

10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1988) that an open meeting of the Area 7 Taxpayer Advocacy Panel will be held Thursday, April 28, 2005 from 12:30 p.m. pacific time to 1:30 p.m. pacific time via a telephone conference call. The public is invited to make oral comments. Individual comments will be limited to 5 minutes. If you would like to have the TAP consider a written statement, please call 1-888-912-1227 or 206-220-6096, or write to Mary Peterson O'Brien, TAP Office, 915 2nd Avenue, MS W-406, Seattle, WA 98174 or you can contact us at <http://www.improveirs.org>. Due to limited conference lines, notification of intent to participate in the telephone conference call meeting must be made with Mary Peterson O'Brien. Ms. O'Brien can be reached at 1-888-912-1227 or 206-220-6096.

The agenda will include the following: Various IRS issues.

Dated: March 25, 2005.

Martha Curry,

Acting Director, Taxpayer Advocacy Panel.
[FR Doc. E5-1473 Filed 3-31-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Fund Availability Under the VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is announcing the availability of funds for applications for assistance under the Life Safety Code grant component of VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program. This Notice contains information concerning the program, application process and amount of funding available.

DATES: An original completed and collated grant application (plus two completed collated copies) for assistance under the VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program must be received in the Grant and Per Diem Field Office by 4 p.m. Eastern Time on June 22, 2005. Applications may not be sent by facsimile (FAX). In the interest of fairness to all competing applicants, this deadline is firm as to date and hour, and VA will treat as ineligible for consideration any application that is received after the deadline. Applicants should take this practice into account and make early

submission of their material to avoid any risk of loss of eligibility brought about by unanticipated delays or other delivery-related problems.

For a Copy of the Application Package: Download directly from VA's Grant and Per Diem Program Web page at <http://www.va.gov/homeless/page.cfm?pg=3> or call the Grant and Per Diem Program (toll-free) 1-877-332-0334. For a document relating to the VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program, see the final rule published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 55467) on September 26, 2003.

Submission of Application: An original completed and collated grant application (plus two copies) must be submitted to the following address: VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Field Office, 10770 N. 46th Street, Suite C-200, Tampa, Florida 33617. Applications must be received in the Grant and Per Diem Field Office by the application deadline. Applications must arrive as a complete 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Guy Liedke, VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program Field Office, Department of Veterans Affairs, 10770 N. 46th Street, Suite C-200, Tampa, FL 33617 or phone (toll-free) 1-877-332-0334.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Notice announces the availability of funds for assistance under VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program for eligible capital grantees who received a previous grant under section 3 of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Service Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-590; 38 U.S.C. 7721 note) for construction, renovation, or acquisition of a facility and may seek a Life Safety Code grant solely for renovations to such facility to comply with the Life Safety Code of the National Fire Protection Association.

Public Law 107-95, the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001, authorizes this program. Funding applied for under this Notice may be used solely for renovations to such facility to comply with the Life Safety Code of the National Fire Protection Association.

Authority: VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program is authorized by Public Law 107-95, sec. 5(a)(1), the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001 codified at 38 U.S.C. 2011, 2012, 2061, 2064, and has been extended through Fiscal Year 2005. The program is implemented by

the final rule codified at 38 CFR part 61. The final rule was published in the **Federal Register** on September 26, 2003. The regulations can be found in their entirety in 38 CFR 61.0 through 61.82. Funds made available under this Notice are subject to the requirements of those regulations.

Allocation: Approximately \$1 million is available for the Life Safety Code grant component of this program.

Funding Priorities: None.

Application Requirements: The specific grant application requirements will be specified in the application package. The package includes all required forms and certifications. Selections will be made based on criteria described in the application.

Applicants who are selected will be notified of any additional information needed to confirm or clarify information provided in the application. Applicants will then be notified of the deadline to submit 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 grant and per diem applicants.

Dated: March 23, 2005.

Gordon H. Mansfield,

Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. E5-1436 Filed 3-31-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Fund Availability Under the VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is announcing the availability of funds for applications for assistance under the Capital Grant component of VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program. This Notice contains information concerning the program, funding priorities, application process, and amount of funding available.

DATES: An original completed and collated grant application (plus three completed collated copies) for assistance under the VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program must be received in the Grant and Per Diem Field Office, by 4 p.m. Eastern Time on June 8, 2005. Applications may not be sent by facsimile (FAX). In the interest of fairness to all competing applicants, this deadline is firm as to date and hour, and VA will treat as

ineligible for consideration any application that is received after the deadline. Applicants should take this practice into account and make early submission of their material to avoid any risk of loss of eligibility brought about by unanticipated delays or other delivery-related problems.

For a Copy of the Application

Package: Download directly from VA's Grant and Per Diem Program Web page at: <http://www.va.gov/homeless/page.cfm?pg=3> or call the Grant and Per Diem Program at (toll-free) 1-877-332-0334. For a document relating to the VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program, see the final rule published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 55467) on September 26, 2003.

