



**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION
MAY 2025 BULLETIN**



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California

VETERAN PROJECTS FUND

The Veteran Projects Fund is administered through the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, and gives ALA entities an opportunity to begin a new volunteer initiative or forge partnerships with organizations that provide services directly to veterans — like a transitional housing facility. Veteran Projects Fund grants are awarded up to \$10,000 to eligible American Legion Auxiliary tax-exempt entities — units, districts/counties, and departments (states) — for projects that meet a new, one-time need.

If you're thinking about applying for a Veteran Projects Fund grant, start by asking these questions:

- What's happening in your community to support veterans?
- Is there a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical center close to you?
- Does your ALA entity have a relationship with a state veterans home?
- Are there transitional housing units for veterans and military families in your community?
- Are there any homeless veteran shelters nearby?

If the answer is yes to any of those questions but you're not sure what the organization needs, check their website – most have an easily located "wish list" from which you can choose. Contact a representative from the organization and see how you can best work together to fulfill their needs.

Veteran Projects Fund grants do require the ALA entity to provide 20% of the total project's funding cost. For example, if a transitional housing facility needs a \$4,500 walk-in refrigerator, the unit would have to invest \$900, and the ALA Foundation would grant the remaining \$3,600. There are many ways to secure funding for the 20% match such as ask for donations from unit members or secure an employee match from a unit member's workplace.

This year as ALA National President Trish Ward travels throughout the country, she's encouraging members to purchase ALA Challenge Decks to raise funds for the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation's Veteran Projects Fund. The ALA Challenge Deck provides

information about the ALA Foundation and the Veteran Projects Fund, as well as the programs of the ALA. To learn more about the Challenge Deck visit www.legion-aux.org-ALA-Challenge-Deck.

For more information about the Veteran Projects Fund or to apply for a grant, visit www.ALAFoundation.org. Contact ALAFoundation@ALAforVeterans.org or call (317) 569-4500 for more information .

In closing, it has been my pleasure to serve as your Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman for the last two years. Together we have accomplished many wonderful things for our veterans and their families through dedicated service and perseverance; our goal remains unwavering – to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. Let us continue our work in this noble Auxiliary program and give the veteran community the recognition and dignity which they so deserve.

Yours in Service,

Susan Baker, VA&R Chair
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