



Vero Beach Elks Lodge

Welcome Home Kit Program

Many veterans moving from the street or a shelter enter their new homes with nothing. Elks can help by providing Welcome Home Kits of needed supplies to help these veterans establish their homes.

There is no single reason why a veteran is homeless. In addition to the complex set of factors influencing all homelessness – shortage of affordable housing, unemployment or job insecurity, health or family emergencies – a large number of displaced and at-risk veterans live with lingering effects of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and substance abuse, which are compounded by a lack of family and social support networks.

Welcome Home Kit Overview

A kit is made up of an array of home supplies provided to a veteran moving into a new home, to help them with day-to-day living.

Generally, a kit will include kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, and cleaning supplies, items like bedding, dishes, pots, pans, towels, toiletries, cleaning supplies, laundry baskets & detergent, etc.



However, a kit may not include just one or two items. We work with individual veterans to coordinate kit supplies. For example,

some veterans may prefer a coffee maker to a crockpot, or a toaster oven to a microwave.

Kits should be well-rounded and contain a variety of supplies; receipts for \$400 worth of several of the same item will not be accepted, even if requested by the VA, as this is not a kit.



This program is funded by the Elks National Veterans Service Commission (ENVSC).

There is currently **no limit to the number of kits** the Vero Beach Elks Lodge can put together. It's all based on local needs and volunteer capacity.

Budgets

The ENVSC will reimburse up to \$400 per kit and up to \$600 per kit if that kit includes a bed. Here are a few more financial guidelines.

- We ask that beds not comprise more than \$500 of a single kit.
- Gift cards may not comprise more than \$25 of any kit.
- Food may not comprise more than \$50 of any kit.
- Electronics should not comprise more than \$80 a kit.
- Items (such as furniture, appliances, pots/pans) may be used or donated if they are in good condition.

Application Process

Visit the program website at veroelks.com/kit and complete an Inquiry Form to get the process started.