TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

Approved to apply 10/13/26

Texas Veterans Commission
Fund for Veterans' Assistance
Cost Reimbursement Grant

Fiscal Year 2028
Request for Applications
Grant Period
September 1, 2027 to August 31, 2029

General Assistance
Housing for Texas Heroes
Veterans Mental Health
Veterans Treatment Court
Veteran County Service Offices

Application Portal Opens: October 2, 2026 @ 5:00 PM CST

Application Deadline: December 2, 2026 @ 5:00 PM CST

Fund for Veterans' Assistance
www.tvc.texas.gov/grants

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION 5

1.1 Purpose 5
1.2 Funding Goals 5

2. GRANT CATEGORIES 5

2.1 Detailed Grant Category Information 5
2.2 General Assistance 5
a. Financial Assistance Services 5
b. Food Services 5
c. Elder Care Services 5
d. Homeless Services 5
e. Vocational & Trade Skills Training Services 6
f. Pro Bono Legal Services 6
g. Transportation Services 6
h. Assistive Technology Services 6
i. Veterinary Care and Pet Lodging Services 6
2.3 Housing for Texas Heroes 6
2.4 Veterans Mental Health 6
a. Clinical Counseling Services 6
b. Experiential Therapy Services 6
c. Service Dog Program 6
2.5 Veterans Treatment Court 6
2.6 Veteran County Service Office Funding Opportunity 6
a. Number of Grants 7
b. Project Manager 7
c. Available Funding 7
d. The Veteran County Service Office (VCO) 7

3. GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES 7

3.1 Application Communication 7
3.2 Texas Government and Administrative Code 7
3.3 Grant Management Standards 7
3.4 Competitive Grant 7
3.5 Cost Reimbursement Grant 7
3.6 Awarded Grant Documents 7
3.7 Term of Grant 8
3.8 Grant Reporting Requirements 8
a. Monthly Performance and Expenditure Report (PER) 8
b. Veteran Mental Health/Clinical Counseling Outcome Measure 8
c. Closeout 8
d. Failure to Report – Performance or VMH Outcome 8
e. Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey 8
3.9 Prohibited Uses of FVA Grant Funds 8
3.10 Unallowable Expenses or Services 9
3.11 Grant Amendments 11

4. APPLICATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS 12

4.1 Total Funding Available 12
4.2 Statutory Funding Requirements 12
a. General Assistance 12
b. Veterans Mental Health 12
c. Veterans County Service Office 12

d. Veterans Treatment Court 12
e. Housing for Texas Heroes 12
4.3 Number of Applications per Organization 12
4.4 Application Period 12
4.5 Eligible Applicants: Who can apply for a grant? 12
4.6 Not Eligible to Apply: Who cannot apply for a grant? 13
4.7 Online Grant Application 13
4.8 Requested Funding Amount per Organization 13
4.9 Minimum Funding Limit 13
4.10 Maximum Funding Limit 13
4.11 Funding Increments 13
4.12 Matching Funds 13
4.13 Application Certification 13
4.14 Application Package 13
4.15 Application Webinar and Questions 14
5. APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY 14
5.1 Application Eligibility 14
5.2 TVC Executive Director Eligibility Review 14
5.3 Notification of Ineligibility 14
5.4 Ineligibility – Non-Appealable 14
5.5 Ineligible Applications 15
a. Untimely or Incomplete Application 15
b. Federal Exclusions 15
c. Right to Transact Business in Texas 15
d. Requested Funding 15
e. Financial Stability 15
f. VMH Invalid License or Certification 15
g. Excess Organizational Funding 15
h. Unallowable Expenses 15
i. Proposed Project 16
j. Service Dog Program 16
k. Risk Determination 16
6. APPLICATION REVIEW & AWARD PROCESS 17
6.1 Application Review 17
6.2 Application Presentation to Advisory Committee 18
6.3 Commission Priorities for Awarding Applications 18
6.4 FVA Advisory Committee 18
6.5 Additional Information for FVA Advisory Committee 18
6.6 Funding Recommendations 19
6.7 Application Information for Commission 19
6.8 Commission Award Decision 19
6.9 Commission Award Decision – Non-Appealable 19
6.10 Award Announcement 19
6.11 Not Awarded Announcements 20
6.12 Rescind Grant Award 20
6.13 Revision Process 20
6.14 Non-executed NOGA 20
7. KEY DATES 20
8. APPLICATION REVIEW SCORING 20

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS:

Annex A – Federal and State Statutes and Regulations

Annex B – Grant Requirements

- Appendix 1 – General Assistance Grant Category
- Appendix 2 – Housing for Texas Heroes Grant Category
- Appendix 3 – Veterans Mental Health Grant Category
- Appendix 4 – Veteran Treatment Court Grant Category

1. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA) grant program awards reimbursement grants to eligible charitable organizations, local government agencies, and veterans service organizations that provide direct services to Texas veterans and their dependents. The TVC oversees all policies and rules governing the FVA grants program to address the needs of veterans and their dependents, as determined through the veteran needs assessment study. The veteran needs assessment is required in Texas Government Code §434.017, and the results are published on the TVC website. All grant awards will be made through a competitive grant selection process.

