



UNITING TO COMBAT HUNGER (UTCH) GRANT 2023

In 2018 the VFW joined forces with Humana to establish the Uniting to Combat Hunger (UTCH) campaign. As of October 2023, the initiative has raised the equivalent of more than 4.5 million meals to address food insecurity in America. To reward the efforts of VFW Posts and Auxiliaries that support the campaign, the VFW Foundation offers the Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant. Posts and Auxiliaries may qualify for an unrestricted grant by meeting the following criteria:

1. For every \$1 raised by a VFW Post/Auxiliary to support Uniting to Combat Hunger, 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 matching grant. An applicant may receive up to \$1,500 in UTCH grant funding.
2. For every pound of food donated to a food bank, food pantry or community kitchen, the VFW Foundation will provide a \$1 match. A minimum of 500 lbs. must be collected to qualify for the matching grant.
3. For every \$1 spent on food purchased to support a food pantry ran by the Post or Auxiliary, the VFW will provide a \$1 match. A minimum of \$500 must be spent to qualify and the applicant must prove that the food pantry has been operating for at least one year and show that it is sustainable.

Donations of food and financial contributions to UTCH may be combined in the grant application. For example, a VFW Post or Auxiliary that donates \$500 and 500 pounds of food to a food bank could receive a \$1,000 grant.

While not required to do so, applicants are strongly encouraged to partner with their local Humana associate(s) on UTCH activities.

GRANT PERIOD

The grant will open on October 1, 2023, and close on June 1, 2024. If all designated funding is exhausted the grant will close sooner. If applying after March 1, 2024, it is recommended send an email to jcouch@vfw.org to confirm that funds are still available.

UTCH GRANT GUIDELINES

1. UTCH grants are restricted to VFW Posts and Auxiliaries. Other VFW entities are not eligible to receive this grant. To qualify, a Post must be in good standing with the VFW National organization, meaning they have a fully completed election report on file, are not in financial arrears and are not on suspension.
2. Grants will be made to Posts or Auxiliaries for completing the following on or after July 1, 2022:
 - a. Making financial contributions to a local food bank, food pantry or community kitchen. If you donate to an organization that provides programs in addition to providing food, you must provide the VFW Foundation with a letter from them stating that your donation is restricted to their food insecurity initiatives exclusively.
 - b. Donations of food may be made to any food bank, food pantry or community kitchen that provides meals or food to anyone seeking assistance regardless of their immutable characteristics or beliefs.
 - c. Purchasing food to distribute through an existing food bank operated by a Post or Auxiliary.

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3. Only a VFW Post or its Auxiliary may receive this grant. For example, if a Post receives this grant its Auxiliary may not, if an Auxiliary receives this grant the VFW Post may not.
4. The grant that the Post or Auxiliary receives from the Foundation 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 \$1,500.** A Post or Auxiliary may receive multiple grants during the year so long as the total amount awarded by the VFW Foundation does not exceed \$1,500.
5. **This is a retroactive grant; applicants will submit their requests after their projects have been completed.** VFW Posts and Auxiliaries must document financial contributions and volunteer hours; for example, a copy of the VFW Foundation receipt for the UTCH grant, photos or social media/news article screenshots of qualifying volunteer event, etc. The exact donation amount and number of volunteer hours must be specified on any such documentation. Supporting documentation must be provided at the time of submission.
6. The VFW Foundation reserves the right to make changes to the application procedure at any time.

VICTORY GARDEN REIMBURSEMENT OPPORTUNITY

The VFW Foundation will reimburse Posts/Auxiliaries for up to \$500 for materials used to build a victory garden either on the grounds of their Post home or in support of a local community garden. Proof of spending must be included in addition to other grant request expenses. A Post/Auxiliary must provide receipts showing all expenses incurred in for the purchase of garden materials such as dirt, wood for raised bed, cages, etc. Cash donations to community gardens are prohibited, only requests for reimbursement of materials will be considered. Please be advised that a grant awardee may receive no more than \$1,500 total in UTCH grant funding. For example, a Post could donate to a food bank totaling \$1,000 and receive \$500 for expenses incurred while building or supporting an existing community garden. However, if a Post donated \$1,500 to a local food bank, they could not receive any additional funding for supporting a garden.

OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE SEEDS FOR A VICTORY GARDEN

VFW Post members may receive free beet and cucumber seeds in support of community gardening activities from the Society of Saint Andrew <https://endhunger.org/vfw>. These are seeds that VFW and Auxiliary members packed at the 124th Annual National VFW convention. Please be advised that the seeds will not ship until spring 2024.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- **For more information about the UTCH Campaign and the impact that VFW and Auxiliary members are having on food insecurity please visit www.vfw.org/UTCH.**
- **We strongly encourage all Posts working to fight insecurity through this program to share pictures on their social media accounts using #StillServing!**
- **Please see the next page for the application form. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Grants Manager Jason Couch at 816-968-1174 or at jcouch@vfw.org.**

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UTCH GRANT APPLICATION FORM 2023

Record your responses in the spaces provided. You must complete all fields to be considered for this grant. Where indicated, use personal phone numbers, not a general Post phone number.

Post or Auxiliary select only one Post or Auxiliary Number _____

Employee Identification Number (EIN) _____ Tax Status 501(c) ____

**This information can be found on your most recent tax return (Form 990)*

Please provide the address of your Post home:

Street Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Post Phone Number _____

Grant Contact Person Name _____

Grant Contact Person Position (Member or Officer Position) _____

Contact Personal Phone Number _____ Email _____

Post Commander or President Name _____

Personal Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Post Quartermaster or Treasurer Name _____

Personal Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Amount of Funding Donated _____ Amount of Pounds of Food Donated _____

Amount Spent on Purchasing Food for Post/Auxiliary Operated Food Pantry _____

Amount Spent on Materials to Construct Little Free Pantry _____

Name of Humana Representative Partnered With _____

****We strongly recommend partnering with a local affiliate of Humana, but it is not required.***

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Describe your project. Include details of partnership with Humana associates (if applicable):

If you are requesting funding to support a Post/Auxiliary operated food pantry, please describe how it is administered and how many individuals it serves annually. Please include copies of pictures, media coverage, screenshots of social media posts, etc. to document the activity:

If applicable, provide details about the establishing your victory garden:

Signature of Post Quartermaster or Treasurer _____ Date Signed _____

Once you have completed the above fields, please print and scan this form. You will then send this completed form, along with proof of donation to your local food bank, in an email to jcouch@vfw.org. Note, applications will not be accepted via regular mail or fax.