

# MEMORANDUM

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**FROM:** Department of Arizona, Surgeon  
**TO:** All VFW Posts and District Commanders  
**DATE:** December 18, 2025  
**RE:** Available Grant Opportunities for VFW Posts in Arizona

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## PURPOSE

This memorandum outlines all relevant grant opportunities available to VFW Posts and Auxiliary organizations operating in the State of Arizona. These grants are designed to support community service projects, facility renovations, equipment upgrades, and food security initiatives. Posts are strongly encouraged to review all opportunities and submit applications before established deadlines.

## VFW FOUNDATION GRANTS

The VFW Foundation offers multiple grant programs exclusively available to VFW Posts, Districts, and their Auxiliaries throughout the year. Applications are generally accepted from September through June 1st.

### #StillServing Grant

**Award Amount:** Up to \$1,500 (minimum request \$500)

**Purpose:** Offset expenses incurred during community service projects with direct engagement by members

**Eligibility:** VFW Posts, Districts, and their Auxiliaries

#### Key Details:

- Posts and their Auxiliaries may each receive up to \$1,500
- Districts and their Auxiliaries may each receive up to \$1,500
- Multiple projects can be included in one application
- Applicants must not be on suspension to receive awards
- Corporate Partner Collaboration Bonus: Additional \$500 unrestricted funding available for projects collaborated with qualifying VFW National corporate partners
- Before and after photos required

**Application Process:** Applications completed through VFW Dashboard

## Uniting for Veterans Grant

**Award Amount:** Up to \$1,500

**Purpose:** Matching donation grant to fight food insecurity and provide humanitarian support

**Eligibility:** VFW Posts and their Auxiliaries (cannot receive both Post and Auxiliary funding)

**Matching Ratio:** VFW Foundation matches \$1 for every pound of food or dollar donated

**Qualified Organizations:** Local food banks, food pantries, homeless shelters

### Key Details:

- Available exclusively to VFW Posts and Auxiliaries
- Supports donations of food items, monetary contributions, or both
- Matching incentives encourage maximum community impact
- Cannot receive this grant if Post and Auxiliary both apply—only one per unit

**Application Process:** Applications completed through VFW Dashboard

## ARIZONA STATE GRANTS

### Arizona Veterans' Donation Fund (VDF) Grants

**Source:** Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS)

**Total Funding Available FY 2024-2025:** \$1,800,000

### Award Categories:

**Small Grants:** \$4,999.99 or less

- \$300,000 total allocated
- Flexible application process
- Budget worksheet and W-9 form required

**Large Grants:** \$5,000 to \$100,000

- \$1,500,000 total allocated
- Application through eCivis cloud-based grants management system
- Current Application Period: December 6, 2024 – January 3, 2025 (5:00 PM Arizona Time)

### Eligible Focus Areas (Social Determinants of Health for Veterans):

- Basic needs and emergency assistance
- Employment support and job training
- Family and social support services
- Financial benefits assistance
- Higher education programs
- Housing and homelessness prevention
- Legal services

- Mental health and substance abuse services
- Physical health and medical support
- Spirituality and community programs

**Application Resources:**

- Detailed application instructions available at <https://grants.az.gov>
- eCivis user guides and submission support documents available online
- Budget templates and W-9 forms available for download

## COMMUNITY UTILITY GRANTS

### APS (Arizona Public Service) Foundation & Corporate Giving

**APS Foundation Focus Areas:**

- STEM education and teacher development (K-12)
- Grants up to \$2,500 for innovative STEM classroom projects
- Teacher knowledge and effectiveness enhancement

**APS Corporate Giving (Community Involvement):**

- Civic and economic development
- Human services
- Environment and sustainability
- Arts and culture
- Non-STEM education
- Programs where APS employees volunteer or serve as board members

**Award Range:** \$5,000 to \$100,000

**In-Kind Services Available:**

- Printing and video production
- Trash disposal and facility services
- Employee volunteer coordination
- Business mentoring for small businesses

**Eligibility Requirements:**

- Does NOT fund: Religious or political groups, private/family foundations, animal shelters
- Organizations must have been in operation minimum 3 years
- Must serve Arizona communities and beneficiaries

**Application Note:** No formal database of past grants maintained; review annual reports for program examples at <https://www.aps.com>

## UniSource Energy Community Assistance Programs

### Community Grant Programs:

- Support for veterans' organizations and initiatives
- Conservation Legacy Veterans Fire Corps Program
- U.S. flag display and patriotic program support
- Nonprofit organization grants

**Award Amounts:** \$3,800 to \$15,000 (varies by region and program)

**Service Areas:** Flagstaff, Mohave County, Santa Cruz County, Verde Valley, and other UniSource communities throughout Arizona

### Special Program: Dollars for Doers

- Employee volunteer matching grants: \$100 to \$500
- Supports nonprofit organizations of employee choice
- Flexible funding for community initiatives

### 2024 Impact Examples:

- River Cities United Way: \$15,000
- Community food programs: \$12,000
- Youth and education initiatives: \$5,000-\$6,000
- Senior and health services: \$3,800-\$5,200

