

not binding on the Grant Officer. The government reserves the right to ask for clarification or hold discussions, but is not obligated to do so. The government further reserves the right to select applicants out of rank order if such a selection would, in its opinion, result in the most effective and appropriate combination of funding, program and administrative costs, e.g., cost per enrollment and placement, demonstration models, and geographic service areas. While points will not be awarded for cost issues, cost per entered employment will be given serious consideration in the selection of awardees. The Grant Officer's determination for award under SGA 04-01 is the final agency action.

B. Program Concept and Emphasis

The Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program (IV-TP) pilot program grants under section 5 of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act (HVCAA) of 2001 are intended to address two objectives, (1) To provide services to assist in reintegrating incarcerated veterans into meaningful employment within the labor force, and (2) to stimulate the development of effective service delivery systems that will address the complex problems facing ex-offender veterans. The Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program (IV-TP) is designed to be flexible in addressing the national, regional, and/or local issues that prevent previously incarcerated veterans from reintegrating into the workforce. VETS in Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 will seek applicants that provide direct services through a case management approach that networks with Federal, State, and local resources for veteran support programs that have clear strategies for employment and retention of the previously incarcerated.

C. Community Awareness Activities

In order to promote networking between the program and local service providers (and thereby eliminate gaps or duplication in services and enhance the provision of assistance to participants), the Grantee must provide project orientation workshops and/or program awareness activities that it determines are the most feasible for the providers listed below. Grantees are encouraged to demonstrate strategies for incorporating small faith-based and community organizations (defined as organizations with social services budgets of approximately \$300,000 or 7 or fewer full-time employees) into their outreach plans. Project orientation workshops conducted by Grantees have been an effective means of sharing information

and informing the community of the availability of other services; they are encouraged but not mandatory. Rather, the Grantee will have the flexibility to attend service provider meetings, seminars, and conferences, to outstation staff, and to develop individual service contracts as well as to involve other agencies in program planning. The Grantee will be responsible for providing project awareness, program information, and orientation activities to the following:

(1) Direct providers of services to veterans and ex-offenders to include but not be limited to inmate families, jail and prison ministry groups, shelter and soup kitchen operators to make them aware of the services available to incarcerated veterans to make them job-ready and to aid their placement into jobs.

(2) Federal, State and local entitlement service such as the Social Security Administration (SSA), Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA), State Employment Security Agencies (SESAs) and their local Job Service offices, One-Stop Centers (which integrate WIA, Labor Exchange, and other employment and social services), mental health services, and healthcare detoxification facilities to familiarize them with the nature and needs of previously incarcerated veterans.

(3) Civic and private sector groups in particular Veterans' Service Organizations (VSOs), inmate family support groups, job training and employment services, and community-based organizations (including faith-based organizations) to portray previously incarcerated veterans and their needs.

D. Scope of Program Design

(1) Outreach, intake, assessment, peer counseling to the degree practical, and employment services. Outreach must be provided in the subject correctional institutions. Program staff providing outreach services should have experience in dealing with, and an understanding of the needs of the incarcerated and/or ex-offender veterans. Applicants proposing to use peer counselors who are themselves veterans will be awarded five (5) of the available points in the scoring criteria.

(2) Coordination with veterans' services programs, including Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialists (DVOPs), Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs) in the State Employment Security/Job Service Agencies (SESAs) or in the workforce development system's One-Stop Centers, as well as Veterans' Workforce Investment Programs (VWIPs) and

Homeless Veteran Reintegration Programs (HVRP), Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) services, including its Health Care for Homeless Veterans, Domiciliary Care, Regional Benefits Assistance Program, and Transitional Housing under Homeless Provider Grant and *per diem* programs.

(3) Grantees will perform a preliminary assessment of each participants' eligibility for Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) service connected disability, compensation, and/or pension benefits. As appropriate, grantees will work with the Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) or refer the participants to DVA in order to file a claim for compensation or pension. Grantees will track progress of claim and report outcome in case management records.

(4) Association with Veteran Service Organizations such as the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the American Veterans (AMVETS).

(5) Coordination with offender re-entry and transitional programs, such as pre-release facilities, work/training release facilities, halfway houses, community supervision, and community justice offices.

(6) Referral as necessary to health care, counseling and rehabilitative services, including, but not limited to: Alcohol and drug rehabilitation; Therapeutic; Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; Mental Health Services; Coordinating with McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (MHAA) Title VI programs for health care for the homeless or health care programs under the HVCAA.

(7) Referral to housing assistance, as appropriate, provided by: Local shelters; Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) food and shelter programs; Transitional housing programs and single room occupancy housing programs funded under MHAA Title IV (and under HVCAA); Permanent housing programs for the handicapped homeless funded under MHAA Title IV (and under HVCAA); and

(8) Employment and training services such as: Basic skills instruction; Remedial education activities; Job search activities, including job search workshops; Job counseling; Job preparatory training, including resume writing and interviewing skills; Subsidized trial employment (Work Experience); On-the-Job Training; Classroom Training; Job placement in unsubsidized employment, Placement follow-up services; and Services provided under WIA.