

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 Pub. L. 109-461, § 703, 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 \$10 million annually is available for the per diem only award component of this program. This funding is 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 establishes the following funding priorities in order to bolster capacity for populations in areas that are underserved by the Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program. Specifically, VA is seeking programs that are not necessarily women-specific, but in the course of daily operations serve women veterans with care of dependent children, and provide them with an opportunity to secure funding to offer services to this population. VA is not seeking to create large women-specific programs, rather small niche housing and services for this underserved population in both urban and rural areas.

Example: In the course of providing daily services a homeless provider serves 2-5 homeless veteran women with care of dependent children. This provider would create a small program that would supply appropriate housing and services to this population.

In this round of "Per Diem Only" funding, VA expects to award funding

for approximately 1,000 community-based supported housing beds.

Funding priority 1. Those programs that are not necessarily women-specific, but in the course of daily operations serve women veterans with care of dependent children and will create a niche program to serve this population. The applicant must clearly demonstrate, in the need section of the application, the number of beds for the women veterans and the number of beds for their dependent children. With this in mind, applicants are reminded that VA may only pay per diem for the women veteran—not the dependent children. Based on the total number of beds expected to be funded in this round, approximately 150 of the 1,000 beds expected to be funded) from eligible entities whose projects will provide housing and services specifically to homeless women veterans, with care of dependent children will be selected as the first funding priority. Of those eligible entities in the first funding priority, that are legally fundable, the highest scoring applicants will be funded first, followed by the second highest scoring applicants, until enough projects totaling approximately 150 beds for women are identified for funding. Applicants not selected in this priority will be placed in the second funding priority. Should the projected 150 bed total not be reached, remaining beds and funding will be placed in the second funding priority.

Funding priority 2. Finally, VA is encouraging interested, state and local governments, Indian tribal governments, faith-based, and community-based organizations to apply for funding under this NOFA to serve all homeless veterans populations. Based on the total number of beds expected to be funded in this round, approximately 850 beds will be funded in this priority. Of those eligible entities that are legally fundable, the highest-ranked applications for which funding is available, will be selected for eligibility to receive per diem payment in accordance with their ranked order until enough projects totaling approximately 850 beds are identified for funding or until funding is expended.

Methodology: VA will review all non-capital grant recipients in response to this notice of funding availability. Then, 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 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 Interim Final Rule Sec. 61.32.

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, Interim 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 16, 2007.

R. James Nicholson,

Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. E7-3024 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 Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (GPD) providers to make applications for assistance under the Special Need Grant Component of VA's GPD Program. The focus of this Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA) is to encourage new applicants to create new projects that will deliver services to the homeless Special Need veteran population. This Notice contains information concerning the program, application process, and amount of funding available. Note: Current Special Need providers should not respond to this NOFA. Renewal funding is being offered under a separate NOFA.

DATES: An original completed grant application (plus three completed collated copies) for each project seeking assistance under the VA's GPD Program Special Need Grant Component must be received in the Grant and Per Diem Field Office, by 4:00 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 GPD 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. 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. If all materials are not included in the application package, it 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 GPD Program for currently operational Grant

and Per Diem providers 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 for the Special Needs of the following homeless veteran populations:

Seriously 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 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:

Seriously 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 seriously 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 provide an opportunity to currently operational Grant and Per Diem providers that are located in areas where Special Need project collaboration with the local VA is not feasible due to geographic distance, in small urban or rural areas, or where the Special Need population is relatively small, yet in need of these services. VA is seeking these new projects to create a unique service niche for these less addressed Special Needs 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 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