



Veterans serving veterans **THE COLUMBIA TRUST**

The Columbia Trust is administered by



National Service Foundation



The Columbia Trust is about creative generosity and keeping the promise to all veterans forever changed by service. It's an effective way to get resources where they need to go at the state and local level to best support veterans and their families who may be unserved or underserved.

By targeting funds where the need is greatest, the Trust helps remove the financial barriers that can prevent those in need from receiving help.

Veterans serving veterans

The Trust is led by people who share the common experience with those it serves: becoming ill or injured as a result of military service.

Improving quality of life

DAV members and leaders at the local level know the needs of veterans in their area. They have great ideas on how to best serve their communities but may lack the resources to implement those ideas. The Trust is often the driving force in bringing these chapter and department service initiatives to life.

Improving care

Veterans who don't have their own reliable transportation to and from their Department of Veterans Affairs medical appointments rely on the no-cost DAV Transportation Network for their rides. The Trust supplements this program, allowing departments and chapters to purchase new vehicles, and augments the hospital service coordinator and department and chapter service officer programs. This funding supports volunteerism in VA facilities nationwide.



How the Trust works

The Trust exists as a restricted fund within the DAV National Service Foundation. Regional chapters and state-level departments contribute to it from funds that are obligated to be spent for service.

These donated funds are solely to provide services to veterans and their families at the local level. No other use is permitted.

Each community DAV departments and chapters serve is different. Leaders are encouraged to identify unmet needs and develop creative projects to serve veterans in their communities. When funds from the Trust are necessary to initiate or maintain programs, chapters and departments are encouraged to apply for grants.

Grant-seeking departments and chapters must go through a vetted application process to receive funds from the Trust. Applications can be accessed online at **nsf.dav.org/columbia-trust**.

These grant applications are only accepted during specific windows of time each year. The dates are announced in a memo distributed by the DAV National Service Foundation president before an open grant cycle. Each chapter or department applying for financial assistance must have its annual financial report from the prior membership year approved by DAV National Headquarters before requesting a grant.

The administrator of the DAV National Service Foundation reviews grant requests and recommends spending funds for specific purposes. The National Service Foundation Board of Directors is the final arbiter of the grant. Typical requests that are funded include salaries for hospital service coordinators and department and chapter service officers, the Homeless Veteran Program, the Veterans Outreach Program, DAV Transportation Network vehicles, and other direct service initiatives for veterans and their families.

Grants are not typically awarded for indirect costs such as salaries for commanders, adjutants and other support staff; building, utility and maintenance fees; taxes or accounting fees; office supplies or travel. Funds are not awarded to chapters and departments that exceed the asset accumulation limitation spelled out in DAV's National Bylaws. Chapters and departments that show an ongoing ability to meet their proposed service obligations are ineligible.

Help DAV extend hope to veterans nationwide

Building a legacy through service

Established in 1996 as a special initiative by the Department of Colorado, the Trust has expanded to ensure that DAV's services and special programs are available nationwide.

As an organization by veterans for veterans, DAV uses the Trust to fill in gaps of service that the government isn't able to cover. It pairs the effectiveness, energy and specificity of grassroots efforts with the financial resources to bring those efforts to life.

Through the Trust, ill and injured veterans – no matter where they live – can see the impact DAV can make in their lives.

Taking care of our own

The guiding principle behind the Trust is “take from it when you need it, and give back when you can.” Chapters and departments that enjoy a surplus of funds can help underserved veterans across the country by channeling excess funds through the Trust. This allow chapters and departments that need funds to maintain their basic service programs.

Checks can be made payable to:

The Columbia Trust
DAV National Service Foundation
860 Dolwick Drive
Erlanger, KY 41018



DAV NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

860 Dolwick Drive

Erlanger, KY 41018

859-441-7300

Toll Free 877-426-2838, option 6

Scan the QR code or visit nsf.dav.org/columbia-trust