1.1 Purpose: The purpose of this Request for Applications (RFA) is to:

- **a.** Provide an overview of FVA Grant Programs.
- **b.** Solicit grant applications from eligible applicants for the upcoming grant period.
- **c.** Provide application instructions and specific information on grant eligibility.
- **d.** Provide information about the FVA grant application and award processes.

1.2 Funding Goals: The goals of the Fund for Veterans' Assistance are to:

- **a.** Fund grant projects that support the needs identified in the Needs Assessment and specific program goals approved by the Commission.
- **b.** Ensure geographical distribution of grant-funded services across the state.
- **c.** Ensure grant-funded projects are available to veterans, dependents, and surviving spouses across the state.

2. GRANT CATEGORIES: This RFA announces funding opportunities for four (4) different grant categories: General Assistance, Housing for Texas Heroes, Veterans Mental Health, and Veterans Treatment Court. Each grant category includes service categories that are defined and explained below. Per Texas Administration Code §460.17, this RFA announces grant funding opportunities for Veteran County Service Offices for General Assistance, Housing for Texas Heroes, and Veterans Mental Health grant categories.

2.1 Detailed Grant Category Information: Information on allowable services and requirements for each grant category is in the appropriate appendices of Annex B - Grant Requirements. Annex B also contains requirements that apply to all grant categories.

2.2 General Assistance: The General Assistance (GEN) Grant Category includes services that collectively support veterans, dependents, and surviving spouses who live in Texas.

- **a.** Financial Assistance Services: These services are temporary and intended to provide limited assistance and financial relief for basic or essential needs to clients who demonstrate a financial need.
- **b.** Food Services: These services are for meal delivery, food locker/pantry, prepared and delivered meals, and safety/wellness checks of the client at their home.
- **c.** Elder Care Services: These services support the clients' ability to age in place with dignity and live independently.
- **d.** Homeless Services: These services are for clients who are homeless or have transitioned out of a homeless status and are identified in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

e. Vocational & Trade Skills Training Services: These services are for vocational and trade skills training that emphasize technical competencies, professional development, and specialized instruction to prepare individuals for specific manual or technical professions that support clients to prepare for, secure, and maintain employment.
f. Pro Bono Legal Services: These services are for legal service organizations to provide civil legal services.
g. Transportation Services: These services provide transportation to clients in the local area, county, or region using the organization's fleet, public transportation, or ride share.
h. Assistive Technology Services: These services provide devices and equipment to clients with disabilities or medical conditions to perform daily tasks, increase or maintain functional capabilities, and promote independent living.
i. Veterinary Care and Pet Lodging Services: These services support clients undergoing or seeking medical treatment or surgery by providing safe, reliable boarding options and veterinary care for pets.

2.3 Housing for Texas Heroes: The Housing for Texas Heroes (HTX) Grant Category provides necessary home modifications and repairs for low-income veterans and surviving spouses who live in Texas.

2.4 Veterans Mental Health: The Veterans Mental Health (VMH) Grant Category includes three services that collectively provide counseling and support to veterans, dependents, and surviving spouses who live in Texas to improve their quality of life, relationships, outlook, and successful integration with their community.

a. Clinical Counseling Services: These services are treatments that include Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) for diagnosed conditions or co-occurring conditions provided by a Texas Licensed Mental Health Professional (LMHP).
b. Experiential Therapy Services: Experiential therapy services are a diverse category of therapeutic approaches that emphasize expression, interaction, and hands-on activities to help veterans re-experience and process difficult emotions in a safe environment. This modality incorporates the following: Creative Arts Therapy, Recreation Therapy, Equine Therapy, and Adventure Therapy. **Veteran only**.
c. Service Dog Program: This program is for organizations accredited by Assistance Dogs International (ADI) to provide trained service dogs to veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, or military sexual trauma. **Veteran only**.

2.5 Veterans Treatment Court: The Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) Grant Category supports eligible units of local government in providing services through Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) programs established under Texas Government Code §124.001-124.006. Grant funding is intended to support rehabilitation for justice-involved veterans who live in Texas to best prepare them for reintegration into their community. Applications/Grants specifically intended to serve justice-involved or incarcerated veterans are required to be submitted under the Veterans Treatment Court category and administered by a Veterans Treatment Court.

2.6 Veteran County Service Office Funding Opportunity: The Veteran County Service Office (VCO) funding opportunity is for county governments that have a County Veteran Service Officer.

a. Number of Grants: Veteran County Service Officers are eligible to submit one application per grant category and be awarded up to 2 grants per grant period.
b. Project Manager: The Veteran County Service Officer is required to serve as the Project Manager for the grants awarded.
c. Available Funding: The Texas Government Code §434.017(c-3) directs TVC to set aside at least 5% of the funding to be available only to VCOs who apply for FVA grants.
d. The Veteran County Service Office (VCO) may apply and be awarded in the following grant categories and services:
    1. General Assistance Grant Category
        a. Financial Assistance Services or
        b. Transportation Services
    2. Housing for Texas Heroes Grant Category

3. GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

3.1 Application Communication: When the application window is opened, and before TVC makes the grant awards, TVC Commissioners and FVA Advisory Committee members cannot discuss applications with any organization. TVC staff may indicate the status/location of the application in the review process, but no other information may be provided.

