



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of the Commissioner

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MinnesotaVeteran.org • 1-888-LinkVet

Sen. Aric Putnam, Chair
Senate Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband and
Rural Development - Subcommittee on
Veterans
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3215
95 University Ave. W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Jay Xiong, Chair
House Veterans and Military Affairs Division
Centennial Office Building, 5th Floor
658 Cedar Street Saint Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Matt Bliss, Chair
House Veterans and Military Affairs Division
Centennial Office Building, 5th Floor
658 Cedar Street Saint Paul, MN 55155

Date: December 19, 2025

RE: FY25 "Support Our Troops" Account Activity for MDVA

Per Minnesota Statute 190.19, Subdivision 3; the adjutant general and commissioner of veterans affairs must report by February 1 each year to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over military and veterans' affairs on the number, amounts, and use of grants made by each agency from the Minnesota "Support Our Troops" account in the previous year.

The attached report includes the amounts, recipients, and a description of uses of grants and expenditures made by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs from the Minnesota "Support Our Troops" account in Fiscal Year 2025.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Brad Lindsay
Commissioner, MDVA

Cc: Teresa Mozur, Committee Administrator, Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Committee
Adam Kopel, Committee Administrator, House Veterans and Military Affairs Committee

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This document will be made available upon request in an alternative format by contacting the MDVA Office for Diversity and Equality at 612-548-5961 or at diversity.mdva@state.mn.us.



STATE OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, LARRY HERKE



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This report cost approximately \$125 to prepare, including staff time, printing and mailing expense.
(Minn Statute 3.197)

Attachment: Support Our Troops Grant Expenditures for FY2024

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This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling the Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529

Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs
Support Our Troops (SOT) License Plate Funds
FY2025 Grants & Expenditures = \$353,710

\$5,422 - American Heroes Outdoors – Grant to American Heroes Outdoors to provide therapeutic outdoor adventures and activities to Minnesota Veterans. *\$60,000 grant was executed in FY22 with grant expenditures of \$3,564 occurring in FY22, \$36,461 in FY23, \$14,553 in FY24, and the remaining \$5,422 was spent in FY25. This grant is closed.*

\$13,986- Conservation Corp of MN – Supports up to 36 Minnesota Veterans and their spouses as they transition out of the military by assisting them in developing transferable workforce skills that can lead to careers in the natural resources field. *\$75,000 grant was executed in FY22 with grant expenditures of \$9,990 in FY23, \$0 in FY24, \$13,986 in FY25, with \$51,024 returned to the SOT Fund as this grant is closed.*

\$26,212– Jewish War Veterans – Grant to Jewish War Veteran VSO to set-up office headquarters in Minnesota to support veterans. Funding will assist the Grantee to contract with technology needs, new office equipment, expand social media presence, provide chapter advocacy training, and increase JWV membership. *\$81,760 grant was executed in FY22 with grant expenditures of \$7,774 occurring in FY22, \$14,070 in FY23, \$24,343 in FY24 and \$26,212 spent in FY25, with \$9,361 returned to the SOT Fund as this grant is closed.*

\$68,238- Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe – Grant for the Homeless Veteran Financial Assistance Program which seeks to provide financial assistance to at least 50 eligible homeless and at-risk participants living on the Leech Lake Tribal Reservation. *\$93,767 grant was executed in FY23 with grant expenditures of \$8,986 occurring in FY23, \$14,397 in FY24, \$68,238 in FY25 with \$2,146 returned to the SOT Fund as this grant is closed.*

\$27,100 – “LinkVet”- NW Technical College - to support MDVA service contract with NW Technical College, which provides staff and support services for LinkVet (1-888-LinkVet or <https://linkvet.custhelp.com>) the veteran's resource and referral system.

\$27,805 – Military Radio – Promote MDVA by increasing the public's awareness and knowledge about MDVA and other Minnesota Veteran organizations by conducting a weekly radio broadcast targeted to Veterans and military personnel.

