

2024 UNITING TO COMBAT HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS (UTCH) GRANT



In 2018 the VFW joined forces with Humana to establish the Uniting to Combat Hunger (UTCH) campaign. As of October 2024, the initiative has raised the equivalent of more than 4.5 million meals to address food insecurity in America. This year we are excited to expand the program in support of an additional underserved veteran population: Veterans experiencing homelessness. The 'H' in UTCH also now stands for homelessness, as we seek to provide a new means of support for homeless veterans. VFWF is proud to work with Volunteers of America (VOA), who has been helping to address homelessness for more than a century through programmatic solutions. To reward the efforts of VFW Posts and Auxiliaries supporting the campaign, the VFW Foundation (VFWF) offers the UTCH Grant. F

Points can be earned by doing the following:

FOOD INSECURITY

- 1 point will be awarded for each pound of food donated to an external nonprofit organization that provides free food to their community.
- 1 point will be awarded for each \$1 donated to an external nonprofit organization that serves food insecure individuals in their community.
- 1 point will be awarded for every \$1 spent purchasing food for a VFW Post/Auxiliary Post food pantry.

HOMELESSNESS

- 1 point will be awarded for every \$1 donated by a VFW Post/Auxiliary to a local nonprofit organization that houses the homeless, the VFWF will award 1 point.
- 1 point will be awarded for every \$1 spent purchasing items such as hygiene items, clothing, etc., to donate to a homeless shelter
- While not required to do so, applicants are strongly encouraged to partner with their local Humana associate(s) on UTCH activities. The VFWF also advises to work with local VOA teams in helping to solve homelessness by identifying a local agency at www.voa.org/services/services-homelessness/, but Posts may work with a shelter or housing assistance organization of their choice.

GRANT PERIOD

The grant will open on September 9, 2024, and close on June 1, 2025. If all budgeted funding is exhausted before that time, the grant will close sooner. If applying after March 1, 2025, it is recommended send an email to mspencer@vfw.org to confirm that funds are still available.

UTCH GRANT GUIDELINES

- Eligibility – UTCH grants available exclusively to VFW Posts and Auxiliaries. Other VFW entities are not eligible to receive this grant. To be eligible, a Post or Auxiliary must be in good standing with the VFW National HQ or VFW Auxiliary HQ if an Auxiliary, meaning they have a fully completed election report on file, are not in financial arrears and are not on suspension.
 - 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 its attached to may not.
- Qualifying Projects – Grants will be made to Posts/Auxiliaries for completing the qualifying activities laid forth in the UTCH Grant Overview section of this document.
- Qualifying Recipient Organizations – Donations may only be made to organizations that address either food insecurity or homelessness. Recipient organizations must serve their entire community and not discriminate on the basis of aid recipients' beliefs or immutable characteristics.
- Proving Project Completion –
 - If a Post or Auxiliary makes a cash donation to a homeless or food insecurity abating organization, they can prove the donation in one of two ways:
 - A tax receipt provided by the recipient organization states the Post/Aux name as the donor and states the amount of the donation.
 - A copy of a canceled check provided by the Post/Auxiliary's bank. This can only be obtained from the bank by the donor organization after the recipient organization has cashed the check. If donating to an organization whose name does not make clear the purpose of the donation, writing something such as "homeless" or "food insecurity on the memo line should be included for clarity.
 - If a Post or Auxiliary makes an in-kind donation of food or items to a homeless or food insecurity abating organization, they must obtain a receipt from the recipient organization that names their Post or Auxiliary as the donor. When making a donation of food, the receipt must specify the weight of the food. If making a donation of items, the receipt from the organization donating to must specify an estimated value of the items. The Post or Auxiliary must submit copies of the receipts of purchased items along with their application. VFWF advises showing the recipient organization the receipts obtained from purchasing the items.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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- Award Amounts & Submission Frequency – The applicant organization, a VFW Post or Auxiliary, may receive between \$500 - \$1,500 during the grant cycle. Requests for under \$500 will be denied. Requests for more than \$1,500 will be denied. Applicants may submit multiple requests during the cycle provided each meets the \$500 minimum requirement, and the applicant has not exceeded the \$1,500 maximum amount.
- A Post/ Auxiliary may not submit the same project for reimbursement from any other Programs/ Foundation grant.
- Award Use – Funding awarded from the UTCH Grant may be utilized by the grant recipient for any purpose, so long as it is in accordance with VFW or Auxiliary by-laws.
- This is a retroactive grant. Applicants will submit their requests and proof of completion at the same time. A reviewer will determine how many points have been earned and award grant funding accordingly.
- The VFWF reserves the right to make changes to the application procedure at any time.

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 & homelessness please visit www.vfw.org/UTCH. We strongly encourage all Posts working to fight insecurity through this program and 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 Mary Spencer at 866-789-6333 or at [mspencer@vfw.org](mailto:m Spencer@vfw.org).

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2024 UTCH GRANT APPLICATION FORM

- 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 in Support of Food Insecurity _____
- Number of Pounds of Food Donated in Support of Food Insecurity _____
- Amount of Funding Donated to a Homelessness Relief Organization _____
- Amount of Funding Spent Purchasing Items for a Homelessness Relief Organization _____
- Name of Organization Donated to _____
* For Example, Volunteers of America Colorado.
- Point of Contact for Organization Donated to: _____
*Include name and phone number
- 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 in detail. Who did you donate money or food/items to? 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 and when it was started.

Signature of Post Quartermaster or Treasurer _____ Date Signed _____
Print Name of Quartermaster or Treasurer _____

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/project completion, in an email to mspencer@vfw.org. Note, applications will not be accepted via regular mail or fax.

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