



VFW Auxiliary

SOI Presentation

By Rose Green

- Resource Sharing- If you have contact or know of resources in your specific area, please send this information to VFW Department Veterans and Family Support Chairman Rose Green.
- The Auxiliary is building a database to assist VSOs with resources to pass on to members looking for specific help or assistance.



VFW Auxiliary

Veterans and Family Support

- Topics outlined in this presentation
- Resources-
 - Service Officer
 - Benefit Hub
 - VMS & NVS
 - Unmet Needs
 - Suicide Awareness
 - VFW, State and National Grants
 - Department Auxiliary Presidents Special Project
 - Collection of Resources for distribution
 - Use of the hashtag #VFSSRisingTide
 - VFW Foundation Donations and Procedures.
- Questions



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Service Officer

Veteran Service Officers (VSOs)

Accredited representatives who assist veterans and their families.

Help with filing VA claims and accessing benefits.

Provide resources and support for various needs.

Key Benefits Assistance:

VA Disability Compensation

Financial support for service-connected disabilities.

VA Pension & Widows Pension

Financial assistance for eligible veterans and widows.

Aid & Attendance

Additional benefits for those needing personal care or assistance.

Health Care Benefits

Support for veteran healthcare services.

Other Federal, State, or County Benefits

Avenues for additional assistance outside VA services.

VFW Service Officer Locations – Washington State

Seattle Regional Office

915 2nd Ave #1044, Seattle, WA 98174

Walk-ins: Mon–Fri 7:30–11:00 & 12:30–2:30

✉ VFW.VBASEA@va.gov | ☎ 206-341-8284

Fife Headquarters

5213 Pacific Hwy E, Fife, WA 98424

Appts: Mon/Wed/Fri 7:30–4:00 | Walk-ins: Tue/Thu 9–2

✉ fifevso@vfwwa.org | ☎ 253-344-5985

Vancouver VA Hospital

1601 E 4th Plain Blvd, Bldg 17, Ste A145, Vancouver, WA 98661

Appts: Mon–Fri 7:30–4:00

✉ vancouvervso@vfwwa.org | ☎ 360-695-6414

Seattle VA Hospital

1660 Columbian Way, Bldg 1, Rm 108, Seattle, WA 98108

Appts: Tue/Thu/Fri 7:30–4:00

☎ 206-768-5359

Yakima Office

1630 S 16th Ave, Ste 5, Yakima, WA 98902

Appts: Mon–Fri 7:30–4:00

✉ yakimavso@vfwwa.org | ☎ 509-654-7191

Retsil – Port Orchard

1141 Beach Dr E, Bldg 10, Port Orchard, WA 98366

Appts: Mon–Fri 8:30–5:00

✉ Aaron.Juarez@va.gov | ☎ 509-406-3695

Spokane Vet Center

13109 E Mirabeau Pkwy, Spokane, WA 99216

Appts: Mon–Fri 8:00–4:30

✉ spokanevso@vfwwa.org | ☎ 509-444-8387

Everett Office

1010 SE Everett Mall Way, Ste 101, Everett, WA 98208

VSO: Michael Jackson



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- **When Meeting with Your Service Officer**
- Bring as many of the following documents as possible to help prepare your claim:
- **DD214 or separation papers** (all service periods)
- **Marriage certificate** and any **divorce decrees**
- **Birth records** for each dependent child
- **Service medical records** (if available)
- **Current medical records** showing disability/diagnosis
- **Medical records linking condition** to active-duty service
- **Death Certificates** for Veterans or Dependents.



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VFW Auxiliary Benefits Hub

VFW Auxiliary Benefits Hub

Or scan here now!