**Contact:** UniSource Community Program Coordinator; visit <https://www.uesaz.com> for detailed information

## ARIZONA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION - APS FUND

**Partner:** Arizona Community Foundation (established 1978)

**Foundation Assets:** Over \$1.1 billion in trust and endowment

### Grant Funding Focus Areas:

- Arts and culture
- Community development
- Education (non-STEM focus)
- Environment
- Human services

**Award Range:** Up to \$10,000 per grant (through APS Fund partnership)

**Historical Impact:** Since inception, ACF and affiliates have distributed over \$1.1 billion to nonprofits, schools, and government agencies

### Application Criteria Emphasis:

- Serves variety of ethnic, economic, or cultural backgrounds
- Includes new or creative solutions to community problems
- Demonstrates measurable outcomes and community impact

**Application Process:** Contact Arizona Community Foundation regional offices for West Valley and other service areas

## RENOVATION AND EQUIPMENT UPGRADE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### **Applicable Grants for Facility Improvements:**

1. **APS Corporate Giving** – In-kind services for facility projects (printing materials, video documentation)
2. **#StillServing Grant** – Community service projects may include facility improvements to support veteran programs
3. **Arizona Veterans' Donation Fund (Large Grants)** – Supports projects addressing social determinants of health, which may include facility upgrades to service delivery spaces
4. **UniSource Community Assistance** – Equipment and facility support for veteran-serving organizations

### **Strategy for Equipment Upgrades:**

- Computer equipment and technology upgrades may qualify under education or facility improvement categories
- Document how upgrades serve veteran beneficiaries and align with VFW mission
- Combine applications to multiple sources for comprehensive facility modernization

## FOOD PANTRY AND FOOD SECURITY FUNDING

### **Primary Grant: Uniting for Veterans Grant (VFW Foundation)**

- Up to \$1,500 matching funds for food donations
- \$1:\$1 match for every pound of food or dollar contributed
- Supports food banks, food pantries, and homeless shelters
- Most direct and immediate funding source for food security initiatives

### **Secondary Opportunities:**

- Arizona Veterans' Donation Fund (VDF) – Basic needs category supports food assistance programs
- UniSource Community Programs – Track record of funding food security organizations (\$12,000-\$15,000)
- Arizona Community Foundation APS Fund – Human services category may include food security initiatives

### **Recommended Approach for Food Pantries:**

1. Establish local food pantry operational plan
2. Partner with established food banks or homeless organizations
3. Apply for Uniting for Veterans Grant with matching fund commitment
4. Leverage multiple small grants rather than single large application

## APPLICATION TIMELINE AND DEADLINES

### Immediate Deadlines:

Grant Program	Application Period	Deadline
VFW #StillServing Grant	October – June	June 1, 2026
VFW Uniting for Veterans Grant	September – June	June 1, 2026
Arizona Veterans' Donation Fund	December 6, 2024 – January 3, 2025	January 3, 2025 (5 PM)

### Rolling Deadline Grants:

- APS Foundation and Corporate Giving – Accepts applications throughout year
- UniSource Community Assistance – Accepts applications throughout year
- Arizona Community Foundation APS Fund – Accepts applications throughout year

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VFW POSTS

1. **Establish Grant Application Committee** – Designate Post leadership to identify and pursue applicable opportunities
2. **Coordinate with Post Auxiliary** – Auxiliary organizations have separate eligibility and awards; coordinate to maximize total funding
3. **Document Community Impact** – Maintain detailed records of current programs and services to support applications
4. **Leverage Corporate Partnerships** – VFW Foundation #StillServing grant includes \$500 bonus for collaborations with qualifying corporate partners
5. **Strategic Layering** – Apply to multiple sources simultaneously; grants are not mutually exclusive
6. **Create Food Pantry Committee** – Establish dedicated team to manage food security initiative and coordinate with Uniting for Veterans Grant
7. **Maintain Compliance** – Ensure Post is not under suspension to remain eligible for all VFW Foundation awards
8. **Contact Department of Arizona Office** – Seek technical assistance from Department of Arizona Surgeon's office for application questions

## RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

### VFW Foundation Grants:

- <https://vfwfoundation.org/grants/>
- Access VFW Dashboard through your Post's administrative portal

### Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (VDF Grants):

- <https://dvs.az.gov/services/financial-assistance/donation-fund>

- VDF applications: <https://grants.az.gov/grants-and-ecivis-resources/ecivis-user-guides>

**Arizona Public Service Community Programs:**

- <https://www.aps.com/>
- Arizona Community Foundation: <https://www.azfoundation.org/>

**UniSource Energy Community Assistance:**

- <https://www.uesaz.com/ues-community-vitality/>
- Community Program Coordinator contact through website

**Department of Arizona VFW:**

- Headquarters: Tempe, Arizona
- Phone: (480) 941-5258
- <https://vfwaz.com>

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## CONCLUSION

VFW Posts across Arizona have access to over \$1.8 million in state funding alone, in addition to VFW Foundation grants and utility company community assistance programs. Posts are encouraged to submit applications to all eligible programs. Strategic planning and coordinated applications can significantly enhance your Post's ability to serve Arizona veterans and communities.

All District Commanders are requested to communicate these opportunities to their Posts and assist in grant application coordination. For technical assistance or questions regarding any of these grant programs, please contact the Department of Arizona office.

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**Respectfully,**

Department of Arizona Surgeon  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of Arizona

**Date:** December 18, 2025