

project listed in the Special Need application to ensure significant scope changes do not occur—displacing other homeless veteran populations. VA may reject for Special Need Funding, those applications that significantly alter the original scope (38 CFR 61.62).

A separate Special Need application is required for each previously funded Grant and Per Diem project (identified by unique project number; see Application Requirements in this NOFA).

Special Need funding may not be used for capital improvements or to purchase vans or real property. However, the leasing of vans or real property may be acceptable. Questions regarding acceptability should be directed to VA's Grant and Per Diem Field Office (at the number listed above). Applicants may not receive Special Need assistance to replace funds provided by any Federal, state or local government agency or program to assist homeless persons.

Authority: VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program and Special Need Grant are authorized by Public Law 109-461, § 703 and § 706 respectively, the law is known as the Veterans Benefit, Health Care and Information Technology Act of 2006, codified at 38 U.S.C. 2011, 2012, 2061, 2064. The program is implemented by the Final Rule codified at 38 CFR Part 61.0. 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 \$6 million is available for Special Need GPD grant component of this program. Funding will be for a period beginning on January 1, 2008 and ending on September 30, 2009. Based on the amount of funding available the maximum allowable funding to any one operational Grant and Per Diem Special Need recipient under this NOFA will be \$450,000.00 per project, for the specified time. The goal is to create new Special Need services for these homeless veterans' populations.

It is important to be aware that VA places great emphasis on responsibility and accountability. VA has procedures in place to 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:

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. Additionally, potential applicants should take into consideration, "Grant recipients that concurrently receive Per Diem and Special Needs payments shall not be paid more than 100 percent of the cost for the bed per day, product, operation, personnel, or service provided" (38 CFR 61.61(h)). Awardees will be required to support their request for Per Diem and Special Needs payments with adequate fiscal documentation as to program income and expenses.

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 or review a current inspection prior to awardees being able to submit request for payment to ensure this requirement is met.

Each grant awardee will have the VA liaison that was appointed for its corresponding Grant and Per Diem program monitor services to ensure the Special Need grant is being met and will include at least an annual review of each program's progress toward meeting internal goals and objectives in helping the Special Need homeless veterans as identified in each applicant's original Special Need application. Monitoring for all participants will include a review of the agency's income and expenses as they relate to this project to ensure Per Diem and Special Need payments are accurate.

Monitoring of Homeless Special Need participants and services provided by Grant and Per Diem recipients will be accomplished according to the Northeast Program Evaluation Center (NEPEC) procedure. These monitoring procedures will be used to determine successful accomplishment of outcomes for each collaborative partnership.

Funding Priorities: None.

Agreement and Funding Actions: Conditionally selected applicants will complete a funding agreement with VA in accordance with 38 CFR 61.61 and provide any additional information as required by VA. Upon signature by the Secretary or designated representative, final selection will be completed.

Funding for operational Grant and Per Diem applicants that are finally selected will not exceed the period specified in this NOFA. A condition to obtain the Special Need grant is for the applicant to maintain the original (grant or per diem) program for which the Special Need grant is sought.

Application Requirements: A separate application is needed for each project number which you are requesting Special Needs funding. A project number is the last two digits of the year funded, the sequence the application was received, and the state abbreviation for the project location, (*i.e.*, 00-125-MA would have been funded in the year 2000, the 125th application received, and the project is located in Massachusetts). If you do not know your project number call VA's Grant and Per Diem Field Office (toll-free) at 1-877-332-0334.

The package includes the applicant's required forms and certifications. Selections will be made based on criteria described in the application and additional information as specified in this NOFA.

Applicants who are selected will be notified of any further 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 time frame, VA reserves the right to not award funds and to use the funds available for other grant and per diem applicants.

Dated: February 16, 2007.

