

Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) Bidders' Conference December 15, 2022 Questions and Answers (Q&A)

***Disclaimer:** These questions and answers are based off historical Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) guidance. Using information from past FOAs is an excellent starting point when preparing to apply for the current HVRP grant. The 2023 FOA will have complete and up-to-date information. Please review the 2023 FOA in length before applying.*

Overview

The following Q&A document provides responses to questions posed at the HVRP Bidders' Conference held on December 15, 2022. Questions have been synthesized for clarity.

Questions and Answers

Eligible applicants

Q: Who is eligible to apply?

A: Historically, the following agencies have been eligible to apply. Please refer to the 2023 FOA for complete and up-to-date information.

- State governments
- County governments
- City or township governments
- Special district governments
- For-profit organizations other than small businesses
- Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education
- Native American tribal governments (federally recognized)
- Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments)
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Private institutions of higher education
- Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities
- Small businesses
- U.S. Territory or Possession
- Native American tribally designated organization
- Faith-based organizations
- Other state and local government agencies
- State and local workforce development boards (SWDBs/LWDBs) established under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Q: Does NVTAC help service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSBs) in terms of the budget for this grant?

A: National Veterans' Technical Assistance Center (NVTAC) is not a funding source; it is a technical assistance (TA) provider for HVRP grantees contracted by the U.S. Department of Labor-Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL-VETS). SDVOSBs are eligible to apply for the HVRP grant and must submit their proposed HVRP budget as a part of the FOA, which is the document federal agencies use to announce the availability of grant funds to the public.

Q: Can you apply for all three categories?

A: Generally, applicants may submit more than one application in any category for different service delivery areas. Otherwise, only one application in any category is permitted. Please refer to the 2023 FOA for complete and up-to-date information.

Q: If there are other HVRP grantees in the area, would it be advisable to not submit an application?

A: The [NVTAC Find a Grantee map](#) will be a good starting point to help indicate if there are other HVRP providers in your area. If there is an existing HVRP provider in your area, it is best to partner with them rather than apply.

Q: If proposing a program that involves other non-profits and eligible applicants, is it best to submit one application that manages all sub-applicants, or should each apply separately?

A: Historically, one application would be submitted. The organization applying would be considered the HVRP lead and would manage the other partners (sub-applicants).

Q: Can grants be used to create housing for veterans?

A: HVRP grants cannot be used to create housing for veterans. The use of grant funds for the Incarcerated Veterans' Transition Program (IVTP) housing assistance may be allowed but is time-limited, and the amount of assistance must meet the test of rent reasonableness. Please read the 2023 FOA for complete and up-to-date information.

[Grants.gov](#)

Q: What is the deadline to apply?

A: The deadline will be included in the 2023 FOA once it is posted on [grants.gov](#).

Q: Should an organization apply for a new account on [grants.gov](#) if the account holder is no longer with that organization?

A: Generally, it is best to create a new account on [grants.gov](#).

Q: How can we get on the email alert list?

A: You can opt in to receive alerts on [grants.gov](#).

Stand Down (SD) Activities

Q: What are SD activities?

A: SDs are typically one- or multiple-day events during which SD grantees, in partnership with federal, state, tribal, and local entities and businesses, along with veteran, community, social, and faith-based organizations organize and hold SD events for veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The critical services provided at SD events are often the catalyst that enables those individuals to reenter the workforce. There are five required services provided: health screenings/examinations; housing referral; mental health services; employment and training assistance; and veterans' benefit counseling. A multitude of other services are typically provided. Please view the [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) opportunity.

Q: What are the parameters of an HVRP SD grant?

A: Historically, DOL-VETS has funded SD activities through a separate SD application.

Finding an HVRP Grantee

Q: How do we find out if an HVRP project already exists in our area or community?

A: The [NVTAC Find a Grantee map](#) is a virtual map of all HVRP grantees in the nation. You can use this map to locate any program in your area or community.

Q: What happens to an HVRP grantee that decides not to re-apply?