Submission of Application: An original completed and collated grant application (plus three copies) must be submitted to the following address: VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Field Office, 10770 N. 46th Street, Suite C-200, Tampa, FL, 33617. Applications must be received in the Grant and Per Diem Field Office by the application deadline. Applications must arrive as a complete 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Guy Liedke, VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program, Department of Veterans Affairs, 10770 N. 46th Street, Suite C-200, Tampa, FL, 33617; (toll-free) 1-877-332-0334.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Notice announces the availability of capital funds for assistance under VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program for eligible entities to: (1) Expand existing projects; or (2) develop new programs or new components of existing projects. Funding applied for under the capital grant component may be used for: (1) Remodeling or alteration of existing buildings; (2) acquisition of buildings, acquisition and rehabilitation of buildings; (3) new construction; and (4) acquisition of vans (in connection with a new or existing Grant and Per Diem Grant project) for outreach to and/or transportation for homeless veterans. Public Law 107-95, section 5(a)(1), the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001, *codified at* 38 U.S.C. 2011, 2012, 2061, and 2064 authorizes this program. The program has been extended through Fiscal Year 2005. For eligibility criteria please refer to the Final Rule published in the **Federal Register** on September 26, 2003.

Capital grant applicants may not receive assistance to replace funds

provided by any State or local government to assist homeless persons. A proposal for an existing project that seeks to shift its focus by changing the population being served or the precise mix of services being offered is not eligible for consideration. No more than 25 percent of services available in projects funded through this grant program may be provided to clients who are not receiving those services as veterans.

VA is pleased to issue this Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA) for the Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program. The Department expects to award approximately \$15 million under the capital grant component.

Funding available under this NOFA is being offered to help offset the capital expenses of existing state and local governments, Indian Tribal governments, faith-based, and community-based organizations that are capable of creating and providing supported housing and/or supportive service center services for homeless veterans. The District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, any territory or possession of the United States, may be considered eligible entities under the definition of "State" in the final rule, § 61.1 Definitions.

Per diem for these programs is requested in the grant application and may be paid at the time of grant project completion. It should be noted that VA per diem payment is limited to the applicant's cost of care per eligible veteran minus other sources of payments to the applicant for furnishing services to homeless veterans up to the per day rate VA pays for State Home Domiciliary care. Awardees will be required to support their request for per diem payment with adequate fiscal documentation as to program income and expenses.

Interested organizations should know that the vast majority of homeless veterans in this country suffer from mental illness or substance abuse disorders or are dually diagnosed with both mental illness and substance abuse disorders. In addition, many homeless veterans have serious medical problems. Collaboration with VA medical centers, VA community-based outpatient clinics or other health care providers is an important aspect of assuring that homeless veterans have access to appropriate health care services.

It is important to be aware that VA places great emphasis on responsibility and accountability. VA has procedures in place to verify the completion of the capital grant as well as monitor services provided to homeless veterans and outcomes associated with the services

provided in grant and per diem-funded programs. Applicants should be aware of the following:

All awardees that are conditionally selected in response to *this NOFA* must meet the Life Safety Code of the National Fire and Protection Association as it relates to their specific facility. VA will conduct an inspection prior to awardees being able to submit request for per diem payment to ensure this requirement is met.

Upon capital grant completion each program seeking per diem will have a liaison appointed from a nearby VA medical facility to provide oversight and monitor services provided to homeless veterans in the per diem-funded program.

Monitoring will include at a minimum an annual review of each per diem program's progress toward meeting internal goals and objectives in helping veterans attain housing stability, adequate income support, and self sufficiency as identified in each per diem program's original application. Monitoring will also include a review of the agency's income and expenses as they relate to this project to ensure per diem payment is accurate.

Each per diem-funded program will participate in VA's national program monitoring and evaluation system administered by VA's Northeast Program Evaluation Center (NEPEC). It is the intention of VA to develop specific performance targets with respect to housing for homeless veterans. NEPEC's monitoring procedures will be used to determine successful accomplishment of these housing outcomes for each per diem-funded program.

VA encourages all eligible and interested entities to review this NOFA and consider applying for funds to provide service for homeless veterans.

Authority: VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program is authorized by Public Law 107-95, section 5(a)(1), the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001 codified at 38 U.S.C. 2011, 2012, 2061, 2064, and has been extended through Fiscal Year 2005. The program is implemented by the final rule codified at 38 CFR part 61. The final rule was published in the **Federal Register** on September 26, 2003, the regulations can be found in their entirety in 38 CFR 61.0 through 61.82. Funds made available under this Notice are subject to the requirements of those regulations.