- **Discount Marketplace – Save Big Every Day!**
How to Access:
- Go to: vfwauxiliary.benefithub.com
- Enter your **name** and **official email address**
- Enter referral code: **HDDLQA**
- Save your password and start saving!
- **What You Get:**
- Exclusive member discounts
- Everyday savings across categories (travel, retail, services, more)



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Veterans and Military Support

ADOPT A UNIT

- VFW Posts can “adopt” military units **before, during & after deployments.**
- Builds lasting, supportive relationships.
- Connects units to the **full network of VFW resources.**
- **Service members & Family Readiness Groups** can contact the MAP Office to participate.
- No reimbursements for events after closure.
- New funding will begin with the **2025–2026 program year.**

VFW Military Appreciation Program (MAP)

- The VFW supports our troops **day in and day out.**
- Members provide:
 - **Send-offs & welcome home events**
 - **BBQs, family support, deployment activities.**
- Since **2005**, MAP has sponsored events for **3.4+ million service members & families.**
- MAP is the outstretched hand between **local VFW Posts** and the **military community worldwide.**



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Veterans and Military Support

- **VFW “Help A Hero” Scholarship**
- **Partnered with Student Veterans of America & Sport Clips**
Supporting veterans in reaching their educational goals.
- **Scholarship Highlights:**
 - Up to **\$5,000** per semester
- **One award per family, per semester**
- **Covers tuition & fees only** (paid directly to schools)
- **Over \$13 million awarded since 2014** (if you want an impact stat here)
- **Application Windows:**
 - Fall semester:** Jan 1 – Apr 30
(awarded in August)
 - Spring semester:** Aug 1 – Nov 15
(awarded in January)

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

- Be a **U.S. citizen**
- Be **retired, honorably discharged, active duty, Guard or Reserve**
- Have completed **Basic + Advanced training**
- Hold or separated at rank **E-5 or below**
- Show **financial need**
- Be **accepted or enrolled** in a VA-approved accredited program



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Unmet Needs

Emergency Financial Assistance – Up to \$2,500

What It Is:

- Grants (not loans) to help military families through unexpected hardships.
- Funds are **paid directly to creditors** (not to the applicant).

Who Qualifies:

- **Active duty, Guard, Reserve, or veterans** facing hardship due to deployment, military pay issues, medical discharge, or service-connected injury/illness.
- Discharged prior to 9/11 veterans on fixed incomes with emergency hardship.



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Unmet Needs

What It Covers:

- Housing (rent, mortgage, repairs, insurance)
- Utilities & phone bills
- Vehicle expenses (payments, insurance, repairs)
- Food, clothing, childcare
- Medical expenses (prescriptions, eyeglasses – patient's share)

What It Doesn't Cover:

- Credit card debt, cable/internet, taxes, cosmetic procedures, luxury expenses.

How to Apply:

- Apply **online at vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants**
- Submit bills & documentation → Caseworker review → Payment sent directly to creditor.



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VFW Mental Wellness Campaign



What Is 988 for Veterans?

Simple, memorable access: **Dial 988**, then **press 1**, to connect directly to the Veterans Crisis Line

Legal basis: The National Suicide Hotline Designation Act (signed in 2020) paved the way for 988 to become the official three-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

Activation date: All U.S. telephone providers were required to activate 988 by July 16, 2022

Why This Matters

Easier to remember: Just like 911 for emergencies, 988 simplifies access for mental health crises.

Veteran-specific routing: Upon dialing, pressing 1 connects you to trained responders who specialize in veterans' needs

Multiple access methods: Support is also available via text (838255) or online chat, providing flexibility for those seeking help

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/about/what-is-988/>



September is **Suicide Prevention Awareness Month (SPAM)**

SAVE LIVES

Your WDVA Suicide Prevention Team is proud to support this vital month with a simple reminder: **One voice, one check-in, one moment of courage can make all the difference.**



Contact Us:
connect@dva.wa.gov

SPAM Toolkit & QR code website:
www.dva.wa.gov/spam



Open conversations break stigma, build hope, and connect people to life-saving support.
#SpeakUpSaveLives





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Suicide Prevention Community-Based Grant (WA)

Purpose: Supports peer-based suicide prevention services for Veterans and Families