R. James Nicholson,

Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. E7-3029 Filed 2-21-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Fund Availability Under 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 currently operational VA Grant and Per Diem Special Need Grant Recipients in conjunction with their collaborative VA Special Need partners to make re-applications for assistance under the Special Need grant component of VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program. The focus of this Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA) is to encourage applicants to continue to deliver services to the homeless Special Need veteran population. This Notice contains information concerning the program, application process, and amount of funding available.

DATES: An original completed grant application (plus three completed

collated copies) for each project seeking assistance under the VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program Special Need grant component must be received in the Grant and Per Diem Field Office, by 4 p.m. Eastern Time on April 4, 2007. Applications submitted through Grants.gov will be the only electronic format accepted. Applications may not be sent by facsimile (FAX) or other electronic means (e-mail). 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. This includes applications through Grants.gov. 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 electronic transmission problems, 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. In this package is information on Grants.gov submission should applicants so desire. For a document relating to the VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program, see the Final Rule codified at 38 CFR Part 61.0.

Submission of Application: An original completed and collated grant application (plus three copies) for each project 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. If all materials are not included in the application package, this 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 funds for assistance under VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program for currently operational Grant and Per Diem Special Need recipients and their collaborative VA partners to

obtain grant assistance with additional operational costs that would not otherwise be incurred but for the fact that the recipient is providing supportive housing beds and services or at service centers for the Special Needs of the centers for the following homeless veteran populations:

- Chronically mentally ill;
- Women, including women who have care of minor dependents;
- Frail elderly; or
- Terminally ill.

Definitions of these populations are contained in 38 CFR 61.1 Definitions. Eligible applicants should review these definitions to ensure their proposed populations meet the specific requirements.

VA is pleased to issue this NOFA for the Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem program as a part of the effort to end chronic homelessness among our Nation's veterans. Funding applied for under this Notice may be used for: the provision of service, operation, or personnel to facilitate the following with regard to the targeted group:

- Chronically Mentally Ill:
 - (1) Help participants join in and engage with the community;
 - (2) Facilitate reintegration with the community and provide services that may optimize reintegration such as life-skills education, recreational activities, and follow up case management;
 - (3) Ensure that participants have opportunities and services for re-establishing relationships with family;
 - (4) Ensure adequate supervision, including supervision of medication and monitoring of medication compliance; and
 - (5) Provide opportunities for participants, either directly or through referral, to obtain other services particularly relevant for a chronically mentally ill population, such as vocational development, benefits management, fiduciary or money management services, medication compliance, and medication education.

Women, including women who have care of minor dependents:

- (1) Ensure transportation for women and their children, especially for health care and educational needs;
- (2) Provide directly or offer referrals for adequate and safe child care;
- (3) Ensure children's health care needs are met especially age appropriate wellness visits and immunizations; and
- (4) Address safety and security issues including segregation procedures from other program participants if deemed appropriate.

Frail Elderly:

- (1) Ensure the safety of the residents in the facility to include preventing harm and exploitation;

(2) Ensure opportunities to keep residents mentally and physically agile to the fullest extent through the incorporation of structured activities, physical activity, and plans for social engagement within the program and in the community;

(3) Provide opportunities for participants to address life transitional issues and separation and/or loss issues;

(4) Provide access to assistance devices such as walkers, grippers, or other devices necessary for optimal functioning;

(5) Ensure adequate supervision, including supervision of medication and monitoring of medication compliance; and

(6) Provide opportunities for participants either directly or through referral for other services particularly relevant for the frail elderly, including services or programs addressing emotional, social, spiritual, and generative needs.

Terminally Ill:

(1) Help participants address life-transition and life-end issues;

(2) Ensure that participants are afforded timely access to hospice services;

(3) Provide opportunities for participants to engage in "tasks of dying," or activities of "getting things in order" or other therapeutic actions that help resolve end of life issues and enable transition and closure;

(4) Ensure adequate supervision including supervision of medication and monitoring of medication compliance; and

(5) Provide opportunities for participants either directly or through referral for other services particularly relevant for terminally ill such as legal counsel and pain management.

