

Welcome to
the ENVSC
Welcome
Home Kit
Seminar!



Agenda

Introductions

Mary Morgan, Director

Rene Villalobos, Programs Associate

Information

We'll cover program updates and share strategies and ideas from some of our longstanding volunteers.



Congratulations to
the National Veteran
Service Volunteer of
the Year: Howard D.
Boyd, Sr. of Lacey,
W.V., Lodge No. 778





2023-2024 Updates



3412 kits made and delivered.



21% of kits included beds (743 beds).



41% Increase over last year (Thanks for spreading the program to new Lodges)!



Elks have spent \$1.071 million on kits for veterans through this program.

Welcome Home

Sep. 2015

Elks sign a MOA with the VA Secretary's Office to join the fight against veteran homelessness.

Apr. 2019

The Welcome Home Kit program increases to \$300 per kit, and up to \$400 for a kit with a bed

Mar. 2016

The first Welcome Home Kit is submitted by Vacaville, Calif., Lodge No. 2638. We reimbursed up to \$200.

Welcome Home

April 2020

Welcome Home Kits that include beds will receive up to \$500 in reimbursement.

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Veteran homelessness is ended!

April 2024

The Welcome Home Program once again increases to \$400 per kit, and up to \$600 for a kit with a bed.



Welcome Home Kits

- Most formerly homeless veterans move into new homes with nothing. Here's how to get started.
- Find out what the veteran needs. Start with a standard list of what a new home would need, and then tailor the kit to the needs and preferences of the veteran.
- Shop for the items. Look for deals. Ask Lodge members if they have items to donate. Hold a supply drive to collect common items.
- Assemble and deliver the kit! Deliver the kit to the veteran or project partner. Stay in touch with the veteran if you can.
- Submit your receipts to the ENVSC online. The ENVSC will reimburse your Lodge up to \$400 for each Welcome Home Kit you provide, and up to \$600 for each kit that also includes a bed.

Guidelines

- A kit must include a variety of items. It may not include just one of two items.
- Kits are intended exclusively for veterans exiting homelessness and moving into new homes.
- Gift cards may not comprise more than \$25 of any kit. Food may not comprise more than \$50 of any kit.
- We recommend that beds do not comprise more than \$500 of any kit.
- All Lodges are eligible for this program.





FAQS

- Kits are meant to be tailored to veterans and their needs; some veterans have different needs than others. For special requests please contact the ENVSC team to see how we can help.
- As to not be confused for reimbursements we are only looking for the purchase of a mattress since it is the most expensive part of the bed and most important. It is up to your Lodge to purchase the frame.
- If your Lodge can only do a kit every few months that is fine ,we are trying to assist veterans in our community. This isn't a numbers race; it is about helping veterans whenever we can.
- All this information and more can be found on elks.org under our Welcome Home Kit section.

Special Requests

- We consider special requests any items that do not fit in our guidelines.
- A few examples of these items can be things like:
 - Futons, baby cribs, beds for children, TV above \$80 electronic limit, heaters or fans needing to be purchased due heat or freezing issues.
- The above are just a few examples, of course each veteran has different needs due to age or disabilities.
- We will try to reasonably accommodate any special request, but this doesn't mean we are able to approve them all.
- Do not hesitate to reach out to the ENVSC team for any purchase you are unsure of.
- If an item is purchased without approval from the ENVSC as a special request. Reimbursement will be sent back for follow up and may not be reimbursable.



Partnerships

- Many Lodges will partner with the VA or a nonprofit organization to connect with veterans. This is great! Partner organizations are a great resource for getting referrals for veterans in your community.
- When partnering with any other organization remember to take pride in what you and your volunteers have accomplished. Take pictures with Elks banners, put Elks' stickers on kits, make sure other organizations are giving you credit on social media.
- We want to let veterans and other organizations know the great work we are doing to help combat homelessness and transitional veterans.
- Bulk supplies for another organization, veterans' closet, or supply pantry do not count as a kit or for reimbursement.
- Make sure when working with partners that kits are only going to veterans and not the general population. We ask this since homelessness is widespread and so is the need for essential items in communities.



Welcome Home Kit Panel

- Cheryl Kelly
- Martin Harbolt
- Nayda Fugee



Thank you

Elks National Veterans Service Commission

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