3.2 Texas Government and Administrative Code: All applicants should review and be familiar with TVC's Government Code and Administrative rules governing the FVA Program.

3.3 Grant Management Standards: All grants awarded by the Texas Veterans Commission shall follow the applicable federal grant guidelines in 2 CFR Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards published by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the applicable Texas Grant Management Standards (TxGMS). In the event of a conflict between TxGMS and applicable federal law, the provisions of federal law apply.

3.4 Competitive Grant: Grants are awarded through a competitive selection process that includes eligibility screening, evaluation, review, and receiving a recommendation from the FVA Advisory Committee.

3.5 Cost Reimbursement Grant: Under the cost reimbursement method of grant funding, the Grantee is required to finance its operations with the Grantee's own working capital and then request reimbursement through the monthly reporting process. Verifiable expenditure support documentation is required for all cost reimbursement requests.

3.6 Awarded Grant Documents: Upon Commission approval of the grant awards, the parties will be bound by the list below. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency in the execution of the grant project, such conflict or inconsistency shall be resolved by reference to the documents in the following order of priority.

a. State Regulations (TxGMS).
b. Federal grant guidelines 2 CFR Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.
c. Request for Applications (RFA).
d. Annex A – Federal and State Statutes and Regulations.

e. Annex B - Grant Program Requirements and Appropriate Appendices.
f. The approved Grant Application and all items submitted by the grant applicant to the Commission in response to this RFA.
g. The Notice of Grant Award (NOGA).

3.7 Term of Grant: All funding awarded under this grant are required to be expended within the grant funding period of September 1, 2027, to August 31, 2029 (24 months). No pre-award spending is authorized before the start date of September 1st of the new fiscal year. The grant period ends at the conclusion of the term or upon full expenditure of funds, whichever occurs first.

3.8 Grant Reporting Requirements:

a. Monthly Performance and Expenditure Report (PER): The Performance and Expenditure Report (PER) is the report within the TVC Grant Portal that captures the grantee's performance and expenditures.
   1. Grantees are required to submit a PER every month of the grant period.
   2. Even if a grantee has zero performance or zero expenditures for any month, the grantee is still required to submit a monthly PER, which includes both performance and expenditures.
   3. Grantees are required to report on the number of Veterans, Dependents, and Surviving Spouses served in the monthly PER.
   4. The monthly PER is due by the 15th of the following month (Ex. - The September PER is due October 15th).
b. Veteran Mental Health/Clinical Counseling Outcome Measure: TVC is required to collect an outcome measure regarding grant-funded mental health services. Therefore, Veteran Mental Health grantees providing Clinical Counseling shall administer the appropriate tools/assessments to their clients before treatment/services begin and after treatment/services end. This measure will be reported at the end of each fiscal quarter at www.tvc.texas.gov/grants/grantees/.
c. Closeout: Grantees will acknowledge that all grant-related expenses have been reported, and reimbursements received by TVC, no later than sixty (60) days after the end of the grant period. Closeout actions will be conducted through the TVC FVA Grants Portal as the official record retention system.
d. Failure to Report – Performance or VMH Outcome: Grantees who do not submit monthly performance data in the PER, or VMH Clinical Counseling grantees who fail to report quarterly outcome measures, will not be reimbursed for periods showing zero or no performance. In such cases, grantees are required to provide a written explanation detailing the reason for the lack of reported performance.
e. Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey: Grantees are required to provide all beneficiaries with the link to the TVC online satisfaction survey when services are provided. Beneficiaries are not required to complete the survey.

3.9 Prohibited Uses of FVA Grant Funds: Per Texas Administration Code §460.10, grant funds cannot be used for the following:

a. Capital expenditures, including capital purchases or capital leases, except for grant funds awarded under the Housing for Texas Heroes program.

b. Capital expenditures definition is expenditures to acquire a capital asset (such as land, additional buildings and/or structures, vehicles, trailers, livestock, and service animals), or expenditures to make additions, improvements, modifications, replacements, rearrangements, reinstallations, renovations, or alterations to capital assets that materially increase their value or useful life.
c. Sub-granting of funds is prohibited for other organizations or agencies.
d. Sub-granting is an award made by a Grantee to another organization or agency using FVA grant funds.
e. Distribution of cash or cash equivalent to veterans and/or their dependents. Cash equivalents include gift cards or prepaid service cards, such as gas, grocery, and department store-related cards.
f. Acquisition or construction of facilities, except for grant funds awarded under the Housing for Texas Heroes program.
g. Scholarships for Education.
h. Payment of Child Support.
i. Any expense not necessary to complete the grant project, or not consistent with the Grant Agreement.
j. Contributions to any political party, political association, or the campaign of any candidate for public office, party office, or similar political activities.
k. Contributions that support or oppose candidates for public or party office, or to support or oppose any ballot propositions.
l. Medical costs, including physician fees, prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, medical insurance premiums or copays, emergency/after-hours clinic fees, and prescribed prosthetics.
m. Stipends for beneficiaries, volunteers, students, interns, employees, and members of the board of directors.
n. Payments for capital assets that are not physically in Texas.
o. Any cost that is not allowed under the Grant Agreement, the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Fiscal Guidelines, Texas Grant Management Standards (TxGMS), or 2 C.F.R. 200 - Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.

