



UNITING TO COMBAT HUNGER GRANT 2021-2022 FISCAL YEAR ROUND II

In 2018 the VFW joined forces with Humana and Feeding America® to establish the Uniting to Combat Hunger (UTCH) campaign. As of January 2022 the initiative has raised the equivalent of more than 3 million meals to address food insecurity in America. To reward the efforts of VFW Posts and Auxiliaries that support the campaign, the VFW Foundation has 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.
2. For every pound of food donated to a food bank, food pantry or community kitchen, the VFW will provide a \$1 match. A minimum of 500 lbs. must be collected to qualify for the matching grant.
3. For every hour that VFW Post/Auxiliary members volunteer to address food insecurity in their community, the Foundation will provide a \$1 match in the form of an unrestricted grant to the VFW Post/Auxiliary. A minimum of 500 hours must be documented to qualify for the matching grant.

Volunteer hours, donations of food and financial contributions to UTCH may be combined in the grant application. For example, a VFW Post or Auxiliary donates \$500 and 500 pounds of food to a food bank, and documents 500 volunteer hours served at a local soup kitchen. They are eligible to receive a \$1,500 grant.

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

UTCH GRANT GUIDELINES

1. UTCH grants are restricted to VFW Posts and Auxiliaries. Other VFW entities are not eligible to receive this grant. In order 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 doing the following:
 - a. Making financial contributions to a local food bank, food pantry or community kitchen. Applicants may alternatively donate through www.vfw.org/UTCH, or via check made out to VFW Foundation, designating UTCH in a cover letter or the memo portion of the check.
 - b. Recording volunteer hours completed with organizations that address food insecurity in your community. Volunteer activities may include but are not limited to: serving meals at a homeless shelter, conducting a food drive, packing/sorting food at a food pantry, etc.

VFW FOUNDATION

VFW Foundation
UTCH Grant Application Form
(Applications accepted on or after 1 February 2022)

- c. 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
3. A Post and its Auxiliary may each apply for a UTCH grant, but donations and volunteer hours will only count toward one request. A joint request may not be made. If a Post and its Auxiliary wish to work together and submit an application, the award funding will be directed to the submitting organization, and the receipt may split the funding between the Post and Auxiliary as they choose.
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 \$5,000.** 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 \$5,000.
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.

Little Free Pantry Additional Funding Opportunity

The VFW Foundation will reimburse Posts/Auxiliaries for up to \$500 for constructing and placing a little free food pantry at their Post home or local community center. A Post/Auxiliary must provide receipts showing all expenses incurred in placing the pantry upon submitting their request. Please be advised that a grant awardee may receive no more than \$5,000 total in UTCH grant funding. For example, a Post could make a donation to a food bank totaling \$4,500 and receive \$500 for expenses incurred placing a little free pantry. However, if a Post donated \$5,000 to a local food bank, they could not receive any additional funding for also placing the little pantry. For design plans and more information, please visit <https://www.littlefreepantry.org/>

Please see the next page for the application form. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Jason Couch at 816-968-1174 or at jcouch@vfw.org.

VFW FOUNDATION

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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 Number _____

Post/Auxiliary Employee I.D. No. (EIN) _____ Post Tax Status 501(c) _____
**This information can be found on your most recent tax return (Form 990)* (4) or (19)

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 _____

Number of Volunteer Hours Completed _____

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.***

VFW FOUNDATION

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Describe your project, including details of partnership with Humana associates (if applicable):

If you are including volunteer hours in the application, please describe volunteer activities and include copies of pictures, media coverage, screenshots of social media posts, etc. to document the activity:

Signature of Post Quartermaster or Treasurer _____ Date Signed _____

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

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