

collection of information should be received on or before April 15, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information through [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov); or to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M35), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail: [nancy.kessinger@va.gov](mailto:nancy.kessinger@va.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0458" in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 461-9769 or Fax (202) 275-5947.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

*Title:* Certification of School Attendance or Termination, VA Forms 21-8960 and 21-8960-1.

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0458.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* Claimants complete VA Form 21-8960 and VA Form 21-8960-1 to certify that a child between the ages of 18 and 23 years old is attending school. VA uses the information collected to determine the child's continued entitlement to benefits. Benefits are discontinued if the child marries, or no longer attending school.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 11,667 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 10 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* Annually.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 70,000.

Dated: February 8, 2008.

By direction of the Secretary:

**Denise McLamb,**

*Program Analyst, Records Management Service.*

[FR Doc. E8-2956 Filed 2-14-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0621]

### Proposed Information Collection (National Practitioner Data Bank Regulations) Activity; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed revision of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on information needed to determine whether malpractice payments are related to substandard care, professional incompetence or misconduct.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before April 15, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information through [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov); or to Mary Stout, Veterans Health Administration (193E1), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420; or e-mail: [mary.stout@va.gov](mailto:mary.stout@va.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0621" in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov). **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary Stout (202) 461-5867 or FAX (202) 273-9381.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is

being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VHA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VHA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VHA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

*Title:* National Practitioner Data Bank Regulations (NPDB).

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0621.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* The National Practitioner Data Bank, authorized by the Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986 and administered by the Department of Health and Human Service, was established for the purpose of collecting and releasing certain information concerning physicians, dentists, and other licensed health care practitioners. The Act requires VA to obtain information from the Data Bank on health care providers who provide or seek to provide health care services at VA facilities and report information regarding malpractice payments and adverse clinical privileges action to the Data Bank.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or Households.

*Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:* 5 hours.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,750.

Dated: February 8, 2008.

By direction of the Secretary:

**Denise McLamb,**

*Program Analyst, Records Management Service.*

[FR Doc. E8-2957 Filed 2-14-08; 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 is announcing the availability of

funds for applications for assistance under the "Per Diem Only" 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 4:00 PM Eastern Time on Wednesday, April 9, 2008. 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 the risk of loss of eligibility due to 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 Office at (toll-free) 1-877-332-0334. In this package is information on Grants.gov submissions. For a document relating to the VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program, see the Final Rule published in the **Federal Register** 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, Florida 33617. Applications must be received in the Grant and Per Diem Field office by the application deadline. This includes applications submitted through Grants.gov. 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:** Ms. Chelsea Watson, VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program, Department of Veterans Affairs, 10770 North 46th Street, Suite C-200, Tampa, Florida 33617; or you may call (toll-free) 1-877-332-0334 for further information.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This Notice announces the availability of funds for assistance under VA's

Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program for eligible programs that have not previously applied for or received per diem in connection with a grant (see 38 CFR 61.1 through 61.82). Funding applied for under this Notice is authorized by Public Law 109-461, § 703, known as the Veterans Benefit, Health Care and Information Technology Act of 2006, and by 38 U.S.C. 2011, 2012, 2061, 2064, and may be used for aid for supportive housing. Service Centers will not be funded in this NOFA. Funding will be in the form of per diem payments issued to eligible entities from the date of award and will continue subject to availability of funds and the recipients' compliance with 38 CFR 61.1 through 61.82. For eligibility criteria please refer to Final Rule published in the **Federal Register** on September 26, 2003, 38 CFR 61.30, 61.31, and 61.32.

VA expects that it will take no longer than 90 days from the date of award for projects to be inspected and become operational. Failure to meet the 90 day milestone may result in the per diem award being terminated.

Capital grant recipients who received capital grant funding under VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program in years 1994 through 2007 for acquisition, renovation or new construction should not respond to this NOFA. Per diem payments for those portions of their programs that were created with capital grant funds is requested in the capital grant application and paid at the time of capital grant project completion and inspection.

Previous "Per Diem Only" recipients that renewed their PDO grants in 2005 or 2007 need not reapply to continue these projects.

VA is pleased to issue this Notice of Fund Availability (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. The Department expects to create approximately 1000 beds under this NOFA.

Funding available under this NOFA is being offered to help offset the operating expenses of existing state and local governments, Indian Tribal Governments, faith-based, and community-based organizations that are capable of providing supported housing and supportive 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 38 CFR 61.1 Definitions. It should be noted that VA 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. The recent events associated with the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) coupled with the Nation's returning OIF/OEF veterans further emphasizes the need for collaboration with VA medical centers, VA community-based outpatient clinics or other health care providers as well as with VA and other benefit providers as an important aspect of ensuring that homeless veterans have access to appropriate health care services. VA considers this program an important part of our effort to end chronic homelessness among all veterans.

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. VA is also implementing new procedures to further this effort. 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. Applicants should note that all facilities are to be sprinkled unless they are specifically exempted under the Life Safety Code and make consideration of this when submitting their grant applications as no additional funds will be made available for capital improvements under this per diem only NOFA. VA will conduct an inspection prior to awardees being able to submit request for payment to ensure this requirement is met.

Each per diem-funded program 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 least 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 109-461, § 703, known as the Veterans Benefit, Health Care and Information Technology Act of 2006, and by 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, Sec. 61.0 through 61.82. Funds made available under this Notice are subject to the requirements of those regulations.

*Allocation:* Approximately \$12 million annually is available for the per diem only award component of this program. This funding subject to the availability of funds and will be available so long as recipients meet the requirements of 38 CFR 61.1 through 61.82.