3.10 Unallowable Expenses or Services:

a. Supplanting of salaries or compensation for part-time or full-time county or city employees.
b. Conduct activities or provide services that duplicate those provided by the Texas Veterans Commission. Services provided by the Texas Veterans Commission include Claims, Education, Employment, Mental Health, Women Veterans, Health Care Advocacy, and Entrepreneur and Veteran Business Programs. More information about these programs can be found on the Texas Veterans Commission website at http://www.tvc.texas.gov.
c. Conduct activities or provide services that duplicate those under contracts or agreements with the Texas Veterans Commission.
d. Organizations are responsible for ensuring they disclose any such contract.
e. Organizations are required to clearly and sufficiently differentiate between the grant project and TVC contracted services.

f. Purchase of organization (grantee) equipment, tangible property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds $2,000.
g. Vehicle purchase and capital leases. "Use" leases or "operational" leases are allowable only with prior approval.
h. Expenses not listed in the project budget and do not support the approved grant project objectives are prohibited without prior approval.
i. Client services for employees (or contractors), when the employees' salaries (or contracted fees) are paid in full or in part by the same TVC Grantee organization providing the services, are only allowable with prior approval.
j. Preparation of Grant Application costs associated with preparing and/or submission of an application, Direct or Indirect Cost.
k. Honoraria – A payment of money or anything of value for an appearance, speech, or article.
l. Alimony is not considered emergency financial assistance.
m. Court-ordered or settlement-mandated payments.
n. Tax costs in the form of special assessments for capital improvements and/or federal income taxes.
o. Release Time as a fringe benefit or a component of a compensation package for a grant-funded employee.
p. Paying out accrued annual leave.
q. Pay out of accrued leave does not contribute to the delivery of client services. Grant-funded employees are encouraged to use the annual and sick leave they accrue (as authorized by their organization's employee management policies) during the grant period.
r. Negotiated indirect cost rates (Facilities and Administration) based on cost allocation plans or indirect costs that exceed the 15% limit. TVC grants will allow an indirect cost rate of up to 15% (de minimis) for reimbursement.
s. Payments made directly to the beneficiary.
t. Tuition, books, or fees for classes with institutions of higher learning.
u. Tools and uniforms provided by the employer or not required within the first 90 days of employment.
v. Employees, managers, directors, executives who provide overall supervision, oversight, or executive authority and do not provide direct client services.
w. Employees conducting supervision, oversight, executive authority, administrative, or facilities duties are allowed under Indirect Cost.
x. Cost/Debt under collection where the creditor is not the sole receiver of payment.
y. Travel outside of the continental United States.
z. Client Intake as a service. Client intake is a process of identifying a client's eligibility and service needs. An employee may be budgeted to conduct intake, but the action is not considered a service to the client.
aa. Case management as a service. Case management is the process of assessing, planning, implementing, and monitoring a person's needs to ensure the required services are provided.
bb. Client evaluation is a service or a cost to conduct the evaluation. Evaluation to determine if the client will fit or benefit from enrollment in a program.
cc. No services involving firearms; Purchase of range time or ammunition.

dd. No purchase of office furniture.

ee. Employee bonuses, such as performance bonuses, annual bonuses, holiday bonuses, or any other salary incentive.

ff. Escrow, property tax, or homeowners' insurance that are not part of the monthly mortgage statement.

gg. Program Income: Grantees are not allowed to generate program income through TVC grant programs.

hh. Service cost to the client. TVC grant funding is paying for the service; clients should have no cost associated with the service, no "buy-in".

ii. A TVC grant may not be used to exclusively support clients who are already being served under another TVC grant.

jj. Staff such as case managers, intake specialists, and those not providing a dedicated service, such as clinical counseling, are limited to a maximum allocation of 85% of the grant budget.

kk. Governing body members (Board of Directors, Commissioners Court, City Council Members) employed by the organization or serve as grant-funded staff.

ll. Purchase of equipment or supplies to provide or conduct a service. Expendable supplies are allowable but should be approved by TVC staff prior to purchase.

mm. Services provided only to justice-involved or incarcerated clients. Veteran Treatment Courts provide services to justice-involved or incarcerated clients.

3.11 Grant Amendments:

a. Any changes, additions, or deletions to the provisions contained in the NOGA or Approved Application are required to be executed through the grant amendment process.

b. Amendment requests are required to be submitted by the amendment deadline indicated in section 7, Key Dates.

c. Amendments may modify the approved budget categories or the scope of the Grant Project as described in the Approved Application.

d. All amendments except increases to awarded amounts are reviewed and approved by the Executive Director.

e. Amendment requests seeking to increase the original award amount are required to be brought before the Commission for consideration and final determination.

f. Organizations are required to have expended at least 75% of awarded funding prior to requesting an increase in grant funding.

g. Organizations may not request more than 50% of the original grant award amount.

h. Organizations are required to report their grant performance through the grant portal prior to requesting an increase in grant funding.

i. Organizations are required to have a compliance visit with no unresolved findings within the current grant year.

j. Each amendment request will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

k. A Grantee may have no more than three (3) amendments.

l. Amendments may not be appealed. Tex. Admin. Code § 460.51.

4. APPLICATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

4.1 **Total Funding Available**: The anticipated amount available for awards for all FVA grant categories is $31,000,000. The number of awards will depend on the FVA grant amounts awarded to Eligible Applicants.

4.2 **Statutory Funding Requirements**: The Commission will award grants according to these statutory funding guidelines, provided there are sufficient eligible applicants in each category.

- **a.** General Assistance - Veterinary Care and Pet Lodging – minimum $1 million - in accordance with the General Appropriations Act of the 89th Legislative Session, Article I, Rider 19.
- **b.** Veterans Mental Health – Service Dog Program - minimum $1 million - in accordance with the General Appropriations Act of the 89th Legislative Session, Article I, Rider 13 and Texas Government Code Section 434.029.
- **c.** Veterans County Service Office –minimum 5% of total available funding – in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 434.017(c-3).
- **d.** Veterans Treatment Court – minimum $1.5 million – since the 84th Legislative Session.
- **e.** Housing for Texas Heroes – minimum $1,194,772 – since the 83rd Legislative Session, according to the annual budgeted funding (biennium minimum is $2,389,544).

4.3 **Number of Applications per Organization**:

- **a.** Organizations may apply for 1 grant per category, totaling a maximum of 3 grants per grant cycle.
- **b.** County and City Governments are the only entities that may apply for Veteran Treatment Court Grants. Therefore, in addition to their VTC grant, they may apply for 1 grant in each of the other three grant categories, totaling a maximum of 4 grants per grant cycle (VCO grants are included in the county maximum).

4.4 **Application Period**: The application period for this grant is open for 60 days. Applications are required to be submitted by 5pm (CST) on the closing date through the TVC Grants Portal. Only applications submitted via the portal will be considered for funding. Application period dates are posted in section 7. Key Dates of this RFA.

4.5 **Eligible Applicants: Who can apply for a grant?**

- **a.** Units of local government. (City and County Governments).
- **b.** Texas chapters of IRS Code §501(c)(19) Posts or organizations of past or present members of the United States Armed Forces.
- **c.** IRS Code §501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations authorized to do business in Texas.
- **d.** IRS Code §501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations are required to be in existence longer than 2 years from the effective date of exemption on the IRS Determination letter.
- **e.** Texas chapters of IRS Code §501(c)(4) Veteran's service organizations.

4.6 Not Eligible to Apply: Who cannot apply for a grant?

a. Individuals.
b. For-profit entities.
c. Units of federal or state government, state agencies, or colleges and universities.
d. Organizations that have not fulfilled and maintained all legal requirements to operate in Texas.
e. Organizations that do not have current operations in Texas or a Texas-based chapter.
f. IRS Code §501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations in existence less than 2 years from the effective date of exemption on the IRS Determination letter.

4.7 Online Grant Application: Applicants are required to complete and submit the application on the TVC Grants Portal found at https://tvc.texas.gov/grants/grantseekers/. Paper applications are not accepted. Each Organization is required to register for one account in the TVC Grants portal. This one account is used for all applications submitted by that Organization. Each organization shall have only one account; however, every employee involved in the application or grant process is required to use their own individual login credentials.

4.8 Requested Funding Amount per Organization: An organization may not request more than 2 times the annual gross receipts reported to the IRS via Form 990-N, 990-EZ, or 990 across one or more grant applications. Units of local government are exempt.

4.9 Minimum Funding Limit: An organization may not request or be awarded less than **$50,000** in any grant category.

4.10 Maximum Funding Limit: An organization may request and be awarded up to **$600,000** in any grant category.

4.11 Funding Increments: An organization can request or be awarded funding in increments of **$1,000**.

4.12 Matching Funds: There is no matching requirement for FVA grants. FVA grant funds may not be used to satisfy any matching requirements for other TVC grants.

4.13 Application Certification: Applicants will attest to reading, understanding, and accepting the terms of this grant contract according to federal and state regulations, and TVC policies outlined in the RFA, grant requirements, and the Notice of Grant Award statement.

4.14 Application Package: A complete Application Package includes submission of a completed online application and attached items listed below via the TVC Grants Portal. An Application Package may have up to six (6) attachments. Failure to provide the required attachments or to agree with the True and Correct Statement will result in ineligibility. When submitting the Application Package, name each attachment below.

a. **List** of **current governing body members** (Board of Directors, Commissioners Court, City Council Members).
b. **IRS determination letter** recognizing tax exemption with effective date.

c. A copy of their **current Professional liability** and/or **malpractice insurance** policy **declaration page** proving the applicant organization has current liability insurance at the time of application submission. (TVC Compliance Team will verify that the organization's liability insurance is still active during the grant cycle).
d. **Compiled Financial Statement** no more than 120 days prior to the application submission date, reviewed and attested by an independent certified public accountant or certified public accounting firm, illustrating the organization's liquidity, cash, or cash equivalent on hand.
e. **IRS form 990, 990-EZ**, or **990-N** from 2025 or 2024 with 2025 extension request.
f. **Doing Business As (DBA) letter**, organization conducting business under a different name are required to submit a letter from the IRS or Texas Secretary of State indicating the DBA name.
g. **Veterans Mental Health (VMH)** applicants submit **licenses** and or **certifications** of all individuals providing mental health services. Providers working toward clinical hours for a license or certification are required to identify a supervisor and provide the supervisor's license or certification.
h. **Units of local government** are **exempt** from submitting **IRS determination letters** or **financial documents.**

4.15 Application Webinar and Questions: Potential applicants can participate in an information webinar session regarding grant applications. The webinar is tentatively scheduled as listed in Key Dates below. Information regarding the webinar will be available on the FVA website. Please check the FVA website for updated information.

