



# NATIONAL COALITION *for* HOMELESS VETERANS

## HOMELESS PROVIDERS GRANT AND PER DIEM PROGRAM

### Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program

*Administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs*

The Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program (GPD) was authorized by Congress in 1992 under Public Law 102-590 and gave the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) authority to provide financial support to nonprofit organizations, or state and local governments, to establish programs to assist the homeless veteran population. Public Law 102-590 was succeeded by P.L. 107-95, enacted in December 2001. This reauthorized the GPD program with certain revisions. In 2006, GPD was permanently authorized by P.L. 109-461.

The law authorizes VA to assist public or nonprofit private organizations in establishing new programs by awarding grants, through a competitive process, for up to 65% of the cost of acquiring, renovating, or constructing facilities; or to purchase vans. The law also authorizes VA to provide per diem payments to grant recipients that provide supportive services and/or supportive housing for homeless veterans.

If funding is available, a special Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for per diem payments may be offered to non-"grant" recipients. Additional grants may be awarded to assist community providers with building renovations in order to comply with fire and safety codes.

The funding level is determined internally within the VA each year after Congress approves and passes Appropriation bills for the VA.

The GPD Program has been very successful in establishing services for homeless veterans and has grown significantly since 1994 when grants were first awarded nationally. Community-based providers funded under the GPD Program exist in most states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

These programs offer communities a way to offer homeless veterans housing and services while helping VA medical centers provide housing or services augmenting, or in some cases, supplementing care. Program designs are diverse, ranging from a 100-bed

independent living project to a 6-bed project providing recuperative care housing.

### Purpose of Program

The purpose of the GPD Program is to promote the development and provision of supportive housing and services with the goal of helping homeless veterans achieve residential stability, increase their skill levels and income, and obtain greater self-determination.

The program is intended to encourage new and innovative programs and collaboration with community partners and the VA, to respect community partners' expertise, and to reduce duplication of services.

### Grants

Grants cover up to 65% of the costs of constructing, expanding, remodeling, or altering buildings and acquiring facilities for homeless veterans.

Remodeling or expanding VA properties is allowed, but acquiring VA properties is not. Recipients must fund the matching 35% share. Grants may not be used for operational costs, including salaries.

### Per Diem

Priority in awarding the Per Diem funds goes to the recipients of grants. Non-grant programs may qualify if they meet these criteria: (1) at least 75% of those receiving supportive services are veterans, (2) project provides supportive housing or a homeless service center.

Operational costs, including salaries, may be funded by the Per Diem component. Veterans in supportive housing may be asked to pay rent if it does not exceed 30% of the veteran's monthly-adjusted income. In addition, "reasonable" fees may be charged for services not paid with Per Diem funds.

The maximum hourly per diem rate for a service center not connected with supportive housing is 1/8 of the daily cost of care, not to exceed the current VA State Home rate for domiciliary care. Payment for a veteran in a service center will not exceed 8 hours in any day.

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### Per Diem Rates and Formula

Rate is commensurate with the VA State Home rate which is reviewed yearly and changes are approved by Congress. As of 2009, the maximum per diem rate was \$34.40.

Daily cost of care is based on estimated total of operating cost of beds not to exceed 100% of the cost (excluding other sources of income).

### Who is Eligible?

The following entities are eligible to apply for the GPD Program:

- ❖ Nonprofit organizations (501c3, 501c19)
  - ◆ Community Service Providers
  - ◆ Faith-Based Organizations
  - ◆ Veteran Service Organizations
- ❖ State/local governments
- ❖ Indian Tribal governments

### Application Process

VA publishes a NOFA in the Federal Register, usually in early spring (March). Visit the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans website to subscribe to e-mail notifications regarding when funding is available.

The application is generally divided into the following sections:

- ◆ General Information and Instructions
- ◆ First Submission
- ◆ Van Application
- ◆ Second Submission
- ◆ Forms
- ◆ Appendices

The majority of the application has been formatted in a manner allowing all information and responses to be placed directly on the form, usually in a narrative/essay or "fill in the blank" format. Because application guidelines and rules are generally revised each year, applicants should carefully review instructions before completing the application.

Applications may be submitted through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), but they may not be sent via fax or other electronic means (e-mail). In the interest of fairness to all competing applicants, the deadline is firm as to date and hour, and any application that is

received after the deadline will be treated as ineligible for consideration.

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.

Applicants are given approximately 30-45 days to respond with the completed application packet. VA reviews application packets for basic compliance and completion.

VA conducts an extensive review using a panel of reviewers, looking at quality, targeting, ability, need, innovation, leveraging, cost effectiveness, and coordination with VA and other organizations. After each application is read three times and scored independently, the total of all scores is compiled for one master total and applications are ranked accordingly.

VA conditionally selects finalists and requests additional information. Applicants who are conditionally selected will be notified and must provide documentation of their match and any other documents that may be lacking.

VA expects to announce selections within 120 days of the application submission deadline. Once approved, the applicant will sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) and the award is then granted. VA finalizes selections and gets signed agreements from grantees. Awards are announced to U.S. Congressional Representatives and grantees by the VA Secretary.

### Resources

#### VA Homeless Providers Grant & Per Diem Program Office

Phone: 877-332-0334

Fax: 877-332-0335

Website:

[www.va.gov/homeless/page.cfm?pg=3](http://www.va.gov/homeless/page.cfm?pg=3)

#### National Coalition for Homeless Veterans

Phone: 202-546-1969

Fax: 202-546-2063

Toll-free phone: 800-VET-HELP

Toll-free fax: 888-233-8582

Website: [www.nchv.org](http://www.nchv.org)