



NATIONAL COALITION *for* HOMELESS VETERANS

HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAM GRANTS

About the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program

The Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) is the nation's only targeted homeless employment program. Authorized under Section 738 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act in July 1987, the program is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor-Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS).

HVRP programs fill a special need by serving veterans who may be turned away by other programs and services due to problems, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), being HIV-positive, long histories of substance abuse, serious social problems, and legal issues. Veterans with these adversities require more time-consuming, specialized, intensive assessment, referrals and counseling than is available from other programs that work with veterans seeking employment.

The employment focus of HVRP distinguishes it from other programs which concentrate on more immediate needs of the homeless, such as emergency shelter, food, and substance abuse treatment.

While these are critical components of any homeless program, and grantees will be required to demonstrate that their clients' needs in those areas are met, it is the ability to secure and keep a job that will allow a homeless veteran to return to society as a productive citizen.

Although small, HVRP is the primary Department of Labor (DOL) job training program accessible to homeless veterans. Program data reveals that HVRP service providers are able to place their clients into jobs at a cost of approximately \$2,500 per placement – less than the placement cost of traditional providers. According to HVRP Program Year (PY) 2007 performance data, the job placement rate was 63.6%, and the average hourly wage at placement was \$9.94.

Who Receives HVRP Funds?

The purpose of HVRP is to expedite the reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force. Grants are

awarded through a competitive application process to 501(c)(3) nonprofit community-based organizations, workforce investment boards and state government agencies that offer employment and job-readiness services that enable homeless veterans to obtain steady, gainful employment.

Grantees provide an array of services directly and through collaboration with other local community-based service providers. The program is employment focused – and veterans receive employment and training services – but supportive services such as clothing, shelter, referral to medical or substance abuse treatment, and transportation assistance are also provided to meet the needs of homeless veterans.

For this reason, HVRP grantees are required to demonstrate how they will work with other local, established service providers that can respond to the special needs of homeless veterans and establish an environment in which the homeless can successfully return to the workforce. Grantees must demonstrate that their program provides or connects veterans to services that will address all factors that contribute to a homeless veteran's inability to secure and keep gainful employment.

Where to Find SGA Notices and Current Year Funding

Solicitations for Grant Applications (SGAs) are published in the Federal Register and are available online at www.gpo.gov. Select "Federal Register" from the list of Government Information Products.

It is important to select the correct federal register volume. Type "homeless veterans' reintegration program" into the search terms field. SGAs are normally issued in March, with proposals due in 30 to 60 days.

You may contact your local Veterans' Employment Representative or the DOL-VETS State Director for information. Look up Veterans Employment and Training Service in the federal government section (blue pages) of your local phone book.

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What to Know Before Applying for HVRP Funding

As of FY 2006, the Department of Labor requires that you demonstrate the following when applying for HVRP grants:

- Linkages with other programs and services that provide support to homeless veterans.
- Close coordination with the Department of Labor Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program specialists and Local Veterans Employment Representative in your jurisdiction.
- An employment focus that will provide training and services that enable clients to work, or will match homeless veterans with potential employers.

In FY 2006, HVRP funding rose to over \$22 million as a result of NCHV's advocacy work. Due to the success of the program, funding continues to rise each year. In FY 2009, HVRP funding reached \$26.3 million.

The PY runs from July 1 to June 30, and grants are renewable for three years provided grantees meet performance criteria. You will be required to maintain contact with placed veterans to address employment-related problems and conduct mandatory follow-ups to determine if the veteran is in the same or similar job after 90, 180 and 270 days.

How to Apply

You must submit an application to the Department of Labor. Standard Form 424 (Application for Federal Assistance) must be submitted, along with the program narrative and other forms and information as required by the application annual or biannual Solicitation for Grant Application (SGA). Application materials and forms are available on the Department of Labor website as they are prepared. *Read the instructions carefully!*

To view the latest HVRP application materials, visit www.dol.gov/dol/vets/aboutvets/main.htm, and select VETS Grant Applications for links to HVRP information.

For more information about U.S. Department of Labor employment and training programs for veter-

ans, contact the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) office nearest you, listed in the phone book under United States Government, U.S. Department of Labor, or at www.dol.gov/dol/vets/aboutvets/contacts/main.htm.

Related Resources

The emphasis on helping veterans find and retain jobs is enhanced through linkages and coordination with veterans' service programs and organizations such as the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVER) in state employment agencies, the Veterans Workforce Investment Program (VWIP), One-Stop Centers, Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs), and the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Health and Human Services.

Contacts:

- DVOP and LVER Representatives – Look in your local phone book blue pages under State Government for state employment or job service offices.
- VA Regional Offices – There are 56 regional offices across the country that provide information and employment services for veterans. Call 800-827-1000 to locate the office nearest you, or visit the VA website at www.va.gov.
- Veterans Workforce Investment Program (VWIP) – Grants are awarded to certain states to provide employment services and training to disabled veterans, those with significant barriers to employment, and those who served during combat or during a campaign for which a campaign badge has been authorized. Contact your state employment or job service office to check on the availability of local programs.
- Veteran Service Organizations – Many VSOs offer employment services and assistance. Check your local phone book white pages for listings for:
 - ◆ The American Legion
 - ◆ Veterans of Foreign Wars
 - ◆ Disabled American Veterans
 - ◆ American Veterans (AMVETS)
 - ◆ Vietnam Veterans of America