

LAURA KOERNER
US Navy Veteran
Chairwoman

CHUCK WRIGHT
US Marine Corps Veteran
Secretary



MIKE P. HERNANDEZ
Corporal, US Marine Corps (Retired)
Member

MARY LOPEZ DALE
US Army Veteran
Member

THOMAS P. PALLADINO
Colonel, US Army (Retired)
Executive Director

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

August 5, 2026

The Honorable Richard Cortez
Hidalgo County
10213 North 10th Street
McAllen, Texas 78504

Dear Honorable Cortez,

The Texas Veterans Commission is pleased to announce that your organization has been selected as a **Non-Clinical Mental Health grant recipient for the fiscal year 2027** grant period in the amount of \$200,000.

The official start date for this grant is September 1, 2026. We are currently finalizing the grant agreement, which will outline the terms, conditions, and expectations associated with this award.

In preparation for the commencement of the project, we recommend that you begin any preliminary planning and organizing necessary. Our grant management team will be available to assist you throughout this process.

Should you have any immediate questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at ervey.leos@tvc.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ervey Leos, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ervey Leos, Jr., Director
Grants for Veteran Services
Texas Veterans Commission

**Veteran County Office Funding
Non-Clinical Mental Health - VCO****Amount Awarded: \$200,000.00
Unduplicated Beneficiary Target: 200****TVC ID: VCO26-N-001****Start Date: 09-01-2026
End Date: 08-31-2027****ID: R-2025-2018006611
Award Type: A-Awarded
Grant Officer:****▼ Negotiations****Comments for TVC:****Status****Awarded - Revisions****▼ Table of Contents**

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▼ B. Additional Organization Information**1. What is the organizations mission statement and when was it created or last revised?**

The Patriot Support Center "Peer Support" is dedicated to supporting the mental health and well-being of our veterans. Our mission is to provide mental health resources tailored to the unique experiences and challenges faced by those who have served. Through advocacy and peer support, we are committed to breaking the stigma surrounding mental health, ensuring that every veteran receives the care and respect they deserve.

Last revised September 2025.

2. How did your organization determine the need that this grant proposal will address? What modalities did it use to gather the data and how did it assess the information to ensure the need is present?

Texas A&M University Public Policy Research Institute, Needs Assessment of Texas Veterans; 2024 Findings:

In this assessment South Texas was identified as Region 4 showing Mental health as a top need for the region.

Our organization identified the need through a combination of community assessments, client feedback, and direct observation of conditions in the area. We gathered information using surveys, outreach events, home visits, and collaboration with local agencies, which allowed us to verify the severity for mental health needs, community resources, and peer support services.

Hidalgo County Veterans Services has been awarded two grants with a total funding of \$600,000. (Peer Support and Housing for Texas Heroes)

4. List the top two funding organizations/agencies, grant(s), award amount, brief discription of project.

Hidalgo County Veterans Services Peer Support, \$200,000 assist with mental health needs for veterans who reside in Hidalgo County with non-clinical peer support services, such as group, individual settings, and retreats.

Hidalgo County Veterans Housing for Texas Heroes, \$400,000 assist with low and very low income veterans and surviving spouses with much needed home repairs, modifications and weatherization.

5. Is the organization currently "doing business" with any individual(s) whom is a principal stakeholder or is related to a principal stakeholder of your organization:

No.

6. Does your organization use contractors to perform duties or services for beneficiaries? If yes, how are contractors vetted to ensure their reliablity and safety of the beneficiary:

Yes, Hidalgo County Veterans Peer Support grant collaborates with local entities who support non-clinical mental health programs i.e. equine life skills where veterans are able to build trust, communication, and foster healthier dialog with family members.

Peer Support will also collaborate with local mental health agencies to provide referrals for proper mental health needs.

7. What types of services does the organization currently provide to the community in the proposed service area?

Peer support, Military Cultural Competency, Bringing Everybody in the Zone training (BEITZ), suicide 101, CALM training.