Allocation: Approximately \$15 million is available for the capital grant component. Capital grant awards will be limited to no more than \$400,000.00, and not more than one award per tax identification number. Vans must be

directly connected to a new or existing Grant and Per Diem Grant project and will be limited to one per project. Per diem payments to capital grant recipients are subject to the recipients maintaining the program for which the grant was awarded, the availability of funds and reauthorization of the program past September 30, 2005.

Funding Priorities 1. VA establishes priority for funding to underserved and low utilization populations and areas. VA encourages applications from applicants that serve the identified population or are in the identified underserved areas listed in the priorities. In this round of capital grant funding, VA expects to award funding to create 1,000 community-based supported housing beds.

Funding priority 1. Applicants whose projects are exclusively for homeless Native American veterans will be considered in the first funding priority. Provision of services must occur on Indian Tribal property. Of those eligible entities in the first funding priority, that are legally fundable, the highest scoring applicants will be funded first until

approximately \$1.8 million is awarded. Applicants not funded in this priority will be placed in the fourth funding priority.

Funding priority 2. Applicants whose projects are physically located in Alaska, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, Virginia, Vermont, Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession of the United States are the second funding priority. Eligible entities whose projects are located in these states will be considered in the second funding priority. Of those eligible entities in the second funding priority, that are legally fundable, the highest scoring applicant from each state will be funded first followed by the second highest scoring applicant from each state until approximately \$6 million is awarded. Applicants not funded in this priority will be placed in the fourth funding priority.

Funding priority 3. Applicants whose projects are physically located in cities within the Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) as defined in the tables below that are eligible entities will be considered in the third funding priority.

Of those eligible entities in the third funding priority, that are legally fundable, the highest scoring applicant from each MSA will be funded first followed by the second highest scoring applicant in each MSA until approximately \$3.2 million is awarded. Applicants not funded in this priority will be placed in the fourth funding priority.

Funding priority 4. VA is encouraging interested, state and local governments, faith-based, and community-based organizations to apply for funding under this NOFA. Eligible entities that are state and local governments, Indian Tribal governments, faith-based, and community-based organizations, along with those applicants not selected in the other funding priorities will be considered in the fourth funding priority. Of those eligible entities that are legally fundable, the highest-ranked applications for which funding is available, will be conditionally selected for eligibility to receive a capital grant in accordance with their ranked order until funding is expended (approximately \$4 million).

METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS FOR FUNDING PRIORITY 3

NEW YORK—NEWARK—EDISON NY—NJ—PA

COUNTIES IN MSA

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Queens NY Putnam NY Rockland NY Pike PA Union NJ Richmond NJ | Kings NY Bronx NY Bergen NJ Morris NJ Hunterdon NJ Monmouth NJ | New York NY Suffolk NY Passaic NJ Essex NJ Somerset NJ Ocean NJ | Nassau NY Westchester NY Sussex NJ Hudson NJ Middlesex NJ |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|

WASHINGTON—ARLINGTON—ALEXANDRIA DC—VA—MD

COUNTIES IN MSA

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Washington DC Frederick MD Jefferson WV Fauquier VA | Montgomery MD Prince George MD Calvert MD Fairfax VA | Charles MD Clarke VA Warren VA Loudoun VA | Stafford VA Prince William VA Spotsylvania VA |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|

CHICAGO—NAPERVILLE—JOLIET IL—IN—WI

COUNTIES IN MSA

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Kenosha WI McHenry IL De Kalb IL Kane IL | Lake-Kenosha IL Kendall IL Grundy IL Will IL | Du Page IL Cook IL Lake IN | Newton IN Jasper IN Porter IN |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

PHILADELPHIA—CAMDEN—WILMINGTON PA—NJ—DE—MD

COUNTIES IN MSA

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Bucks PA Delaware PA Gloucester NJ | Montgomery PA Cecil MD Camden NJ | Philadelphia PA New Castle DE Burlington NJ | Chester PA Salem NJ |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------|

Methodology: VA will review all capital grants applications in response

to this notice of funding availability as follows: VA will group the applicants

into the funding priorities categories. Applicants will then be ranked within

their respective funding category based on score and any ranking criteria set forth in that funding category only if the applicant scores at least 600 cumulative points from paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), and (i) of § 61.13.

The highest-ranked application for which funding is available, within the highest funding category, will be conditionally selected in accordance with their ranked order until VA reaches the projected amount of funding for each category. If funds are still available after selection of those applications 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 final rule § 61.14.

Application Requirements: The specific grant application requirements will be specified in the application package. Applicants should be careful to complete the proper application package. Submission of the incorrect application package will result in the application being rejected at threshold. The packages include all required forms and certifications. Selections will be made based on criteria described in the application, final rule, and NOFA. Applicants who are conditionally selected will be notified of any

additional information needed to confirm or clarify information provided in the application. Applicants will then be notified of the deadline to submit 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 grant and per diem applicants.

Dated: March 25, 2005.

R. James Nicholson,

Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. E5-1437 Filed 3-31-05; 8:45 am]

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