VA is seeking, through this NOFA, to renew previous grant and per diem Special Need providers and their VA collaborative partners to continue to serve the Special Need veteran populations.

No part of a Special Need grant may be used for any purpose that would change significantly the scope of the specific Grant and Per Diem project for which a Capital Grant and Per Diem was awarded. As a part of the review process, VA will review the original project listed in the Special Need application to ensure significant scope changes do not occur—displacing other homeless veteran populations. VA may reject for Special Need Funding those applications that significantly alter the original scope (38 CFR 61.62).

A separate Special Need application is required for each previously funded Grant and Per Diem project (identified

by unique project number (see Application Requirements in this NOFA).

Special Need funding may not be used for capital improvements or to purchase vans or real property. However, the leasing of vans or real property may be acceptable. Questions regarding acceptability should be directed to VA's Grant and Per Diem Field Office (at the number listed above). Applicants may not receive Special Need assistance to replace funds provided by any Federal, state or local government agency or program to assist homeless persons.

Authority: VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program and Special Need Grant are authorized by Public Law 109-461, § 703 and § 706 respectively, the law is known as the Veterans Benefit, Health Care and Information Technology Act of 2006, codified at 38 U.S.C. 2011, 2012, 2061, 2064. The program is implemented by the Final Rule codified at 38 CFR Part 61.0. 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 \$6 million is available for current Special Need Grant and Per Diem grant component of this program. Funding will be for a period beginning on January 1, 2008, and ending on September 30, 2009. Based on the amount of funding available, providers should include any projected excess funds still remaining from their previous award when calculating and submitting their budgets for this NOFA. Previously awarded funding will be used first followed by the funding from this NOFA for the delivery of services. Based on Grant and Per Diem funding availability, approximately, \$8 million is expected to be made available over the specified time (internally) for the current VA collaborative partners.

The goal is to the maximum extent possible is to ensure a continuation of Special Need services to homeless veterans and their VA collaborative partners.

It is important to be aware that VA places great emphasis on responsibility and accountability. VA has procedures in place to 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:

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. Additionally, potential applicants should take into consideration, "Grant recipients that concurrently receive per diem and Special Needs payments shall not be paid more than 100 percent of the cost for the bed per day, product, operation, personnel, or service provided" [38 CFR 61.61(h)]. Awardees will be required to support their request for per diem and Special Needs payments with adequate fiscal documentation as to program income and expenses.

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 or review a current inspection prior to awardees being able to submit request for payment to ensure this requirement is met.

Each Grant awardee will have the VA liaison that was appointed for its corresponding Grant and Per Diem program monitor services to ensure the Special Need grant is being met and will include at least an annual review of each program's progress toward meeting internal goals and objectives in helping the Special Need homeless veterans as identified in each applicant's original Special Need application. Monitoring for all participants will include a review of the agency's income and expenses as they relate to this project to ensure per diem and Special Need payments are accurate.

Monitoring of Homeless Special Need participants and services provided by Grant and Per Diem recipients will be accomplished according to the Northeast Program Evaluation Center (NEPEC) procedure. These monitoring procedures will be used to determine successful accomplishment of outcomes for each collaborative partnership.

Funding Priorities: None.

Agreement and Funding Actions: Conditionally selected applicants will complete a funding agreement with VA in accordance with 38 CFR 61.61 and provide any additional information as required by VA. Upon signature by the Secretary or designated representative, final selection will be completed.

Funding for operational Grant and Per Diem applicants that are finally selected will not exceed the period specified in this NOFA. A condition to obtain the Special Need Grant is for the applicant to maintain the original (grant or per diem) program for which the Special Need grant is sought.

Application Requirements: A separate application is needed for each project number, which you are requesting Special Needs Funding. In addition, current Special Need recipients should also list their Special Need Project number. A project number is the last two digits of the year funded, the sequence the application was received, and the state abbreviation for the project location, (*i.e.*, 00-125-MA would have been funded in the year 2000, the 125th application received, and the project is located in Massachusetts). If you do not know your project number call VA's Grant and Per Diem Field Office (toll-free) at 1-877-332-0334.

