



Advancing Collaboration with VFW Foundation

Approach to Collaboration

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation (VFW) is open to partnerships with different organizations, including recently created veteran organizations. For example, they have embraced opportunities to collaborate in disaster relief initiatives with Team Rubicon, and they created a legislative fellow program with Student Veterans of America.



Richard Potter
Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation is the official 501(c)(3) of the VFW and exists solely to support the programs and raise awareness necessary to operate the VFW in its effort to provide services for America's veterans, military service members, and their families. The VFW's mission is "to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans."¹

¹ <https://www.vfw.org/about-us>

Application of the 9 Considerations for Collaboration

Build Trust

The VFW aims to build trust by looking for what each partner can offer to one another. For example, they have a partnership with Humana where they have been able to collaborate to address food insecurity among veterans.

Have a Vision

The VFW's vision is to "ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country."²

Seek to Assure the Success of Collaborators

The VFW's partnerships are structured in a way that everyone benefits in the collaboration. For example, Humana is a very important partner that is firmly committed to serving veterans, and at the same time the partnership helps Humana to better communicate with the veteran community. Another example is the partnership with Feeding America: Feeding America has expertise in addressing food insecurity. As this issue is of particular concern among post-9/11 veterans, the VFW's success in helping veterans combat food insecurity helps Feeding America to succeed in its mission as well.

Take Stock

The VFW has assets it can contribute to collaborations, and their partners are "critical to filling the many gaps and hardships military life can cause."³

Consider Non-traditional Partners

The VFW has a wide range of partners, including nonprofits, corporations, chambers of commerce (national and local), and others. The VFW also collaborates with elected officials and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to achieve its goals.

Keep Your Donors Apprised of Your Collaborations

Collaboration has always been a core value of the VFW, and they frequently share the positive impact of collaborative efforts in donor communications. There is no doubt that these communications have a positive impact on donor giving.

² <https://www.vfw.org/about-us>

³ <https://www.vfw.org/about-us/our-allies>

Future Collaborations

They would like to collaborate with national grocery stores, like Walmart, which could help the VFW to be more effective in serving veteran communities around the country.

Interested in reading more about other collaboration stories?

Visit [Give.org](https://www.give.org) to discover how other charities are using the nine considerations framework to drive collaboration within their organizations.