



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Jr Vice Commander / Adjutant -Quartermaster Conference

#StillServing Grants
VFW Foundation

By Richard Potter

October 2021

VFW Foundation



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Background: Community Support Grant

- VFW Foundation has granted approximately \$2.5 million since 2015 to support VFW Post and Auxiliary community service activities
- Historically, grants of up to \$1,000 were awarded
- VFW Posts and Auxiliaries often collaborate on grant applications, for example:
 - VFW Post + VFW Auxiliary @ \$1,000 each, total of \$2,000 for a collaborative community service project
 - Three VFW Posts @ \$1,000 each, total of \$3,000 for a collaborative community service project

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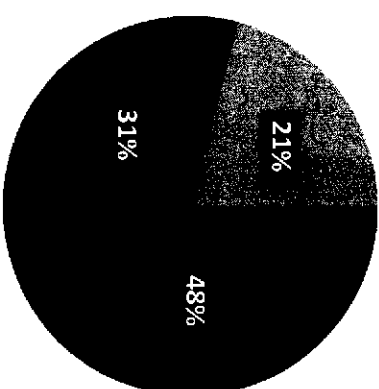


FY 2020 Community Support Grant

\$379,719 total awarded

- ✓ \$80,600 for Post building repair/improvement projects
- ✓ \$119,325 for materials, supplies, and maintenance related to direct services (e.g. homeless veterans stand down day, VA shuttle van)
- ✓ \$179,794 for local nonprofit services/projects (e.g. Boy Scouts, food pantries, sports equipment for local schools)

Requests by Type



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FY2021 VFW Post Pandemic Relief Grant

- The Covid-19 pandemic severely impacted many VFW Posts in their ability to cover operating expenses through conventional means.
- To help ease the financial burden, in FY 2021 the VFW Foundation earmarked \$680,000 in funding for the VFW Foundation Post Pandemic Relief Grant (PPRG).
- In December 2020 the VFW supplemented the PPRG budget with an additional \$320,000

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FY 2021 VFW Post Pandemic Relief Grant

- When the PPRG grant program ended in March 2021, the VFW Foundation had awarded \$1,000,000 to more than 400 VFW Posts
- Funding for the PPRG was made possible by temporarily suspending the VFW Foundation Community Support Grant.

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FY 2022 VFW Foundation Grants

- \$750,000 budget approved by VFW Foundation Board on Sep 13, 2021
- \$500,000 for the “new & improved” Community Support Grant, re-branded as the **VFW Foundation #StillServing Grants**
- \$200,000 for Uniting to Combat Hunger Grants

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#StillServing Community Support Grant

- Maximum grant: \$1,000
- Grant may fund a service project facilitated by the Post/Auxiliary and/or financial support for a local organization
- Limited funds available for Post building repairs/upgrades

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#StillServing Corporate Partnership Grant

- Maximum grant: \$1,500
- Must involve a local branch/affiliate of a VFW National corporate supporter (Burger King, Sport Clips, Humana, Ace Hardware, etc.)
- Application must indicate how corporate partner is collaborating with Post/Auxiliary

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#StillServing Community Volunteerism Grant

- Community service volunteer hours count toward unrestricted grant to Post/Auxiliary
- Service project must involve a community partner (YMCA, Scouts, American Red Cross, etc.)
- Each volunteer hour = \$1 in grant funding; minimum 500 hours required to apply
- Maximum grant: \$1,000 (may be used for any purpose, so long as it is in accordance with VFW/Auxiliary by-laws)
- Application must indicate how community partner is collaborating with Post/Auxiliary

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#StillServing Grants

- Posts and Auxiliaries may apply for any or all of the three grants during the fiscal year
- Maximum funding a Post or Auxiliary can receive is \$3,500 in #StillServing grant funds in FY2022

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Background: Uniting to Combat Hunger

- In 2018 the VFW joined forces with Humana and Feeding America® to establish the Uniting to Combat Hunger campaign.
- As of September 2021 the initiative has raised the equivalent of more than 2 million meals to address food insecurity in America.
- Beginning October 1, 2021, Uniting to Combat Hunger will sharpen its focus to address food insecurity among military families and veterans.
- To reward the efforts of VFW Posts and Auxiliaries that support the campaign, the VFW Foundation has established the Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant.

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Uniting to Combat Hunger Grants (UTCH)

- \$200,000 budgeted for FY2021
- For every \$1 raised by a VFW Post/Auxiliary to support UTCH, the VFW Foundation will provide a \$1 match in the form of an unrestricted grant to the VFW/Auxiliary Post.
- A minimum of \$500 must be raised to qualify for the grant.
- For every hour that VFW Post/Auxiliary members volunteer to address food insecurity in their communities, the Foundation will

Uniting to Combat Hunger Grants (UTCH)

- UTCH grants may be utilized by the Post or Auxiliary for any purpose, so long as it is in accordance with VFW or Auxiliary By-laws.
- The maximum amount for a UTCH grant back to the Post or Auxiliary is \$5,000.
- This is a retroactive grant; applicants will submit their requests after their projects have been completed.

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#StillServing and UTCH Grants Application Process

- Applications available to download at www.vfw.org/grants
- Application review began October 1, 2021; remains open until funds are depleted
- Questions regarding the grant may be directed to Jason Couch:
 - email jcouch@vfw.org
 - phone 816-968-1174



QUESTIONS?

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