



Welcome Home Kit Partnerships

A Welcome Home Kit is made up of an array of home supplies provided to a veteran moving into a new home, to help them with day-to-day living. Many Lodges will partner with the VA or a nonprofit organization to connect with veterans. This is great! Partner organizations are a great resource for getting referrals for veterans in your community.

If your Lodge chooses to partner with another organization to provide kits to veterans, all program guidelines remain the same. It is up to your Lodge to explain the strict parameters of the program, and ensure a true partnership is taking place.

Here are a few things to keep in mind when forming and maintaining Welcome Home Kit partnerships.

- Kits must still be made for individual veterans and tailored to their needs. Try to find a way to personalize the kit by giving a veteran a printout where they can choose what they need or list special requests (like a coffeemaker or toaster oven).
- If you are donating standardized kits to a project partner, please identify the kits as being provided by the Elks. You can put stickers on the box or include a printed sign on the basket of supplies. You can include a note along with the kit so that the veteran knows the Elks are providing this support, and can even contact your Lodge for further help.
 - Your project partner may be willing to take credit for the support that you are providing. It's your job to make sure that the veteran knows the Elks are helping to support them.
- Make sure your partner organization will only be providing kits for veterans. Due to the design and mission of the program, we will only be able to assist veterans and their immediate families.
- Kits must be well-rounded and contain a variety of supplies; receipts for \$300 worth of several of the same items will not be accepted, even if requested by your partner.
 - **Bulk donations to a supply pantry or veterans closet do not qualify for the Welcome Home Kit program.** These types of pantry supply projects are perfect for Freedom Grants or Community Investments Program grants.
 - If you cannot clearly and honestly state exactly how many kits you provided when completing the reimbursement form, then it very likely does not qualify for this program.



For the complete guidelines, visit elks.org/vets or contact the ENVSC Office at vets@elks.org or 773.755.4736.