*Funding Priorities:* VA is offering to eligible applicants funding priorities for transitional housing and services to: (1) Serve women, women with care of dependent children, (2) serve all veterans in the States of Vermont, Nebraska, and Alaska and, (3) Indian Tribal Governments. Additionally, VA is encouraging interested state and local governments, Indian Tribal Governments, and faith-based and community-based organizations to apply for funding under this NOFA. In this round of capital grant funding, VA expects to award funding to create approximately 1000 community-based supported housing beds.

*Funding priority 1.* VA is offering the opportunity for providers who are willing to create new projects specifically for women and women with care of dependent children only, which are 30 beds or less. Of those eligible entities in the first funding priority, that are legally fundable, the highest scoring applicants will be funded first until approximately 150 beds are awarded. Applicants not funded in this priority will be considered in the fourth funding priority. Should not enough eligible projects be funded under the first funding priority, beds not awarded in this priority will fall to the fourth funding priority.

*Funding priority 2.* VA is offering the opportunity for providers who are willing to create new or expand existing projects for homeless veterans in the States of Vermont, Nebraska, and Alaska. Applicants whose projects are physically 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 applicants will be funded first until approximately 100 beds are awarded. Applicants not funded in this priority will be placed in the fourth funding priority. Should not enough eligible projects be funded under the second funding priority, beds in this priority will fall to the fourth funding priority.

*Funding priority 3.* VA is offering the opportunity to Indian Tribal Governments or non-profit agencies that will provide transitional housing and services on Indian Tribal Property to apply for funding under this NOFA to create transitional housing and services for homeless veterans. Eligible entities that are Indian Tribal Governments or non-profit agencies willing to provide transitional housing and services on Indian Tribal Property will be considered in the third funding priority as applicable. Of those eligible entities in the third funding priority, that are legally fundable, the highest scoring applicants will be funded first until approximately 100 beds are awarded. Applicants not funded in this priority will be placed in the fourth funding priority. Should not enough eligible projects be funded under the third funding priority, beds in this priority will fall to the fourth funding priority. Note: Non-profit agencies who apply under this priority will be required to provide a letter of assurance from the Indian Tribal Government that if funded the provision of service will occur on Indian Tribal Property.

*Funding priority 4.* VA is encouraging interested, state and local governments, Indian Tribal Governments, faith-based

and community-based organizations, as well as eligible entities located in The District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any territory or possession of the United States, to apply for funding under this NOFA to create transitional housing and services for all homeless veterans. Eligible entities that are state and local governments, Indian Tribal Governments, faith-based, and community-based organizations, or any territory or possession of the United States, will be considered in the fourth funding priority as applicable. 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 per diem only award in accordance with their ranked order until funding is expended (approximately 650 beds).

*Methodology:* VA will review all non-capital grant recipients in response to this notice of funding availability. VA will then 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 500 cumulative points from paragraphs (b) (c) (d) (e) and (i) of 38 CFR 61.13.

The highest-ranked application for which funding is available, within the highest funding category, will be conditionally selected for eligibility to receive per diem payment in accordance with their ranked order until VA reaches the projected bed totals 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 Section 61.32.

*Application Requirements:* Applicants must include a cover letter clearly stating under which funding priority they wish to be considered. Non-profit agencies who apply under funding priority three are required to provide a letter of assurance from the Indian Tribal Government that if funded, the provision of service will occur on Indian Tribal property. 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, Final Rule, and NOFA. 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 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 1, 2008.

**Gordon H. Mansfield,**

*Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. E8-2933 Filed 2-14-08; 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 capital 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 4:00 PM Eastern Time on Wednesday, April 9, 2008. 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 due to 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 <http://www.grants.gov/>. Questions should be referred to the Grant and Per Diem Program at (toll-free) 1-877-332-0334. For information relating to VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program, see the Final Rule published in the **Federal Register** on September 26, 2003.

*Submission of Application:* An original completed and collated grant application (plus three copies) and a cover letter clearly stating under which funding priority applicants (see funding priorities) wish to be considered must be submitted to the following address: VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Field Office, 10770 North 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:** Ms. Chelsea Watson, VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program, Department of Veterans Affairs, 10770 North 46th Street, Suite C-200, Tampa, Florida 33617; or you may call (toll-free) at 1-877-332-0334 for further information.

**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 transitional housing projects; or (2) develop new transitional housing programs. Supportive service centers will not be considered in this Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA). 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 transportation for homeless veterans. Funding applied for under this Notice is authorized by Public Law 109-461, § 703, the Veterans Benefit, Health Care and Information Technology Act of 2006, and by 38 U.S.C. 2011, 2012, 2061, 2064, and may be used as aid for supportive housing. Eligibility criteria may be found in 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. Note: Applicants considering the use of Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in conjunction with the capital grants in this NOFA should take into account that these tax credits are generally for permanent housing projects. Permanent housing is not an

eligible activity under VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program. Other issues such as a reduction in the base of the tax credits, site control, leases for residents, and using the tax credits as a loan may be problematic to applicants even if transitional housing is provided and upon review and discovery may result in the application being denied.

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 housing and 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 NOFA for the Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program. The Department expects to award approximately \$25 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 transitional housing for homeless veterans. The District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, any territory or possession of the United States, are considered eligible entities under the definition of "State" in the Final Rule, Sec. 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. The recent events associated with the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) coupled with the Nation's returning OEF/OIF veterans further emphasizes the need for collaboration with VA medical centers, VA community-based outpatient clinics or other health care