8. On average, how many veterans does the organization serve annually? :

300

▼ C. Principal Participants (For Moderator Only)

Phone numbers must be formatted as XXX-XXX-XXXX

Grant Program Primary Contact* Samuel Perez

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Executive Director * The Honorable Richard Cortez

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Phone: 956-318-2511

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Project Manager / Coordinator * Samuel Perez

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PER Reporter 2: Griselda Uresti

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Phone: 956-318-2436

▼ Full Application

▼ D. Summary of Services

1. Proposed Project Service Area(s)* Hidalgo

2. Who will the organization provide direct services to under the proposed project? Check boxes below.*

Veterans: Yes

Dependents: No

Surviving Spouses: No

Total Number of unduplicated clients to be served.* 200

3. Provide a summary of the service(s) your Organization proposes to provide to clients through this grant*

Grant funding will offer non-clinical mental health services to eligible veterans by a Certified Peer Support Specialist, Service (s): Individual Peer-to-Peer sessions, B.E.I.T.Z. (Bringing everyone In The Zone Group setting, Non-Clinical Mental Health Retreats.

4. Describe how your organization will ensure that beneficiaries reported to FVA are unduplicated. :

Google Spreadsheets, registration forms, and proper verification via DD-214, Texas drivers license to ensure veterans reside in our county with veteran indication on Tx DL, Department of VA ID.

5. Describe how the eligibility verification documents are securely maintained :

In files under 2 sets of lock and key.

6. What types of eligible beneficiaries from the United States military components will your organization serve with TVC grant funding? (select all that apply)*

Active Duty , National Guard, Reserves , Veteran

7. Choose the veteran discharge status(es) (Characterization of Service) that your organization will serve with TVC grant funding? (select all that apply)*

Honorable, General Under Honorable Conditions, Other Than Honorable Conditions, Uncharacterized, Dishonorable, Bad Conduct, Dismissed

8. Can beneficiaries request services over the phone?*

Yes

If yes, provide phone number for beneficiaries' to contact for application and/or client intake?*

956-318-2436

Must be formatted as XXX-XXX-XXXX

9. Can beneficiaries request services or make an appointment online?*

No

10. Can beneficiaries apply for services via walk-in? *

Yes

11. Are services provided by appointment only?*

No

to determine priority of service?*

13. Once eligibility is determined, how many days will it take for requested services to be provided?*

3

14. Must beneficiaries have an appointment with an employee/case manager to request/apply for services?

No

15. If a beneficiary does not provide required documents or information at the first meeting when requesting services how many days will pass until the case manager contacts the beneficiary to follow-up?

5

▼ E. Marketing and Outreach

1. Describe the organization's marketing and outreach plan. How will your organization conduct marketing to mass audiences promoting grant-funded services in the selected service area (County or Counties)? What marketing techniques will your organization be using to promote grant funded services?

News outlets, websites, social media, outreach events, attending veteran coalition meetings, and Claim summits.

2. Statewide Service Area - Describe how Veterans across the state will be made aware of your services and how they can apply for services. Answer N/A if not statewide.

N/A

3. How many hours a week, on average, will you conduct in-person outreach within the service area with grant funding?

40

▼ F. Financial Information

1. Does your organization have the ability to sustain this project without FVA funding?*

No

2. Does your organization use software to record accounting transactions and manage financial book keeping?*

Yes

What is the name, type, and version of the software?*

Tyler Technologies

3. Does your organization have a maximum allowable amount per client?

No

expenditures reconciled with the bank account statements, check register, and general ledger?

5. What controls are in place to ensure grant funded expenditures are recorded, claimed and reconciled?

Excel Spreadsheets and Linq.

6. Has the organization had a Single Audit conducted per 2 CFR 200.501, if yes what year and were there any material weakness or sufficient findings listed, please identify. :

Yes, audit was performed by TVC on November 2025. No weakness detected, zero negative findings, Performed Satisfactory.

