be detailed, comprehensive, and include information about how your Lodge members will be actively involved in the project. Budgets must be as exact as possible.

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

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