

VFW Offers SVA Chapters Grants to Change Dialogue on Mental Health

'The VFW is leading from the front in the effort to change the national dialogue on mental health...'

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is pleased to announce the VFW-SVA Mental Health Stand-To grant in support of its commitment to the Student Veterans of America (SVA) and to changing the dialogue surrounding mental health.

The VFW will support events planned and executed by SVA Chapters in support of mental health awareness with a \$500 VFW-SVA Mental Health Stand-To grant. Chapters are encouraged to be creative in hosting events focused on educating their members and their communities about the important topic of mental health and wellness, offer proven tools to intervene on behalf of veterans in crisis, and to participate in or host a community service event. Events may include hosting a run/walk, march or other sporting event, a community clean-up, or cookout, culminating with a gathering to initiate dialogue about mental health concerns.

"The VFW is leading from the front in the effort to change the national dialogue on mental health, so we're very proud to offer this grant. Gathering together with their family members, and members of the community to connect in a positive environment to promote emotional well-being provides the best opportunity to work toward change," said VFW National Commander Brian Duffy.

The creation of this grant is the VFW's latest offering in support of Student Veterans of America since the organizations first partnered in 2013. Other VFW and SVA initiatives include the <u>VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship</u>, <u>access to college scholarships</u>, <u>GI Bill</u> <u>assistance</u>, and grassroots level support.

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SVA Chapters interested in receiving the \$500 grant should prepare a brief overview and <u>apply online</u>.