The grant application requirements are specified in the application package and the following additional information is required by this NOFA.

a. Applicants should include in their submissions documentation of successful past performance.

b. If the previous Special Needs grant was a collaborative the submission must include the appropriate performance data from the VA collaborative partner that the VA met its objectives or provided its duties as outlined in the original MOA.

c. An updated MOA signed by the VAMC Director and the applicant agency Director specifying the collaborative and specific duties of the non-profit provider and those of the VA Medical Center that will be accomplished under this grant.

d. Complete new budgets for the provider and collaborative partner with costs based on past costs incurred and evidence of the same. Based on the amount of funding available providers should include any projected excess funds still remaining from their previous award when calculating and submitting their budgets for this NOFA. Previously awarded funding will be used first, followed by the funding from this NOFA for the delivery of services.

Applicants having questions with regard to the projected amount of funding from previous Special Need awards should contact the Grant and Per Diem Field Office prior to application for this NOFA.

The package includes the applicant's required forms and certifications. Selections will be made based on criteria described in the application and additional information as specified in this NOFA.

Applicants who are selected will be notified of any further 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 time frame, VA reserves the right to not award funds and to use the funds available for other grant and per diem applicants.

Dated: February, 16, 2007.

R. James Nicholson,

Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. E7-3031 Filed 2-21-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Blue Ribbon Panel on VA Medical School Affiliations; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that the Blue Ribbon Panel on VA-Medical School Affiliations has scheduled a meeting for March 27, 2007, in Room 542 at 1800 G Street NW., Washington, DC. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will end at 3 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the Panel is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, through the Under Secretary for Health, in issues related to a comprehensive philosophical framework to enhance VA's partnerships with medical schools and affiliated institutions.

The panelists will review VA's current affiliations with medical schools and establish the future directions of the Panel. The Panel will receive background presentations and issue papers on various topics that are relevant to the Panel's deliberations.

Interested persons may attend and present oral statements to the Panel.

Oral presentations will be limited to five minutes or less, depending on the number of participants. Interested parties may also provide written comments for review by the Panel prior to the meeting or at any time, by e-mail to *Gloria.Holland@va.gov* or by mail to Gloria J. Holland, PhD Special Assistant for Policy and Planning to the Chief Academic Affiliations Officer, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., (14), Washington, DC 20420.

Dated: February 15, 2007.

By Direction of the Secretary.

E. Philip Riggan,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 07-785 Filed 2-21-07; 8:45am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that the Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War (FPOW) has scheduled a meeting for April 16-18, 2007, at the Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC. The meeting will be held in room 630 on April 16 and room 830 on April 17-18, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the administration of benefits under title 38, United States Code, for veterans

who are former prisoners of war, and to make recommendations on the needs of such veterans for compensation, health care, and rehabilitation.

The agenda for April 16 will begin with an introduction of Committee members, remarks from dignitaries, a review of Committee reports, an update of activities since the last meeting, and a period for FPOW veterans and/or the public to address the Committee. On April 17, the Committee will hear reports from the Veterans Health Administration and Veterans Benefits Administration. The Committee will also hear an update on Robert E. Mitchell Center for Prisoners of War studies. On April 18, the Committee's medical and administrative work groups will meet to discuss their activities and report back to the Committee. Additionally, the Committee will review and analyze comments presented during the meeting to compile a report to be sent to the Secretary.

Members of the public may direct questions or submit written statements for review by the Committee in advance of the meeting to Mr. Bradley G. Mayes, Director, Compensation and Pension Service (21), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. Submitted materials must be received by April 1, 2007.

Dated: February 14, 2007.

By Direction of the Secretary.

E. Philip Riggan,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 07-784 Filed 2-21-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M