

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations, and not-for-profit institutions.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 3,205.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 8 hours, 4 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 25,870.

*The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:*

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

*Request for Comments:* Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: April 29, 2003.

**Glenn P. Kirkland,**

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer.*

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## 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 p.m. Eastern Time on June 19, 2003. 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 brought about by 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. For a document relating to the VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program, see the interim final rule published in the **Federal Register** on March 19, 2003, §§ 61.0-61.82.

*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-100, 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 and may result in the application being rejected or not funded.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Guy Liedke, VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program, Department of Veterans Affairs, 10770 N. 46th Street, Suite C-100, 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 eligible programs that have not previously applied for or received per diem in connection with a grant (see 38 CFR 17.700 through 17.731 (repealed) and interim final rule, published in the **Federal Register**, March 19, 2003,

§§ 61.0 through 61.82). Public Law 107-95, § 5(a)(1), the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001 codified at 38 U.S.C. 2011, 2012, 2061, and 2064 authorizes this program. The program has been extended through Fiscal Year 2005. Funding applied for under this notice may be used for aid for service centers and supportive housing. Funding will be in the form of per diem payments issued to eligible entities for the period of July 1, 2003, to June 30, 2006, subject to availability of funds and re-authorization of the program past September 30, 2005. For eligibility criteria, please refer to the interim final rule published in the **Federal Register** on March 19, 2003, §§ 61.30, 61.31, and 61.32.

Grant recipients who received prior year funding for acquisition, renovation or new construction need not reapply for per diem for those portions of their programs that were created with grant funds. Per diem for these programs is requested in the grant application and paid at the time of grant project completion. However, if such entities desire per diem for programs not funded by a previous grant application, an application responding to this NOFA is required.

VA is pleased to issue this Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA) for the Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program. The Department expects to award approximately \$8 million annually 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 and faith-based and community-based organizations that are capable of providing supported housing and/or supportive service center services for homeless veterans. The District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession of the United States, may be considered eligible entities under the definition of "State" in the interim final rule, § 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, which is currently \$26.95. 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