\$11,574- Patriot Assistance Dogs – Grant to provide veterans with a trained psychiatric service dog for mental health assistance at no cost to the Veteran. *\$45,000 grant was executed in FY24 with grant expenditures of \$6,430 in FY24, \$11,574 in FY25 and the remaining \$26,996 expected to be spent in FY26.*

\$14,204 - Prairie Five CAC – Grant for Prairie Five Community Action Council to provide up to 300 round-trips rides to destinations throughout the State of Minnesota for qualified, registered Veterans. *\$20,000 grant was executed in FY25 with grant expenditures of \$14,204 in FY25, and the remaining \$5,796 will be expended in FY26.*

\$5,176 - Recovery Community Network - Grant for The Recovery Community Network (RCN) to produce and distribute resource guides to veterans and their families located in central Minnesota. The RCN will produce 1,100 guides and will distribute them to approximately 60 different organizations. *\$11,640 grant was executed in FY23 with grant expenditures of \$6,464 in FY24 and \$5,176 spent in FY25, this grant is closed.*

\$5,750 – Statewide Systems Costs – Used to support statewide systems costs for systems managed by MMB that are used to account for SOT funds.

\$48,090 - Support the Troops - Grant to provide rapid response to Veterans encountering financial hardships. The program will prevent evictions, avoid utility shutoffs and help with car repairs. *\$100,000 grant was executed in FY25 and \$48,090 expended in FY25 and the remaining \$51,910 has been expended in FY26. This grant is closed.*

\$17,400 – Independent Lifestyles Inc - Camp Bliss Grant to provide outdoor activities to Veterans and their spouses. *\$17,400 grant was executed in FY25 with grant expenditures of \$17,400, this grant is closed out.*

\$47,000 – Paralyzed Veterans of America – Grant to fund the National Wheelchair Games held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. *The \$47,000 grant was executed and expended in FY25. This grant is closed.*

\$14,063 – Believeit Canine Service Partners Inc – Grant to provide, qualified Veterans with a healthy, trained service dog for mental health assistance at no cost to the Veteran. \$25,000 grant was executed in FY25 with grant expenditures of \$14,063 in FY25, and the remaining \$10,937 will be expended in FY26.

\$6,400 – The Landing MN - Grant to purchase a vehicle for transporting Veterans in need of transportation to appointments. \$52,000 grant was executed in FY25 with grant expenditures of \$6,400 in FY25 and the remaining \$45,600 is anticipated to be expended in FY26.

\$2,011 – Blue Star Mothers of America – Grant to provide up to three meals monthly for a period of 24 months to Veterans, their spouses and dependent family members who are housed at the Fisher House located at the Minneapolis VA Hospital Campus. \$9,720 grant was executed in FY25 with grant expenditures of \$2,011 in FY25 and the remaining \$7,709 is anticipated to be expended in FY26.

\$13,280 – Gaits of Hope – Grant to provide Equine Assisted Individual and Group Therapy for Veterans and family members. \$100,000 grant was executed in FY25 with grant expenditures of \$13,280 in FY25. MDVA anticipates a bulk of the expenditures to occur in FY26, however this grant has an end date of March 2027, therefore expenditures can occur into FY27.

YMCA of the North – Grant to provide YMCA membership discounts, free retreats and discounted program events for Minnesota Veterans and their families. \$100,000 grant was executed late in FY25, there were no expenditures in FY25, however this grant does not end until September 2026, therefore this grantee has all of FY26 and the first quarter of FY27 to spend these funds.

Ironwood Springs – Grant to provide free health and wellness retreats to Veterans and their family members. \$50,000 grant was executed in late FY25, there were no expenditures in FY25, however this grant does not end until September 30, 2026, therefore this grantee has all of FY26 and the first quarter of FY27 to spend these funds.

Terms and Abbreviations

These are the terms and abbreviations used on this report:

- CAC – Community Action Council
- JWV – Jewish War Veterans
- LinkVet – Veterans Linkage Line
- MDVA – Minnesota Department of Veteran's Affairs
- MMB – Minnesota Management and Budget
- RCN – Recovery Community Network
- SOT – Support our Troops
- VSO – Veteran Service Organization
- YMCA – Young Men's Christian Association