



Elks National Veterans Service Commission 2024-25

FOCUS GRANT GUIDELINES

Every night, thousands of veterans are experiencing homelessness. The Focus Grant is part of our pledge to end veteran homelessness and ensure that every veteran has the safe, stable home they deserve.

Lodges in and around the 12 cities listed at right can apply for a Focus Grant of between \$5,000 and \$10,000 (in addition to other resources like Lodge Grants and Welcome Home Kits).

Focus Grant Overview

Focus Grants can be used to prevent homelessness, help veterans exit homelessness, or 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, 2024 and will be awarded on a rolling basis. It is advantageous to apply earlier in the year. The application will remain open until June 30, 2024 (or until all grant funds have been awarded).

- Projects must focus exclusively on ending veteran homelessness. Grants will be awarded to Lodges that submit detailed, thorough applications for projects that directly serve veterans who are exiting homelessness, at risk of homelessness, or experiencing homelessness.
- Projects must be Elks-led, and members of the Lodge must be actively involved in the project.
- Grants are competitive, and applications must be thorough. This is a large-scale, ongoing project, and the application should reflect that. Please clearly explain how your Lodge members will be involved, and provide a detailed budget.
- We recommend working with a partner. Possible partners include VA shelters, Community Resource and Referral Centers, and nonprofits such as Volunteers of America, Salvation Army or Catholic Charities.
- Grants will be awarded with the intention of spreading resources equitably to each area. Realistically, each area will receive approximately 5 Focus Grants.
- You are welcome to partner with other Lodges in your area. But remember, the Lodge that submits the application is responsible for being actively involved, submitting reports and ensuring all funds are spent in accordance with guidelines.
- Projects must be practical and results-oriented. Good intentions are just the beginning. Show us that you have a plan.

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 that 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; pay for infrastructure, renovations, or repairs 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.

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