1. The information webinar will address questions regarding the application or application process but will not address a specific project or an organization's application.
2. All questions pertaining to this RFA are to be submitted to rfaquestions@tvc.texas.gov with "202X [Grant Program inserted here] Question" in the subject line of the email. FAQs and responses will be posted on the website.

5. APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY

5.1 Application Eligibility: The FVA Department Staff will conduct eligibility assessments on all applications. The eligibility assessment is designed to be a proactive measure to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse and to alert the commission of potential risks.

5.2 TVC Executive Director Eligibility Review: The TVC Executive Director then reviews all applications that are marked ineligible and ultimately determines if an application is ineligible. Once this occurs, the ineligible application will not be submitted to the FVA Advisory Committee.

5.3 Notification of Ineligibility: Applications not passing eligibility will be notified through the TVC Grant Portal, as the applications' status will be changed to "ineligible." TVC will send a letter to the mailing address provided in the TVC Grant Portal, addressed to the applicant's executive director.

5.4 Ineligibility – Non-Appealable: There are no appeals to the decision on eligibility. Tex. Admin. Code § 460.51.

5.5 Ineligible Applications: Applications that meet the following criteria outlined below will be marked ineligible. If deficiencies are identified that could render an application ineligible, TVC staff will contact the applicant organization to provide an opportunity to resolve the issue. The organization will need to submit the requested information or documentation within five (5) business days of notification. Failure to respond or resolve the identified deficiencies within five (5) business days will result in the application being deemed ineligible.

a. Untimely or Incomplete Application: All submitted applications are required to be complete, include all required attachments, and be submitted via the TVC Grants Portal by the deadline listed in Section 7, Key Dates.
b. Federal Exclusions: If an organization has any exclusions, debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or declared ineligible for federal contracts in https://sam.gov/, the application will be deemed ineligible.
c. Right to Transact Business in Texas: An organization that does not have an "active" right to transact business in Texas via the comptroller website will be deemed ineligible. https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/franchise/account-status/search
d. Requested Funding: Applications will be marked ineligible if the requested funding exceeds two times the amount of reported gross receipts as documented in IRS Forms 990-N, 990-EZ, or 990. Units of local government are exempt.
e. Financial Stability: Applicant organizations that are not financially stable will be marked ineligible.
    1. Financial stability will be assessed using the liquid asset test based on submitted financial documentation.
    2. Organizations are required to illustrate liquidity in the form of cash and/or cash equivalent with the ability to sufficiently fund the grant program(s) for at least two (2) months of expenses for the grant project(s) in the application(s). See the example of calculations in Table A (next page).
    3. Organizations applying for multiple grants will be assessed for liquidity, taking all the requested amounts into consideration. See the example of calculations in table A2 (next page).
f. VMH Invalid License or Certification: If 50% or more of the organizations' submitted licensor certification of staff providing mental health services is not valid, the application will be deemed ineligible.
g. Excess Organizational Funding: Applications with a total of 20% or more of the requested funding amount in the following budget groups: Indirect Cost (IDC), Supplies, Travel (conferences & training), Other Direct Cost (marketing and outreach, printing, phone service, postage and shipping, professional dues, software, and website) will be deemed ineligible.
h. Unallowable Expenses: Applications with over 25% of budgeted unallowable expenses and prohibited use of FVA grant funds will be marked ineligible.
    1. If the application includes unallowable budgeted expense(s) up to 25% of the total grant amount requested, the requested grant amount will be reduced by the TVC Executive Director during the application eligibility screening.
    2. Example: If an application requests $100,000 in grant funding but includes $25,000 in unallowable costs, those costs will be removed, and the eligible funding amount will be reduced to $75,000.

i. **Proposed Project:** Applications proposing to provide services not outlined in this RFA or appendices will be marked ineligible. All submitted applications will be screened to determine if the proposed project conducts services listed in section 2, Grant Programs, and in the appropriate appendices of Annex B - Grant Program Requirements.

j. **Service Dog Program:** Applicant organizations not accredited by ADI will be marked ineligible. All service dog program applicant organizations are required to be accredited by Assistance Dog International (ADI).

k. **Risk Determination:** Applications with four or more risks will be marked ineligible. Grant applications and organizations will be screened for risks or conditions that could prevent an organization from successfully conducting the grant project or threaten the TVC grants program. The risks are determined via Table B (next page). Risk Determination.

