

VFW – SVA Mental Health Stand-To Program Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I have to be a member of the VFW to be eligible to apply for the Stand-To grant?

A: You do not have to be a member of the VFW to be eligible but must be part of an SVA Chapter which is recognized as an official student organization by your institution/school.

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. <http://www.vfw.org/Community/Student-Veterans-of-America/VFW-SVA-Mental-Health-Stand-To>. You can also find the report form, FAQ and other resources on the Stand-To programs webpage.

Q: Is there a timeline of when the Stand-To 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. Plan accordingly to ensure that you receive the grant funds in advance of the event if approved.

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 renting an event space, providing snacks or having items available for distribution.

Q: Will we be required to provide receipts for the grant funds utilized during our Stand-To event?

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

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

A: The report can be found on the VFW-SVA Stand-To Grant webpage at <http://www.vfw.org/Community/Student-Veterans-of-America/VFW-SVA-Mental-Health-Stand-To>. This report should be submitted to Lynn Rolf at lrolf@vfw.org within 30 days after the event has been completed.

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

A: No, you are not required to partner with any local VFW or VSO's but it is encouraged to utilize other organizations and their resources to make your event 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 Lynn Rolf prior to the event but we encourage using our organization and resources if possible.

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

A: Yes, the VFW does have brochures, flyers, business cards available upon request but quantities are limited.

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

A: The Stand-To grant is a maximum of \$500.00 and will be paid via direct deposit (ACH is the preferred method of payment but 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.

Q: What is the main purpose behind the Stand-To event and what are we trying to accomplish?

A: The VFW and its partners are committed to changing the dialogue on mental health for America's veterans and our communities. SVA Chapters are encouraged to host an event focused on educating their members about the important topic of mental health and wellness, offer proven tools to intervene on behalf of veterans in crisis, and participate in or host a community service event. Collectively, we believe in gathering veterans and their families, community members and clinicians together, to connect in a positive environment. Furthermore, we want to use this as an opportunity to encourage all Americans to pay attention to their emotional well-being as well as the emotional well-being of others.

Q: How often can we apply for the Stand-To grant?

A: The VFW-SVA Mental Health Stand-To program is a one-time grant. We encourage you to visit our website at www.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 Stand-To grant application?

A: As of right now 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. VFW encourages SVA Chapters to “think outside the box” in creating events to initiate the discussion on campus or in the community on mental health and resources. Events do not need to focus solely on the veterans’ community, but should portray veterans as leaders in changing the national dialogue on mental health.

Example Events:

- Have a walk, run or road march or any physical activity/sporting event which culminates with a gathering to discuss mental health 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 mental health concerns.
- Participate in a partnered event with local first responders.
- Partnered event with other campus groups or Health Services to start community discussion on mental health.
- 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.

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:

Events that will not be approved:

- 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.