- **Funding Sources:**
 - State legislature
 - License plate emblem revenues
 - Donations
- **Uses:**
 - Peer Corps support
 - Targeted mental health & transition assistance
 - Local community prevention projects
- **Recent Opportunity:** \$11K grants awarded in 2024 for innovative peer support programs
- **Legal References:** **RCW 43.60A.270**
- **Eligibility includes non-profit community providers**

- **The Suicide Prevention Community-Based Services Grant** funds local organizations that provide peer-to-peer support, wellness, and transition services for veterans, service members, and their families.
- **Funded by the state**, license plate revenues, and donations, this program expands the WDVA Peer Corps and supports community-driven suicide prevention projects across Washington.



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VFW Foundation Grants

How to Apply for VFW Foundation Grants

- **Plan Your Project**
 - Ensure it fits one of the 3 grant categories (#StillServing, Post Assistance, or Uniting for Veterans).
 - Contact the VFW Foundation **before starting** to confirm eligibility.
- **Complete the Application**
 - VFW Posts & Districts apply through the **VFW Dashboard**.
 - Auxiliaries apply using the **downloadable forms** (available at [vfw.org](https://www.vfw.org) once the cycle opens).
- **Meet Minimum Requirements**
 - Minimum request is **\$500**.
 - Each grant has its own limits (\$1,500 or \$2,500 depending on type).
- **Submit Proof of Project**
 - Grants are **reimbursement-based** — you must complete the project first.
 - Provide **receipts, records, or donation confirmations** with the application.
- **Deadlines**
 - Applications open **Sept 2025**.
 - Close **June 1, 2026** or earlier if funds run out.
- **Combat Hunger** campaign—they are indeed connected.
- The program was originally known as "**Uniting to Combat Hunger & Homelessness (UTCH)**", focused on addressing food insecurity and veteran homelessness through a matching donation grant of up to \$1,500
<https://www.vfw.org/community/community-initiatives/uniting-for-veterans>
- In **August 2025**, the VFW officially announced that **UTCH has evolved and been renamed to “Uniting for Veterans”**, reflecting its broader mission to support veterans’ needs beyond hunger and homelessness.



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VFW Mental Wellness Campaign

1. The Challenge & Reach

20 veterans lost daily to suicide!

Reached 25,000 people with 200 Posts and 13,000 volunteers.

2. Strategic & Trusted Partners

Collaborations with Give an Hour, Campaign to Change Direction, One Mind, PatientsLikeMe, Elizabeth Dole Foundation

3. Know the Five Signs

Personality change, agitation, withdrawal, poor self-care, hopelessness.

4. Campaign Objectives

Change public stigma!

Train service officers & volunteers.

Provide community event templates.

Promote peer support, research, and legislative advocacy.



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Department President Special Project

- **Heroes Homestead**
www.heroeshomestead.org
- **Mission:** Support veterans and families in healing and thriving through mentorship, counseling, equine therapy, peer groups, and community events.
- **Programs:** Heroes Walk, Heroes Camp, Peer Groups, family support, and veteran outreach.
- **Impact:** Brings service members and veterans *home in body, mind, and soul* while addressing challenges like PTSD and transition.
- **How to Help:** Donations can be sent to the Department, earmarked for **Heroes Homestead**.



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Purpose

Many donors prefer to give only to **501(c)(3) charities**. Since a VFW Auxiliary is a **501(c)(19)** nonprofit, this can be an issue.

The **VFW Foundation** acts as a **fiscal agent (501(c)(3))** to accept contributions on behalf of Auxiliaries.

Key Points

Free service – no administrative or other charges deducted.

Minimum donation – must be **\$100 or more**.

Donors write checks payable to “**VFW Foundation**”.

Funds are then directed to the designated Auxiliary.

