

# FOCUS GRANTS



ENDING VETERAN  
HOMELESSNESS



# BACKGROUND



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Part of the Welcome Home Program

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Pledge to help end veteran homelessness

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Available in 12 areas with highest need

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Adding Phoenix- and Tampa/Orlando-area Lodges

# THE BASICS



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Funds must be used exclusively to serve homeless veterans

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Large-scale, Elks-led projects

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\$5,000 to \$10,000 grants

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Competitive grants; want to distribute funding equally across the 12 areas

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Application open April 1 through June 30

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Mid-year and Final Report Forms required





# A Focus Grant Project Must Be:

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- **Active:** Engage directly with veterans. No monetary donations, no gift cards.
- **Elks-led:** Lodge members plan and execute project. Adding a service, not sustaining an existing project.
- **Large-scale:** Cohesive and ongoing projects. No one-time events.

# Working with a Community Partner

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- Community partners are the experts on local needs and can connect you to veterans who need your help.
- Common partners:
  - **Department of Veterans Affairs:** HUD-VASH departments, housing facilities for formerly homeless veterans, CRRCs, Vet Centers
  - **National non-profits:** i.e. Volunteers of America, U.S. Vets, Catholic Charities, YMCA
  - **Local** veterans shelters and housing facilities for formerly homeless veterans





# Working with Another Lodge

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- You may partner with another Lodge in your area.
- **Important:** The Lodge that submits the application is responsible for managing funds, following all grant guidelines, and submitting Mid-year and Final Report Forms.
- Consider having each Lodge apply for a smaller grant and controlling the funds separately.

# Project Examples

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- Buy furniture and home supplies for newly housed veterans.
- Stock a food pantry with weekly or monthly volunteer shifts for Lodge members.
- Provide quarterly food boxes and teach cooking classes.
- Help veterans practice home management skills, such as budgeting or paying bills online.
- Distribute seasonal essentials to veterans living on the street.
- Host regular outings or social events onsite at your community partner.
- Host quarterly job support fairs (applying for jobs, mock interviews, shopping for work clothes).

# Application Process

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## Be prepared to Tell Us:

- The details of your project, how many veterans you will serve, and how you will address veteran homelessness.
- Which community partner you will work with and how you will work together.
- Whether you will partner with another Lodge and how you will divide responsibilities.
- How you will engage with and directly serve veterans.
- How your project will make a difference in the lives of the veterans you serve.
- How you will spend the money. Provide a detailed budget breakdown and a budget narrative that explains how each cost relates to the project needs.



# Things to Remember

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- **Consider your volunteer capacity.** Don't be afraid to start small. \$5k applications are common.
- **This is a large grant.** The application looks similar to other grants but requires a heightened level of detail and planning.
- **Expect feedback.** It's common for us to ask follow-up questions. We're here to help, and feedback is a resource to make your project plan even stronger!



# ASK YOUR QUESTIONS!

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To contact the ENVSC office,  
call (773) 755-4736 or email [Vets@elks.org](mailto:Vets@elks.org).