



## Elks National Veterans Service Commission 2017-18

# 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 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 Focus Grants (aka Welcome Home Grants) of up to \$4,500. 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 May 31, 2018 at 11:59 P.M. Central Time. Applications will be approved on a rolling basis.

**Focus 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 Focus Grant projects.

- Quarterly food baskets and ongoing support for newly housed veterans.
- Furnishing and monthly activities for veterans at a newly established veterans shelter.
- Furniture, beds and home supplies for veterans moving into new homes.
- Hold budgeting and/or home maintenance classes for veterans who aren't used to living on their own.
- Resume-building and job searching classes for 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 also required.

Visit [www.elks.org/vets/welcomehome.cfm](http://www.elks.org/vets/welcomehome.cfm) for more information.

Questions? Contact the Veterans Service Commission at 773/755-4812 or [Vets@elks.org](mailto:Vets@elks.org).