Form Requirements

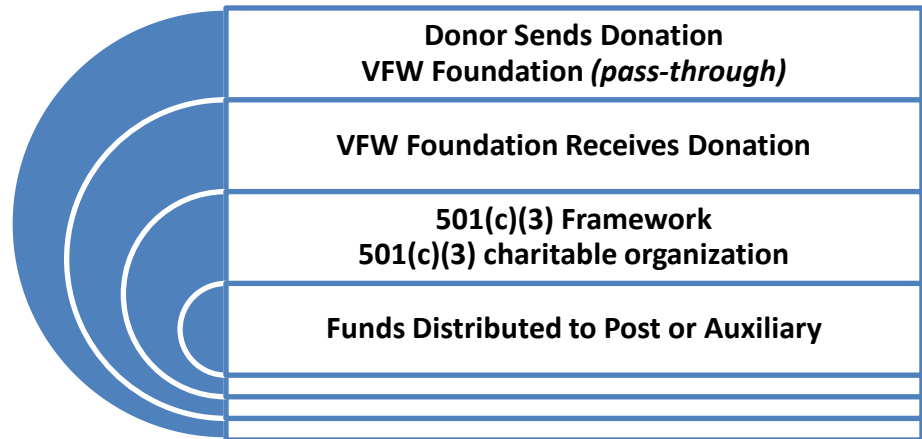
Auxiliaries must provide:

Date, Auxiliary number, and President’s name.

Contact information (phone, email, address).

Donor’s name, address, phone.

Donation amount and purpose (if specified).





VFW Auxiliary

- Donations made to the VFW Foundation are **not automatically passed through** to an Auxiliary.
- To ensure funds reach the correct recipient, the **Donation Assistance Form must be completed.**
- This form provides the necessary information for the Foundation to properly direct contributions on behalf of the Auxiliary. **Without it**, donations may remain with the Foundation rather than being applied as intended.



DONATION ASSISTANCE FOR VFW AUXILIARIES

Many donors will only contribute to a 501(c)(3) charity. Since a VFW Auxiliary is a 501(c)(19) nonprofit this can sometimes be a problem. To help out, the VFW Foundation can serve as a 501(c)(3) fiscal agent by accepting contributions on behalf of your Auxiliary. This is a free service with no administrative or any other charges removed from the donation check. We only ask that any such donation is \$100 or more.

Date: _____

Auxiliary #: _____

Auxiliary President: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Auxiliary Address: _____

Name of Individual, Company or Foundation making donation: _____

Donor Address: _____

Donor Telephone #: _____

Amount of donation: _____

Purpose of donation (if indicated by donor): _____

Send this completed form along with donation check made out to "VFW FOUNDATION" to:

Richard Freiburghouse, Manager
VFW Foundation
406 W. 34th Street, Suite 920
Kansas City, MO 64111

If you have any questions, please contact Richard Freiburghouse at (816) 968-1124 or rfreiburghouse@vfw.org.

VFW FOUNDATION

406 W. 34th Street Office 816.968.1128
Kansas City, MO 64111 Fax 816.968.2789

foundations@vfw.org
www.vfwfoundation.org



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#VFSTRisingTide

- Use this hashtag to make social media post visible to others.
- This helps deliver the message and announcements to a broad audience.



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Websites for additional information

1. <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants> (VFW Grants)
2. <https://www.dva.wa.gov/sp/suicide-prevention-community-based-services-grant-account> (WDVA Prevention Grants)
3. <https://www.dva.wa.gov/news/2025/september-suicide-prevention-awareness-month-spam-available-resources-and-spam-toolkit-washington> (WDVA Suicide Prevention Tool Kit)
4. <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness> (VFW Metal Health Awareness)
5. <https://www.vfw.org/community/community-initiatives/post-grants> (VFW Post Grants)
6. <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support> (VFW Student Veterans)
7. <https://www.vfw.org/community/community-initiatives/uniting-for-veterans> (VFW Uniting for Veterans)
8. <https://vfwauxwa.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp> (Dept Aux Home Page)
9. <https://vfwwa.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=84307> (Service Officer Location Department Page)
10. <https://vfwauxwa.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=137912> (Aux VFS Department Page)
11. <https://vfwauxwa.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=154299> (Aux President Special Project)



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QUESTIONS?

