

WELCOME HOME



PROJECT OVERVIEW

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



STEP 1 Get Started

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 VA medical center has at least one person on staff who focuses on veterans experiencing homelessness, and larger VA facilities 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 the Salvation Army.



STEP 2 Make it a Success

Secure a place to store the 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 \$2,500, 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, hand write 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.