

Golden State Guardians Foundation

Relief, Rebuild, Renew



VFW Post & Community Grant Program

Purpose

The Golden State Guardians Foundation (GSGF) Post & Community Grant Program provides financial assistance to Posts facing urgent facility repairs, essential renovations, or unforeseen operational expenses outside of canteen operations that may impact their ability to serve veterans and their local communities.

Additionally, this program supports initiatives and collaborative partnerships that advance our guiding principles of cooperation, unity, and community engagement, strengthening the bond between GSGF, local Posts, and the communities they serve.

Funding Overview

The Golden State Guardians Foundation has approved an initial investment of \$100,000 for the Post & Community Grant Program.

- Annual Allocation: \$18,000 per administrative year (July 1 – June 30).
- Maximum Grant per Post: Up to \$3,000 per administrative year.
- Program Duration: Renewed annually until initial or subsequent funding is fully expended or the GSGF Board of Directors terminates the program.

Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for the Post & Community Grant Program, a Post must meet the following requirements:

1. The Post must not be under suspension.
2. The Post Trustees' Report of Audit must be current and on file with the Department.
3. The Post's federal (IRS) and State of California tax filings must be up to date.
4. If applicable, the Post's registration with the California Office of the Attorney General, Registry of Charitable Trusts, must be current.
5. The Post must have no outstanding arrearages as defined in Section 213 of the VFW National Bylaws.

District Commander Responsibilities

The District Commander serves as the advocate and primary point of contact for Posts applying for the grant within their district. Responsibilities include:

- Verifying that the Post meets all eligibility criteria.
- Reviewing the application for completeness and accuracy.
- Evaluating the Post's needs versus wants to ensure appropriate use of funds.
- Assessing whether the District can contribute matching funds or other

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assistance and preparing to discuss this during the Grants Committee review.

- For community-based initiatives, articulating how the project exemplifies the “Spirit of Cooperation” and benefits both the Post and the broader community.

District leadership plays a critical role in the success and integrity of this program.

Application Process

1. The Post completes the Post & Community Grant Program Application and submits it to its respective District Commander.
2. The District Commander reviews the submission, verifies eligibility, and fulfills the responsibilities outlined above.
3. The District Commander forwards the completed application to the Executive Director at Director@gsg-foundation.org for Grants Committee review.
4. The Grants Committee evaluates the request and, after consulting the District Commander, issues a recommendation to the Board:
 - Approved applications are submitted to the Board of Directors for final approval.
 - Denied applications are returned with an explanation from the Executive Director.
5. All funding decisions made by the Board of Directors are final and not subject to appeal.

Accountability & Reporting

- Use of Funds: The grant must be expended within 120 days of the award date. Unused funds after this period must be returned to GSGF unless an extension is granted for documented reasons (e.g., project delays).
- Extensions: For community initiatives delayed beyond 120 days, the Post must submit a written explanation and revised timeline to the Board Secretary.
- Receipts & Documentation: Within 30 days of using the funds, the Post must submit itemized receipts and supporting documentation to the GSGF Treasurer at Treasurer@gsg-foundation.org.
- Reconciliation:
 - Failure to submit receipts will result in the Post being billed for the full grant amount.
 - If expenditures total less than the awarded amount, the Post must refund the remaining balance within 30 days.