

VFW Department of California Foundation Post/Community Grant Program

PURPOSE

The purpose of the VFW Department of California Foundation Post/Community Grant Program is to assist Posts in need due to urgent repairs, renovations or are experiencing unexpected expenses, outside the canteen, that may impact their ability to continue their support to their veterans and the local community. It can also be used with initiatives or joint partnerships which further develop our "SPIRIT OF COOPERATION, UNITY, AND GIVING BACK", that further demonstrates our commitment to our local communities.

FUNDING

The VFW Department of California Foundation Board (Board) approved an initial investment of \$100,000. The grant allocation will be set at \$18,000 per administrative year, July 1 to June 30. A Post may apply for a Post/Community Grant up to \$3,000 per administrative year. The Post/Community Grant Program will be renewed every administrative year until the initial and subsequent funding are exhausted or until the Board terminates the program.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

In order for a Post to be eligible for the Post/Community Grant Program, it must meet the following criteria:

1. The Post must not currently be on suspension.
2. The Post Trustee's Report of Audit must be up to date with Department.
3. The Post's IRS and State of California tax filings must be current.
4. The Post's filing with the Office of the Attorney General, Registry of Charitable Trusts; if applicable, must be current.
5. The Post must not have any arrearages as outlined in Section 213 of the National Bylaws.

DISTRICT COMMANDER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The District Commander will be the advocate for the Post within their District applying for the Post/Community Grant. The District Commander will ensure the Post meets the eligibility criteria, has completed the grant application appropriately and conducts an evaluation of the applicant's needs versus wants.

The District Commander should, prior to scheduling a meeting with the Board, determine if the District has the ability to meet, match, and/or provide assistance and be prepared to discuss this

**VFW, DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION
POST/COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM**

with the Board. The District Commander for community initiatives should be prepared to discuss how this grant will better show the “Spirit of Cooperation” between the Post and their local community. Bottom line: How it benefits both. It is important to understand the Post and District are key to this grant process.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The following steps will be followed when applying for a Post/Community Grant:

1. The applicant must complete the Post/Community Grant Program application and submit to their respective District Commander.
2. The District Commander will review the application, determine its accuracy, and complete the District Commander’s Responsibilities as noted above.
3. The District Commander will submit the application to the Board Secretary to schedule a review by the Board.
4. The Board will review the application, receive input from the District Commander, and either approve or deny the grant request. All decisions by the Board are final and not subject to appeal.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The grant shall be used within 120 days of the award. If it is not utilized within this time period, the Post must refund the grant to the VFW Department of California Foundation. The Post may reapply for the Post/Community Grant Program at a later date without penalty. If the Post/Community Grant is being used for a community initiative that has been delayed/rescheduled to a date greater than 120 days, the Post shall submit a written explanation to the Board Secretary detailing the new dates.

Within 30 days of the spending of the granted funds, the Post shall submit eligible receipts to the Board Treasurer. Failure to submit the required receipts will result in the Post being billed for the grant amount. In the event the receipts total less than the grant amount provided, the Post will be required to refund the difference within 30 days.