



Department of Veterans Affairs

OMB Number 2900-0554
Estimated burden: 35 hours

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Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program Capital Grant Application

Section A - Instructions

VA Form
JAN 2003

10-0361-CG

Supersedes all previous editions of VA Form 10-0361



SECTION A – GENERAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

Purpose and goals: The purpose of the VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program is to promote the development and provision of supportive housing and/or appropriate supportive services, including innovative approaches to assist homeless veterans in the transition from homelessness and to enable them to live as independently as possible. The goal of this program is to help homeless veterans, primarily those living in places not ordinarily meant for human habitation or in emergency shelters, to (1) achieve residential stability; (2) increase their levels and/or income; and (3) obtain greater self-determination. These goals are reflected in the application package and selection criteria for the program.

Residential stability refers to access to, and length of stay in, stable affordable housing. Achieving residential stability involves not only the availability of affordable, permanent housing, but also the success of the program in addressing the problems that led to the veteran becoming homeless. Those problems may involve mental illness, substance abuse, physical disabilities, unemployment, or other factors.

Increased skill level and/or income refers to the resources needed to enable persons to live as self-sufficiently as possible. For many homeless persons this involves actions to bridge the gap between current income and the cost of living. The gap could be closed through employment, a higher-paying job, or access to entitlement benefits. The likelihood of obtaining a job, or a higher-paying job, could be enhanced through job or skills training, or enrolling in General Equivalency Diploma (GED) or higher education courses. For homeless persons with mental or physical disabilities that are so severe as to rule out outside employment, the goal of increased skill level and/or income may involve actions to increase self-sufficiency in other ways (e.g., life skills training, increased income through employment within a project, or increased income through access to entitlement benefits).

Greater self-determination refers to increases in the influence that participants have on decisions-that affect their lives. Those increases may result from such actions as involvement in the development of his or her individual housing and supportive services plan (including developing personal goals), participating in resident advisory council meetings or other involvement in the development of program rules and procedures, involvement in program implementation through such activities as employment and volunteer services, and choice in selecting service providers.

Measurable objectives: To apply these goals to their proposed program, applicants must establish and include in their applications measurable objectives for each of the three goals. Applicants must also describe how their proposed programs will help them achieve these goals.

The measurable objectives established by each applicant are expected to vary based on the specific needs and characteristics of the homeless veterans proposed to be served as well as the specific program chosen. Where the population proposed to be selected has multiple or particularly difficult problems that need to be addressed, objectives should reflect realistic expectations.



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The highest ratings under the quality of project plan criterion of the application will be awarded to applications containing project plans that describe specific measurable objectives for each of the common goals specified above, how the proposed housing and services will help residents reach these goals, how the program's success will be evaluated, and how program modifications will be made, if necessary, as a result of this evaluation.

VA will not consider the level of expectations described in the objective in rating applications. That is, an application that contains realistic objectives that reflect the very dysfunctional nature of the population to be served will be treated the same as an application that contains more optimistic objectives that reflect a less dysfunctional population. VA specifically does not want the process of establishing measurable objectives to lead applicants away from serving homeless persons with the most serious problems. VA does want applicants for each program to adopt the three goals, carefully consider how they can achieve them through their proposed projects, establish measurable objectives to gauge whether they are achieving the goals and, if funded, periodically measure project results and, as necessary make program adjustments.

Eligible activities: Funds may be used to establish programs to furnish supportive services and supportive housing for homeless veterans, including:

1. Transitional housing (up to 24 months) with supportive services designed to enable homeless veterans to become as independent as possible;
2. Supportive services in a service center facility for homeless veterans not in conjunction with supportive housing; or
3. To purchase vans to provide outreach to or transportation for homeless veterans.

Eligible applicants: Public or nonprofit private entities are eligible to apply for grants and per diem payments, including states, metropolitan cities, urban counties, or other governmental entities, Indian tribal governments, and private nonprofit organizations.

Life Safety Code Compliance: All entities receiving grants and or per diem under PL 107-95 must meet the fire and safety requirements applicable under the Life Safety Code of the National Fire Protection Association as well as any local or state codes as required.

Grant award process: VA will notify applicants within grouped categories according to the funding priorities set forth in the NOFA, if any. Applicants will then be ranked, within their respective funding category if applicable. The highest-ranked applications for which funding is available, within highest priority funding category if applicable, will be selected to receive a special needs grant in accordance with their ranked order. If funding priorities have been established and funds are still available after selection of those applicants in the highest priority group VA will continue to conditionally select applicants in lower priority categories in accordance with the selection method set forth in the regulations subject to available funding.

VA expects to announce these selections within 120 days of the application submission deadline. Such applicants will be subsequently notified of any additional project information necessary for grant



award and the date of the deadline for submission of such information. If an applicant is unable to meet any conditions for grant award within the specified timeframe, VA reserves the right to not award funds and to use the funds available for other components of the Grant and Per Diem Program.

Technical deficiencies: VA will notify an applicant of any curable technical deficiencies in the application and the date by which these deficiencies must be corrected. If the applicant fails to submit the corrections within this period, VA will disqualify the application.

