

VFW Auxiliary Department of South Dakota
Veterans & Family Support Guide Sheet 2024-2025
National Theme: From Our Roots to Our Branches
Extending Service to Our Veterans

Department Theme: United in Service for Veterans

2024-2025 Dept. Chairman: Tammy Chase

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Program Goals: VFW National Service (NVS) VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs; Assist Veterans, Service Members & Their Families; Promote Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness

VFW National Veterans Service (NVS) provides a nationwide network of nearly 300 VFW Service Officers who help veterans navigate the Veterans Affairs system. NVS helps veterans, service members and their families obtain benefits they deserve.

VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs are available to active duty and discharged military through the following programs:

- **Military Assistance Program (MAP)** which helps VFW and Auxiliary members give more to their local military units.
- **Unmet Needs** provides grants to active-duty members and their families to assist with the basic needs of life.
- **VFW “Sports Clips Help A Hero Scholarship” Program** awards scholarships up to \$5,000 to qualifying service members to help them complete their academic goals.

Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness – educate yourself and others about the warning signs of suicide and mental wellness to make a difference in the life of a veteran or service member in crisis. The **Veterans Crisis Line** connects veterans in crisis and the families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs (1-800-MyVA411) responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat or text. Dial 988 and press 1; chat online at veteranscrisisline.net; or send a text message to 838255. Services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals are available. Add the Crisis Line number as a contact in your phone to always have it available to assist a Veteran.

National Award for Auxiliaries:

1. Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the to Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of suicide and mental health veterans, military and their families.

Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the Department Americanism Chairman by March 31, 2025. Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be

deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Past Department Presidents' Awards:

1. Award to Auxiliary and Auxiliary Chairman in each membership category for Best Overall Promotion of Program.
2. Award to Auxiliary for Best Overall Promotion of Unmet Needs.

Please use the following checklist throughout the 2024-2025 year to track your Auxiliary's Veterans & Family Support progress.

Membership Categories:

#1: 10-50 members, #2: 51-110 members, #3: 111-225 members, and #4: 226 & above

Achievements	Completed	Reported
Promote, participate, host or co-host with VFW Post activities for any of these programs: Disaster Relief, Military Assistance (MAP), National Veterans Service (NVS), Unmet Needs, Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness.		
Participate in or sponsor events or projects for homeless veterans (Stand Downs, clothing drives, etc.).		
Attend a School of Instruction event at District and/or Dept. Fall meetings.		