

## WELCOME HOME

When veterans transition into permanent housing, they often start with a blank slate. Welcome Home Kits are a great way to provide cleaning supplies, bedding, small appliances, and kitchen items that will help veterans be prepared and feel comfortable in their new homes. The ENVSC has a [great guide](#) to this program.



### PROJECT OVERVIEW

Elks can help veterans establish their homes by building Welcome Home Kits. Generally, this kit would include some small furniture, kitchenware and cleaning supplies. Items can be new or gently used, donated or purchased.



### STEP 1

#### Find Veterans in Your Area

Look for local veteran housing programs that will refer your Lodge to veterans moving into new homes. Find out if you will be able to deliver supplies directly to the veterans, or if you'll need to distribute kits through your partner organization. Every V.A. Medical Center has at least one person on staff who focuses on veterans experiencing homelessness, and larger V.A.s have distinct Housing and Urban Development departments to provide specific support services to this population. Many cities also have CRRCs, which are resource centers for veterans seeking housing assistance. Don't forget about independent nonprofit organizations that serve veterans, like Volunteers of America or Salvation Army.



### STEP 2

#### Make it a Success

Secure a place to store household items you're collecting for donation. Consider if you'll need to rent a truck or find volunteer Elks to transport large items. If your plan exceeds \$2,000, consider making additional kits and submitting the receipts for reimbursement through the [ENVSC Welcome Home Kit Program](#).



### STEP 3

#### Make it Your Own

When it's time to deliver the kits, throw a housewarming party for the veterans. If the kit recipients are anonymous, create hand written letters of appreciation to include with the donated items. Establish an [Adopt-A-Veteran program](#) with your Lodge to offer continuing support for veterans in their new homes. When building kits, keep the recipients in mind. Each veteran may have special requests (a radio, a coffee maker, sheets for a child's bed, etc.).

## WATCH!



View [Hopkins, Minn. Lodge No. 2221's Welcome Home video](#) for ideas!