Curable technical deficiencies are items that are not necessary for VA review under the selection criteria (e.g., failure to submit a required certification). Applicants may not submit items that would improve the substantive quality of the application after the application deadline.

Documentation and Public Access Requirements: VA will ensure that documentation and other information regarding each application submitted are sufficient to indicate the basis upon which assistance was provided or denied. This material, including any letters of support, will be made available for public inspection for a five-year period beginning not less than 30 days after the award of the assistance. Material will be made available in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and VA's implementing regulation at 38 CFR § 1.553.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION COMPLETION

Components: Funds are available for assistance in the form of grants to:

1. Construct structures to establish supportive housing facilities, facilities to provide supportive services, or to establish service centers;
2. Acquire, expand, and remodel/alter structures to establish new or expand existing supportive housing facilities, facilities to provide supportive services, or to establish service centers; or
3. For the procurement of a van.

A more detailed description of these components, including program requirements, is contained in the rule published in the Federal Register, 38 CFR part 61.0. A copy of these regulations is provided in the appendix of this application. Applicants must review the regulations before completing this application.

Applying for more than one component: Applicants who are applying for multiple components must submit separate applications for each component unless the applicant considers the components to be mutually dependent, in which case they should be submitted in a single application. Each application will be rated as a whole and not by its component parts. A weak component therefore, will reduce the rating of the application as a whole. When applying for multiple components, applicants must determine and indicate a priority order for the components in the event that funding may be offered for some but not all components.



Van Requests: Please note that there is a separate section for van requests. For organizations requesting funding for both transitional housing/service center and a van and wish to have their applications for each scored separately, individual project numbers will be assigned and therefore the applicant is required to provide proof of non-profit status and assurances for each separate project. If the applicant wishes to have all components scored as a whole then a single project number will be assigned and only one set of documentation will be required.

Application deadline: Only complete and timely applications will be considered for funding. To be considered timely, the application must be received at the address and by the time and date specified in the Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA) published in the Federal Register. Applications received after the date and time published in the NOFA will not be accepted even if postmarked by the deadline date. Following the application deadline, applicants will be notified that their application has been received. To be considered complete all items requested in the grant application must arrive as a single application package. Materials arriving separately will not be included in the application package for consideration and may result in the application being rejected or not funded.

Organization of the Application: The application is composed of sequentially numbered single, print on one-side pages. This allows for easy removal of each individual page for copying and insertion into typewriters or printers. Not all pages are to be completed by all applicants. Applicants should pay close attention to the specific instructions in each section.

The application is divided into the following sections: (A) General Instructions, (B1) First Submission, (B2) Van Application, (C) Second Submission, (D) Forms, and (E) Appendices. The majority of the application has been formatted in a manner allowing all information and responses to be placed directly on the form. There will be a wide variety of response types.

Generally a combination of “Fill in the Blank” and “Narrative or Essay” have been used. Many questions have specific text box spaces for responses. Responses should be typed, by using a typewriter, computer, or word processor in the appropriate space provided unless otherwise indicated. **Font size should be 10 point or larger. Do not use the backs of the pages.** Materials may be duplicated as needed on white paper.

Specific Instructions: Specific Instructions are located at the beginning of each area with most areas being self-explanatory.

Responses to Questions: Please do not read “into” the questions. Simply, answer the questions in a direct manner. Be sure to answer all parts of the question. The questions are designed to provide an accurate view of the proposal to a review panel. The space that is provided is sufficient to complete an accurate response. If applicants find they are having trouble answering a question in the space provided, they should look at the response and eliminate what may be unnecessary information. Chances are that a following question will provide an opportunity to use the eliminated information.

Information other than requested: The application is designed to provide VA with sufficient information to determine eligibility and to assign rating points for each section criterion. Applicants must not include information other than that requested. Moreover, applicants are asked to be concise



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in presenting requested information and must not exceed the designated spaces provided for response or add additional pages unless the application specifically instructs the applicant to respond on additional pages.

Definitions and References: Definitions and references can be found in the Rules and Regulations provided in the appendices. Generally, subjects are self-explanatory or a reference is given as to where to obtain a specific topic explanation.

Final Application Assembly: An assembly checklist has been provided. The application must be assembled in the order shown on the assembly checklist. After the entire application is assembled:

1. Attach the cover sheet;
2. Number every page of the application sequentially using the applicant page number box;
3. Enter the appropriate page number of each form on the checklist;
4. If a form is not applicable, enter "NA" in the page column of the checklist;
5. Submit the original plus three (3) copies (on white paper);
6. **Do not punch holes in the application;**
7. **Do not submit the application in a loose-leaf binder;**
8. The same authorized representative of the organization who signed the assurances must sign the Standard Form 424.

For further information: If you have any questions regarding the VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program, contact the Program Office at:

Mail Address: VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program
Department of Veterans Affairs
10770 N. 46th Street, Suite C-200
Tampa, FL 33617

Telephone (toll-free): 1-877-332-0334
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