



Student Veteran Support Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the main purpose behind the Student Veteran Support Grant and what are we trying to accomplish?

A: The VFW and its partners are committed to fostering the relationship between nearly one million student veterans at local colleges and universities, and in local communities. The VFW stands ready to provide student veterans with support and resources to host an event focused on educating both their members and their communities on the topics that are of concern for veterans and their families. Collectively, we believe in gathering veterans and their families, community members and concerned citizens together, to connect in a positive environment.

GI Bill benefits are the most widely utilized benefits available to veterans. Moreover, veterans on college campuses have demonstrated an eagerness to not only organize but to lead in their communities while pursuing higher education. By supporting student veterans, the VFW has a unique opportunity to not only showcase the amazing work of our organization by offering support to campus activities, facilitating access to earned VA benefits, and awarding scholarship and fellowship opportunities, but the VFW can also harness this leadership potential to grow our organization for future generations of veteran leaders.

Q: Do I have to be a member of the VFW to be eligible to apply for the Student Veteran Support Grant?

A: Yes. Not only must you be a VFW member to apply for the Student Veteran Support Grant, but the event must be associated with an official entity of the VFW such as a VFW Post, District, or Department and approved by the appropriate authority (eg: Post Quartermaster, District Commander, etc.).

Q: Where can I find the application and more information about the program?

A: The application can be found on the VFW website using the following link: [VFWprograms.formstack.com/forms/SVAGrantApplication](https://vfwprograms.formstack.com/forms/SVAGrantApplication). You can also find the report form, FAQ and other resources on the Student Veteran Support Grant webpage.

Q: Is there a timeline of when the event we are applying for must take place?

A: There is no timeline of when the event should be completed but keep in mind that it can take approximately 2-3 weeks to receive, approve and process the grant applications for payment. The grant application should be submitted **NO LATER THAN** 14 days prior to the event.

Q: If approved, what can the grant funds be utilized for?

A: The grant funds should be utilized to assist you directly with your event which could include but are not limited to: Securing an event space, securing a guest speaker, providing snacks and refreshments, or having items available for distribution.

Q: Will we be required to provide receipts for the grant funds utilized during our Student Veteran Support event?

A: No, you are not required to provide receipts but should provide a detailed breakdown when completing your required post-event report.

Q: Where can I find the required post-event report?

A: The report can be found on the VFW Student Veteran Support webpage at vfw.org/StudentVeteran. This report should be submitted to VFW National Veterans Service within 30 days after the event has been completed.

Q: Are we required to partner up with the VFW or any other VSO for the event?

A: Yes, you are required to partner with a local VFW Post, District or Department. The proper authority of this entity must approve the event prior to application. Partnering in this way will ensure your event can be as successful as possible.

Q: Are we allowed to use the VFW name, logo and programs during the event as resources/promotion tool?

A: Any use of the VFW name and logo should be approved through VFW Washington Office prior to the event, but we encourage using our organization's brand and branded resources whenever possible.

Q: Will the VFW have any promotional tools or program information that we can request for our event?

A: Yes, the VFW has brochures, flyers, business cards available upon request through your local VFW Post, District or Department, but quantities may be limited.

Q: If approved for the grant how much will we receive and by what payment means?

A: The VFW Student Veteran Support Grant is a maximum of \$500 and will be paid via direct deposit directly to the entity hosting the event (eg: VFW Post/District/Department). ACH is the preferred method of payment, but a check can be issued if necessary. Check processing does take longer so keep that in mind when planning your event. All information needed to process the disbursement will be provided to the applicant upon approval of their application. Payment will not be made to individual VFW members.

Q: How often can we apply for the Student Veteran Support Grant?

A: The VFW Student Veteran Support Grant can be applied for twice in one fiscal year. The maximum dollar amount awarded in one fiscal year is \$1,000. We encourage you to visit our website at vfw.org to stay up to date on the latest programs and opportunities available.

Q: Are we required to use the grant funds for the same event or multiple events?

A: No, the grant funds can be utilized for multiple events. Ensure that you are completing the post-event report form for each event and providing a breakdown of how the grant funds were used.

Q: When is the deadline for the grant application?

A: Currently there is not a deadline for the application. Only a limited number of grants will be provided so ensure that you are submitting your application as soon as possible.

Q: Do you have any examples of events that we can conduct that would assist in our planning process?

A: Yes, please see the list below of event examples. The VFW encourages Student Veteran Support to “think outside the box” in creating events to initiate the discussion on campus or in the community on veteran issues and resources. Events do not need to focus solely on the veterans’ community, but should portray veterans as leaders in the veteran advocacy space.

Example Events:

- Have a walk, run or road march or any physical activity/sporting event which culminates with a gathering to discuss veteran concerns and resources
- Provide a guest speaker or participate in a town hall meeting
- Conduct a clean-up or community service event with a gathering afterwards to discuss veteran concerns
- Participate in a partnered event with local first responders
- Partnered event with other campus groups or military veterans outreach group to start community discussion on veteran issues
- Have a campus-led volunteer event at local VA health care facility
- Open-invitation cook-out/BBQ to promote the “Five Signs” of emotional stress and highlighting mental health resources

The VFW reserves the right to determine other qualifying factors based on individual proposals. Certain kinds of events that we will **not** consider include, but are not limited to:

- Beer bashes/private parties or other events that promote substance abuse or alcohol consumption
- Politically motivated events
- Events not inclusive to the campus community or the community in which you reside.