

# STAND DOWN



Red Wing, Minn.,  
Lodge No. 845

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

Stand Downs are one- to three-day events coordinated by local VA medical centers and other organizations to offer various services and resources, such as clothing, health screenings, dental care, and benefits counseling for veterans experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity.



### STEP 1 Get Started

If there's already a Stand Down event in your community, this is your Lodge's opportunity to get involved in a big way. Reach out to the Stand Down point of contact to get started. If your community does not hold a Stand Down, create one!

To qualify for funding, Elks must be actively involved in volunteering at the Stand Down, and funds should be used to provide vital supplies or services for veterans. For example, Elks can actively support dental services by volunteering to set up the area, scheduling appointments, or providing kits with dental hygiene supplies to veterans.



### STEP 2 Make it a Success

Do your research! Talk to other volunteers about what they've learned from participating in past Stand Downs. Keep in mind that some items, like dress shirts or extra-large clothing, are donated less frequently.



### STEP 3 Make it Your Own

Distribute supplies in a reusable backpack or tote bag with your Lodge's name on it. To offer continued support, include invitations to meals or other events that your Lodge will provide for veterans.