



ENVSC FOCUS GRANTS

Every night, as many as 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 pledged to help end veteran homelessness, and ensure that every veteran has the safe, stable home they deserve. Apply for a Focus Grant to join us in the fight against veteran homelessness!

The VA has asked the Elks to put a special focus on the 8 areas with the highest number of homeless veterans. These areas are listed below.

Lodges in and around these 8 cities are eligible for Focus Grants of between \$5,000 and \$10,000 (in addition to other resources like Lodge Grants and Welcome Home Kits).

**Chicago ♦ New York ♦
Seattle ♦ Washington, D.C.
♦ Miami-Dade ♦ San Diego ♦
Los Angeles ♦ Loma Linda**

Focus Grant Overview

Focus Grants can be used to prevent homelessness, help veterans exit homelessness, or to assist previously homeless veterans to adjust. Focus Grant projects must be Elks-led. They cannot be donations of funds or supplies to other organizations. Active involvement from the members of the Lodge applying is required.

Application Process

Applications become available online April 1, 2020 and will be awarded on a rolling basis through December 31, 2020 or until are grant funds awarded.

- Projects must focus exclusively on ending veteran homelessness and grants will be awarded to Lodges that submit detailed, thorough applications for Elks-run projects that directly serve veterans who are exiting homelessness, at risk of homelessness, or experiencing homelessness.
- Focus Grants must be Elks-led, and Lodge members must be involved in the project.
- Grants are competitive, and applications must be thorough. This is a large-scale project, and the application should reflect that.
- Projects must be practical and results-oriented. Good intentions are just the beginning. Show us that you have a plan.
- Grants are competitive and will be awarded with the intention of spreading resources equitably to each area. Realistically, each area will receive approximately 5 Focus Grants.
 - If you are partnering with other Lodges in your area on projects, it may be best to coordinate outreach and work together to decide which Lodges will take the lead in actively running projects in their area.

Budgets

Lodges may apply for between \$5,000 and \$10,000. This is a large sum of money. Budgets and budget narratives must reflect that your Lodge has given this project serious consideration and has a clear idea of how the funds will be spent. If your Lodge has run this project before, the budget should reflect and include realistic estimates of costs.

Restrictions: Focus Grants cannot: directly benefit Elks members or Lodge employees; be used to purchase land or buildings for an Elks Lodge, or improve, repair, renovate or expand current Lodge buildings or property in any way; be a donation of funds or supplies to another organization; pay salaries or personnel costs for another organization; establish or increase a foundation, trust or interest-bearing account; fund a one-time item purchase, such as a vehicle or large piece of equipment; be a small part of a large community capital campaign fund.

Focus Grant applications and Final Reports are accessible through the grants dashboard. Visit elks.org/vets for more information. Questions? Contact the ENVSC at 773/755-4736 or Vets@elks.org.