



VFW Foundation #StillServing Grants 2021-22 Overview and Application Process

VFW Foundation leadership and staff are proud to assist VFW and VFW Auxiliary members with service projects that increase their members' impact upon their communities. For the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the VFW Foundation has budgeted \$500,000 in grant funding to support and encourage VFW Post and Auxiliary community service projects.

The FY 2022 grant cycle opens on Oct. 1, 2021; please note that applications will not be accepted before that date. The grant cycle ends on July 31, 2022, or when all funding has been disbursed. Both a VFW Post and its Auxiliary may receive funding during the grant cycle. Posts and Auxiliaries are encouraged to apply early, as funding is often exhausted by early spring.

Eligibility

These grants are exclusively available to VFW Posts and Auxiliaries for qualifying service projects. VFW Districts, Departments, VFW subordinate organizations, etc. are not eligible to apply. VFW Posts and Auxiliaries that wish to apply must be in good standing with VFW National, meaning they must not be suspended, in financial arrears or have a deficient election report. The applicant must also be current on reports due to the VFW Foundation for grants received during previous years.

Multiply Your Community Impact

Applicants are encouraged to make the biggest impact possible through this grant opportunity. As such, up to four VFW Posts or Auxiliaries may pool their requests for a single project. For example, a community may be planning a significant event to honor veterans around Memorial Day or Veterans Day. Up to four Posts and/or Auxiliaries in the community could pool their resources and grant funds to support the event with volunteers and financial support. One Post or Auxiliary member must serve as the contact point for the project as funding will be provided to each Post or Auxiliary separately and the point person will need to ensure proper stewardship of grant funds. The point person will also be responsible for providing a grant report for each of the Posts/Auxiliaries.

Grant Funding Restrictions

Grant funds cannot be used to cover expenses related to required, official VFW activities such as Patriot's Pen/Voice of Democracy scholarships, purchase of Buddy Poppies, donations to VFW National or Department Service Officer programs, etc.

Grant funds cannot be used to support organizations that solely benefit members of a particular race or religion, for-profit companies, or individuals. Nor can this grant be used to support political causes or candidates.

VFW FOUNDATION

400 W. 74th Street Office: 313.438.1128
Kansas City, MO 64114 Fax: 313.438.1789

Established by Act of
Congress, 1922

#StillServing Grant Program Types

There are three options for Posts/Auxiliaries to apply for funding. Posts/Auxiliaries may submit one application for each option during the 2021-22 grant cycle, for a total of three grant applications. The maximum a single Post or Auxiliary may receive in #StillServing Grants funding during the 2021-22 grant cycle is \$3,500. Applicants are encouraged to find creative ways to collaborate with community partners and local affiliates of VFW's national corporate partners. Such engagement strengthens the VFW's relationships at national, regional, and local levels, and therefore strengthens our ability to aid veterans, military members, and their families. NOTE: For food insecurity related projects, please utilize the [Uniting To Combat Hunger grant application](#).

1. VFW #StillServing Community Support Grant

Eligible applicants may apply for up to \$1,000 each. There are three qualifying project types for which an eligible applicant may be awarded funding:

1. Community outreach projects operated directly by the Post or Auxiliary. Examples include but are not limited to: Hosting a PTSD stand down event, a clothing drive for unemployed veterans, maintaining Post owned vehicles that transport veterans to medical appointments, etc.
2. A financial or in-kind donation to a nonprofit located within 25 miles of the Post or Auxiliary's address. The mission of the recipient organization does not need to be military or veteran-related so long as they serve your community. Examples include: A cash donation to support a local Boys & Girls Club; a donation of athletic equipment to a local YMCA; etc.
3. Limited grant funds are available for repairs or upgrades to Post buildings. The grant application must clearly indicate how the repair/upgrade allows the Post to better serve the community.

2. VFW #StillServing Corporate Partnership Grant

Community service projects that involve a local branch or affiliate of a VFW National corporate supporter (e.g. Burger King, Sport Clips, Walgreens, Humana, Ace Hardware, etc.) may be eligible to receive up to \$1,500 in grant funding. Examples of eligible projects include:

- Hosting a community wellness event where representatives from Humana or Walgreens are present to provide information.
- Holding a fundraiser for Unmet Needs at a local Burger King or Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship at a local Sport Clips location.
- Collaborating with a local Ace Hardware Store to place flags at veteran grave sites.

Applicants must demonstrate in their grant application how the corporate partner is working with them. This may be in the form of an email or letter from the corporate representative. Posts/Auxiliaries are encouraged to include pictures, copies of media coverage, screenshots of social media posts, etc. to demonstrate publicity received during the service project. For a list of eligible corporate supporters, please visit vfw.org/grants-supporters.

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3. VFW #StillServing Community Volunteerism Grant

Volunteer hours logged by VFW Posts and Auxiliaries may receive up to \$1,000 in unrestricted grant funds to be used to support VFW Post operating expenses. Each volunteer hour equates to \$1 in grant funding, and a minimum of 500 hours is required. To be eligible, the volunteer hours must have been applied toward a service project that involved a community partner such as YMCA, Scouts, American Red Cross, or a similar service organization. Examples include:

- Partnering with Team Rubicon to respond to a natural disaster such as a hurricane, tornado, etc.
- Hosting a PTSD stand down event in collaboration with Student Veterans of America
- Hosting a health and wellness seminar with the local YMCA or American Red Cross
- Volunteering at the local VA Medical Center.

How to Submit a Request for a #StillServing Grant

Application forms are available online at www.vfw.org/grants. An applicant can email a completed request to jcouch@vfw.org or mail it to: Jason Couch, Grants Coordinator, VFW Foundation, 406 W. 34th St., Suite 920, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Grant requests will be reviewed in the order they are received. Applicants can expect to be notified of a decision within 90 days of their request being received by the VFW Foundation. If the request has been approved, a check or notification of ACH (an electronic funds transfer) from the VFW Foundation will be included with a letter that is mailed shortly after review.

Grant Reporting Requirements

Recipients of both the #StillServing Community Support Grant and #StillServing Corporate Partnership Grant will be required to submit an after-action grant report. The form is available for download online at the grants homepage and a physical copy will be sent to grant recipients along with their award letter. Reports must be received by the VFW Foundation from all grant awardees by July 1, 2022.

PLEASE NOTE: #StillServing Grant Guidelines are general in nature, and the VFW Foundation reserves the right to amend, modify or waive these guidelines, in whole or in part, if the VFW Foundation deems it is in its best interest to do so. Final approval of grant awards and funding amounts are subject to exclusive determination and discretion of the VFW Foundation Board and its decisions are not subject to review.

If you have any questions about any of the information cited in this overview, please contact Grants Coordinator Jason Couch at jcouch@vfw.org before applying.