Table A. Example of Sufficient Liquidity Calculations	
Requested Award Amount	$300,000
Grant Period	24 Months
Funding per Grant Month	$300,000 / 24 Months = $12,500
2 Months Funding	$12,500 x 2 Months = **$25,000**
Certified Financial Documents are required to illustrate sufficient liquidity of $25,000	

Table A2. Example of Sufficient Liquidity Calculations Across Multiple Grants	
Total Requested Award Amount Across 3 Applications.	$1,200,000
Grant Period	24 Months
Funding per Grant Month	$1,200,000 / 24 Months = $50,000
2 Months Funding	$50,000 x 2 Months = **$100,000**
Certified Financial Documents are required to illustrate sufficient liquidity of $100,000	

Risk #	Table B. Risk Determination
1	Organization Headquarters is located outside the state of Texas.
2	Organization's primary means of service delivery is web based or remote with limited to no ability for clients to receive assistance in person.
3	Organization is based out of home office, which indicates clients receive walk-in services at their residence, which is not preferred.
4	Organization lists current governing body members as paid/budgeted employees or as principal participants.
5	The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) is listed in other positions under principal participants.
6	Organization does not use software to record accounting transactions and manage financial bookkeeping.
7	Budgeted employees are listed on multiple applications. The risk will be applied to all submitted applications.
8	The grant-funded salary positions do not list the employee's name that will work on the grant project at time of application.
9	Organization has financial or procedural findings during a GVS compliance visit in the past 2 years.
10	Organization has significant deficiencies or material weaknesses identified in an audit completed in the past 2 years located in the Federal Audit Clearinghouse (FAC).
11	Organization applies to provide services for which they illustrate no experience in providing the service.
12	Organization will use grant funds to contract or purchase client services (such as sub-contracting).
13	Similar services are budgeted under two separate budget categories.
14	Unable to determine service or costs due to the unclear way the application, budget narrative, and budget table are written. If awarded, the application will require significant revisions.
15	Applicant organization illustrates a net loss or a negative balance on the submitted compiled financial statement or IRS Forms

6. APPLICATION REVIEW & AWARD PROCESS

6.1 Application Review: General Assistance, Housing for Texas Heroes, and Veterans Mental Health applications that pass the eligibility screening will be forwarded to the FVA Advisory Committee for review, scoring, ranking, and funding recommendations.

- **a.** Veteran Treatment Court and Veteran County Service Officer applications will only undergo eligibility review.
- **b.** The Commission will elect which Veteran Treatment Court and Veteran County Service Officer applications to award.

6.2 Application Presentation to Advisory Committee: General Assistance, Housing for Texas Heroes, and Veterans Mental Health. Applicant organizations that have passed eligibility screening will present their application to the committee.

a. Eligible applicants will present the application project and budget to the advisory committee.
b. TVC staff will provide a slide template for organizations to follow; additional slides are not allowable.
c. Handouts, printouts, or other materials for the committee are not allowed.
d. Organizations may be present in person or virtually.
e. Organizations may not present a video in lieu of presenters.
f. Organizations will have 3 minutes to present their proposed project and application.
g. Advisory committee members may ask organization questions about the proposed project and application.
h. The presentation will be scored on the relevance of the information. The application score matrix is in section 8. Application Review Scoring.
i. Travel expenses for the presentation are not an allowable expense.

6.3 Commission Priorities for Awarding Applications: The FVA Advisory Committee will make grant recommendations by following the Commission priorities listed below:

a. Recommend applications providing one of the top 3 services per region identified in the Needs Assessment.
b. Recommend up to the minimum statutory funding limit as indicated in paragraph 4.2 upon application availability.
c. Recommend applications across all 8 FVA regions, upon application availability.
d. Recommend funding of eligible applications up to the total available funding limit as indicated in paragraph 4.1.

6.4 FVA Advisory Committee: Each Committee member will review, score, rank, and evaluate all eligible applications by region, and prepare award recommendations for the Commission in accordance with the listed tasks.

a. Review and score each application utilizing Table C, Application Review and Scoring Matrix.
b. Use the application, its attachments, and the funding goals to formulate the recommendation list for awards.
c. Recommend applications for funding in accordance with section 6.3, Commission Priorities for Awarding Applications.
d. Rank all recommended grant applicants.
e. Convene to recommend each application with funding as a group.

6.5 Additional Information for FVA Advisory Committee: The TVC staff will provide additional documentation about each grant application to the committee to assist in the review process. The information and documents are listed below.

a. Two (2) years of monthly reporting history, if applicable.
b. Up to four (4) years of performance and expenditure data, if applicable.

c. Organizations that had a TVC grant more than 4 years ago.
d. Organizations that have never had a TVC grant.
e. Identified risks from Table B, Risk Determination, per application.
f. Percentage of budgeted cost for direct client services.
g. Percentage of budgeted costs that are unallowable.
h. Veteran population per county.
i. The top three (3) Veteran needs per region as identified in the latest Needs Assessment.
j. Application Score.
k. Percentage of the average grant category funding across the last five (5) years.

6.6 Funding Recommendations: The funding recommendations made by the Committee will be presented to the Commission in May at the 3rd Quarterly Meeting for the Commission to review grant recommendations and award grants. Additional information about this meeting will be made available when details are confirmed. The exact date of this meeting has not been set. Please check the TVC website for updated information.

