

#### E. Panel Review Criteria

##### (1) *Need for the project*: 15 points.

The applicant will document the need for this project, as demonstrated by: (a) the number of previously and/or current incarcerated veterans in the proposed project area, (b) the rates of poverty and/or unemployment in the proposed project area as determined by the census or other surveys; and (c) the extent of the obstacles in the local infrastructure to effectively address the employment barriers that characterize the target population.

##### (2) *Overall strategy to reduce recidivism by increasing employment and retention*: 30 points.

The application must include a description of the approach to providing comprehensive employment and training services, including job training, job development, obtaining employer commitments to hire, placement, and post-placement follow up services. Applicants must address how they will target occupations in emerging industries. Supportive services provided as part of the strategy of promoting job readiness and job retention must be indicated. The applicant must identify the local services and sources of training to be used for participants. A description of the relationship, if any, with other employment and training programs such as SESAs (including DVOP and LVER Programs), One-stops, VWIP, other WIA programs, and Workforce Investment or Development Boards or entities where in place, must be specified. The application must also include a description of the relationship, if any, with correctional facilities or services to be involved with this project, at the institutional and/or community levels. Applicant must indicate how the activities will be tailored or responsive to the needs of homeless veterans. A participant flow chart may be used to show the sequence and mix of services.

**Note:** The applicant must complete the chart of proposed program outcomes to include participants served, placement/entered employments and job retention. (See Appendix D). Of the 30 points possible in the strategy to increase employment and retention, 5 points will be awarded to grant proposals that demonstrate the ability to maintain a six-month employment retention rate of 50 percent or greater. Applicants

proposing to use peer counselors who are themselves veterans will be awarded five (5) of the available points in the scoring criteria.

##### (3) *Quality and extent of linkages with other providers of services to incarcerated veterans*: 15 points.

The application must provide information on the quality and extent of the linkages this program will have with other providers of services to benefit previously incarcerated veterans in the local community other than the IV-TP grant. For each service, the applicant must specify who the provider is, the source of funding (if known), and the type of linkages/referral system established or proposed. Describe, to the extent possible, how the project would be incorporated into the community's continuum of care approach to respond to homelessness and show any linkages to HUD, HHS or VA programs that will be advantageous to the proposed program.

##### (4) *Demonstrated capability in providing required program services including programmatically reporting and participant tracking*: 25 points.

The applicant must describe its relevant prior experience in operating employment and training programs and providing services to participants similar to those that are proposed under this solicitation. Specific outcomes previously achieved by the applicant must be described, such as job placements, benefits secured, network coalitions, etc. The applicant must also address its capacity for timely startup of the program, programmatic reporting, and participant tracking. The applicant should describe its staff experience and ability to manage the administrative, programmatic and financial aspects of a grant program. Include a recent (within the last 12 months), financial statement or audit. Final or most recent technical reports for other relevant programs must be submitted if applicable. Because prior grant experience is not a requirement for this grant, some applicants will not have any technical reports to submit.

##### (5) *Quality of Overall Housing Strategy*: 15 points.

The application must demonstrate how the applicant proposes to obtain or access housing resources for veterans in the program and entering the labor

force. This discussion should specify the provisions made to access temporary, transitional, and permanent housing for participants through community resources, HUD, VA lease, or other means. IV-TP funds may not be used to purchase housing or vehicles.

#### F. Results-Oriented Model

No specific model is mandatory, but the applicant must design a program that is responsive to the needs of the local community, and achieves the objectives of the program—to successfully reintegrate ex-offender veterans into the workforce and stimulate the development of effective service delivery systems that will address the complex problems facing ex-offender veterans.

A data management system to assess ex-offenders is an important element of this program. Data elements to be considered for each program participant include: health, employment and disability status, demographics, veteran's benefits usage, type of most recent criminal conviction, previous criminal history, system entry and discharge, length of time in the program and recidivism measures. Factors to be considered by the review panel are:

(1) Efficient and effective communication between agencies (Department of Labor, Department of Veterans' Affairs, state/local courts, police, other service providers, etc.).

(2) Effective assessment of costs, interventions offered and services provided.

(3) Data standardization/compatibility.

(4) System flexibility, functionality, scalability and ease of use.

(5) Reporting system design and modification.

Under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), Congress and the public are looking for program results rather than program processes.

The suggested conceptual design of the Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program (IV-TP) is shown in Figure 1. Definitions of the elements and Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program (IV-TP) performance goals follow.

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