August 2026 Website Article

Veterans & Family Support Program: Planning Ahead for Your VFW MAP Grant

If your Auxiliary is planning to apply for a **VFW Military Assistance Program (MAP) Grant** this year, now is the time to begin coordinating with your adopted military unit. Grants open October 2026 for the 2026-2027 year and are on a first come first serve basis while funding is available. Planning early allows your Post/Auxiliary to select an event, have the Post Quartermaster complete the grant application on time, and ensure your project meets all MAP requirements.

One of the first steps is to **contact your Adopted Unit Point of Contact (POC)** to determine the dates of their upcoming events, such as:

- Christmas Parties
- Summer Family Picnics
- Family Days
- Welcome Home or Deployment Events

Current VFW MAP Grant Guidelines

Before submitting your application, be sure you understand the current MAP Grant requirements:

- Each Post/Auxiliary may request **up to $5,000 total per year**. If you have more than 1 adopted unit, please plan accordingly.
- Each event may receive a **maximum of $1,500** in MAP funding.
- All money awarded to an event must be used. If the event is cancelled or you did not spend all the money, funds must be returned to National. (Contact National VFW for instructions)
- The MAP Grant applications can be found on the National Programs Dashboard starting in October 2025. Select "Create Entry" and use the "Entry Type" drop down to select 'Grants". Under "Grant Type" select "Military Appreciation
- VFW Departments and Posts that desire to support their local military. The actual MAP application can only be submitted by a VFW member and must be signed by the appropriate individuals which are specified in the MAP Grant Guidelines.
- MAP funding is intended for basic food items and non-alcoholic beverages for currently serving military members and their families.
- Events must include a plan to strengthen relationships with your adopted military unit and promote VFW and Auxiliary programs.
- MAP Grants are not available for public or formal military ceremonies such as Military Balls, Dining In/Out events, or Change of Command ceremonies.
- An After-Action Report and all eligible receipts must be submitted within 14 days after the event.

Early planning greatly improves your chances of receiving funding.

- National VFW Headquarters no longer requires Post/Auxiliaries to wait until 2 weeks before the event.
- You can apply for all events once the money is available. (If you have an event happening in Summer 2027, apply now to ensure money is allocated)
- Meet with your Units and get the information needed before asking for the grants. I created a short list of information you will need in front of you when applying for the grant online. Contact me for an emailed copy
- Units must be adopted before the MAP grant is utilized.
- National would like Post/Auxiliaries to fundraise in their communities for this program to create a stronger bond with the military and the community.

The Veterans & Family Support Program encourages every Auxiliary to maintain regular communication with its adopted unit throughout the year. Building strong relationships not only creates meaningful support for our service members and their families but also helps identify opportunities for successful MAP Grant events.

On September 9th, 2026, at 7pm, I will be having my first Zoom meeting to go over Adopted Units and MAP grants. Please email me if you would like to participate in this meeting.

If you have questions about planning a MAP event or completing a grant application, contact me for assistance. Together, we can continue making a positive impact on the lives of our military families.

Thank You
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