7. Does your organization certify that there are no contingencies, outstanding liabilities or litigation that could affect your organization's financial position during the life cycle of the grant agreement? Yes

Budget Tables

Salary & Fringe Group

Name	Job Title	Annual Salary	% Time to TVC Grant	Total Grant Funded Salary
	Program Coordinator II	\$61,437.12	100%	\$61,437.12
Total Fringe: \$25,331.67		Total Grant Funded Fringe: \$25,331.67		
Social Security: \$3,809.10 Medicare: \$890.85 FICA: \$4,699.95	Health: \$11,104.00 Dental: Vision:	Life: \$56.16 Disability: Worker's Comp:	Unemployment: \$92.16 Retirement: \$9,379.40	Parking: Phone:
Total Salary + Fringe: \$86,768.79		Fringe % of Salary: 41.23%		
Detail: Full time employee who will work 40 hours a week on this grant project. Time and effort log will be maintained. Duties: Conduct assessments to identify the veteran's needs. Maintain accurate up to date case files, progress notes, and referrals. Provide ongoing support by following up to check veteran's progress, identify any new or ongoing challenges. Organizing mental health retreats and attend outreach events to connect veterans with corresponding resources and services.				
Gerado Montes	Peer Support Specialist	\$48,771.25	100%	\$48,771.25
Total Fringe: \$22,410.05		Total Grant Funded Fringe: \$22,410.05		

Social Security: \$3,023.81 Medicare: \$707.18 FICA: \$3,730.99	Health: \$11,104.00 Dental: Vision:	Life: \$56.16 Disability: Worker's Comp:	Unemployment: \$73.16 Retirement: \$7,445.74	Parking: Phone:
Total Salary + Fringe: \$71,181.30		Fringe % of Salary: 45.95%		
Detail: Full time employee who will work 40 hours a week on this grant project. Time and effort log will be maintained. Duties: Conduct community outreach and provide group or individual peer to peer sessions for mental health. Refer to local resources based on needs. Attend coalition meetings and vet court for mental health assistance. Collaborate with Case Managers in organizing mental health retreats.				
Total Salary				\$157,950.09

Travel Group

Category	Unit Cost	# Units	# Staff	Amount Requested
Mileage and Expenses	\$2,500.00	1	1	\$2,500.00
Detail: Grant project staff travel in geographic service area by privately-owned vehicle at current GSA rate or organization rate – whichever is lower. Detailed Travel Log will be maintained. Necessary Reason(s): outreach, retreats, and peer service support.				
Total				\$2,500.00

Supplies Group

Category	Unit Cost	Quantity	Amount Requested
Office Supplies	\$2,000.00	1	\$2,000.00
Detail: General expendable office supplies.			
Total			\$2,000.00

Direct Client Services Group

Category	Unit Cost	Quantity	Amount Requested
Peer Counseling	\$11,049.91	1	\$11,049.91
Detail: Peer Support Activities/Events: Funds may be used to purchase, maintain, or replace equipment, supplies, and materials needed to support various types of retreat activities and the needs of participant engagement.			
Total			\$11,049.91

Other Direct Cost Group

Category	Unit Cost	Quantity	Amount Requested
Printing (Materials)	\$1,000.00	1	\$1,000.00

Detail: Cover cost for professional flyers and brochures to advertise Peer Support services and outreach resources. All FVA grant funded project-related will include TVC recognition.			
Phone Service	\$500.00	1	\$500.00
Detail: Wireless device services. Will be used by Peer Support when conducting outreach in the community.			
Total			\$1,500.00

IDC Group

Category	Amount Requested
Administrative and Facilities Costs	\$25,000.00
Detail: IDC will be used to cover administration cost, and equipment, advertising and marking, Software Subscription.	
Total	\$25,000.00

Total Budget: \$200,000.00

▼ Documents

APPLICATION PACKAGE DOCUMENTS	
Filter by Type	All document types (6) ▼
 NA.docx  Texas SOS Business Authorization Certificate Added by Samuel Perez at 3:44 PM on November 25, 2025	
 NA.docx  IRS-990 Form Added by Samuel Perez at 3:44 PM on November 25, 2025	
 NA.docx  IRS Tax Exempt Determination Letter Added by Samuel Perez at 3:43 PM on November 25, 2025	
 NA.docx  Compiled Financial Statement Added by Samuel Perez at 3:43 PM on November 25, 2025	
 Hidalgo County - COI for Texas Veterans 2025-2026.pdf  Professional Liability Insurance Added by Samuel Perez at 3:00 PM on November 25, 2025	