6.7 Application Information for Commission: The following information will be provided to the Commission to assist in verifying the FVA Advisory Committee recommendations and in making the award decision. The information and documents are listed below.

a. Application.
b. Application score sheet.
c. FVA Advisory Committee recommendation and non-recommendation list.
d. Summary of recommendations by region.
e. Two (2) years of monthly reporting history, if applicable.
f. Up to four (4) years of performance and expenditure data, if applicable.
g. Organizations that had a TVC grant more than 4 years ago.
h. Organizations that have never had a TVC grant.
i. Identified risks from section 5.5k Risk Determination per application.
j. Percentage of budgeted cost for direct client services.
k. Percentage of budgeted costs that are unallowable.
l. Veteran population per county.
m. The top three (3) Veteran needs per region as identified in the latest Needs Assessment.
n. Percentage of the average grant category funding across the last 5 years.

6.8 Commission Award Decision: The Commission makes the final decision for awarding grant categories, service categories, funding amounts, and total numbers to serve. The submitted application may contain different requested amounts, numbers to serve, unallowable budgeted items, or undefined services that are required to be edited by the awarded organization with assistance from TVC Staff.

6.9 Commission Award Decision – Non-Appealable: Per Texas Administrative Code §460.11(c), decisions by the Commission regarding funding are not appealable.

6.10 Award Announcement: Award decisions will be posted on the FVA website after the 3rd Quarterly Commission Meeting. Awarded organizations will be notified to register and attend the Newly Awarded Grantees Webinars.

6.11 Not Awarded Announcements: Applicant organizations not awarded will be notified via email through the TVC Grants portal as the status of the application is changed to "Not Awarded."

6.12 Rescind Grant Award: An organization may choose to rescind the awarded grant at any time from the awarded date until the end of the grant period. The organization is required to follow the procedures below.

- **a.** Notify TVC on official organization letterhead signed by the signature authority.
- **b.** May include reasoning for rescinding.
- **c.** May submit letter via email.
- **d.** If expenditure were reported, the organization is required to complete the grant closeout process.
- **e.** The TVC Grants for Veterans Services director will notify the organization via email when the letter has been accepted.

6.13 Revision Process: An organization's awarded grant project may contain unallowable, unallocable, or unreasonable costs or services that are required to be edited to align with the grant program and RFA. TVC staff will advise and work with the awarded organization staff to complete the revision process.

6.14 Non-executed NOGA: An organization is required to complete the revision process and accept the NOGA within 100 calendar days of the award meeting. Failure to complete the revision process or accept the NOGA within this timeframe will result in automatic termination of the award.

7. KEY DATES: The dates and times listed in this RFA are subject to change. Please check the TVC website for updated information at https://tvc.texas.gov/grants/grantseekers/.

Date		Event
September	23	Request for Application (RFA) and Application Webinar
October	2	Grant Portal and Application Window Opens at 5:00pm Central Time
November	3	Request for Application (RFA) and Application Webinar
November	26	Last Day to Submit RFA Questions
December	2	**Application Window Closes at 5:00pm Central Time**
Feb-Mar	2027	Application Presentations to Advisory Committee Meeting
April	2027	Funding Recommendation Meeting
May	2027	Grant Award Commission Meeting
May	2027	Newly Awarded Grantees Webinar
May 31	2029	Amendment Deadline

8. APPLICATION REVIEW SCORING: The Table C (next page) is the scoring matrix used by the FVA Advisory Committee to score each application. Each scoring criterion on the matrix will be evaluated on an all-or-none basis. Full points will be awarded only if all requirements for that criterion are met; otherwise, zero points will be assigned.

Table C. Application Review Scoring Matrix		
#	**Project Review**	**Available Points**
1	Does the organization provide evidence that it is currently delivering the proposed project service(s) to the community?	0-5
2	Answer to application question, "**Provide a summary of the service(s) your organization proposes to provide to clients through this grant.**" Does the response clearly identify the services to be provided and demonstrate alignment with the selected grant category and services?	0-10
3	Does the application provide services that are among the top 3 Veteran needs per region, as defined by the latest Needs Assessment? Yes = Maximum Points No = 0 Points	0-10
4	Has the applicant identified how easily a client can request services by phone, online, or by walk-in? Has the applicant provided sufficient information indicating how a client can request and receive services within a reasonable time once eligibility is verified?	0-5
Section Total		**30**
#	**Budget Review**	**Available Points**
1	Are the duties of each grant-funded salary position/employee clearly described and demonstrate alignment with the proposed project's objectives and activities?	0-10
2	Are the duties performed by the salary staff, contractors, or services budgeted in Direct Client Services align with the selected grant category and services?	0-5
3	What is the percentage of requested funding for Direct Client Services? VMH may have staff in the salary budget providing counseling. 80% + = 10 70-79.9% = 7 60-69.9% = 5 Less than 59.9% = 0	0-10
4	Are the budget narratives properly described and comprehensible, and do they align with the budget line item and the grant project?	0-10
Section Total		**35**
#	**Management Review**	**Available Points**
1	Does the organization have a website, and does it describe the services provided to Veterans?	0-10
2	Does the application sufficiently describe the marketing and outreach plan to ensure that clients across the selected service area become aware of the services?	0-10

Section Total		20
#	Presentation Review	Available Points
1	Did the presentation focus on the proposed grant project and application?	0-5
2	Was a clear plan to implement the proposed project presented?	0-5
3	Did the presenter provide additional project information not already in the application?	0-5
Section Total		15
Application Total Score		100