A: Generally, if an HVRP grantee decides not to re-apply, they can no longer offer HVRP services but would be welcome to re-apply in the future.

Q: If we are an agency that is interested in partnering with a housing services provider, how can we let other organizations on this call know we are interested in partnering?

A: You can locate other providers in your area by state, county, or zip code through the [NVTAC Find a Grantee map](#).

Q: The current grantees are listed, but not the years of the grant term, is that available?

A: Currently, information on grant term duration is not publicly available.

Q: In the past, we hosted job fairs. Is this still allowed?

A: Typically, an organization that has hosted job fairs can still do so if they have an HVRP grant.

Q: How does a homeless veteran apply for the Homeless Female Veterans and Veterans with Children (HFVWC) program?

A: HFVWC providers in the veteran's area can be found using the [NVTAC Find a Grantee map](#).

Qualifying a Veteran

Q: Are there any restrictions on a veteran's status, such as less than honorable?

A: Historically, an individual is eligible for HVRP if their "discharge of character" on Item 24 in the [DD-214](#) is any one of the following: honorable or under honorable conditions; general under honorable conditions; other than honorable, bad conduct, entry level, or non-characterized. Please refer to the 2023 FOA and current VETS policy for complete and up-to-date information.

Q: Are Grant Per Diem or Transition in Place veterans considered homeless?

A: Generally, veterans in these programs are considered to have homeless status.

Q: Can a spouse and children of a veteran who was killed in action be assisted?

A: Typically, HVRP is for veterans experiencing homelessness.

Q: What does Title 10 with activation status mean?

- A:** According to [38 U.S.C. Section 4211\(4\)](#), title 10 veteran is defined as "a member of a reserve component under an order to active duty pursuant to section 12301(a), (d), or (g), 12302, or 12304 of title 10, served on active duty during a period of war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge is authorized and was discharged or released from such duty with other than a dishonorable discharge."

Q: Do veterans living in a transitional housing program qualify for HVRP?

A: Historically, veterans living in transitional housing maintain their homeless status and, therefore, would qualify for HVRP.

Q: Do precariously housed individuals who are temporarily doubled-up or staying with family count as "homeless"?

A: Generally, a veteran must meet the homeless criteria according to the [U.S. Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\) homelessness definition](#).

Q: What distinguishes a qualified spouse for VA services?

A: It is best to contact the VA for specifics on a qualified spouse through the [VA Homeless Programs website](#).

Q: Why are veterans "at risk" and what documents can be used for verification?

A: Veterans who meet the definition of "at risk" of homelessness include, but are not limited to (as defined in Section VI of the [Veterans' Program Letter No. 01-21](#)):

- (a) Veterans who are low-income;¹

¹ "Low-income" is defined by using the poverty/lower living standard income level guidelines found at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html>, for questions regarding HUD's income level guidelines call 1-800-245-2691 or email helpdesk@huduser.gov.

- (b) Veterans who are at risk of losing their current housing due to significant changes in family dynamics (i.e., separated, loss of spousal support, or loss of employment);
- (c) Veterans referred from a shelter, the VA, or local continuum of care (CoC) provider;
- (d) Welfare and/or public assistance recipients (defined in the attachment); and
- (e) Veterans with an eviction notice from a landlord or an eviction/foreclosure judgement.

Written documentation of the participant's status in the categories above is required and self-attestation should only be used in rare instances to document the circumstances of "at risk" of homelessness. Recently housed veterans and veterans at imminent risk (14 days or less) of homelessness are considered homeless, not "at risk" of homelessness for HVRP eligibility purposes.

Q: Why would a shelter referral be considered "at risk?"

A: Generally, a shelter referral would be considered homeless. The [HEARTH Act](#) defines "homeless" as "An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including hotels and motels paid for by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations, congregate shelters, and transitional housing)."

Q: Can you define/quantify recently incarcerated?

A: Recently Released from Incarceration, (as defined in Section XI of the [Veterans' Program Letter No. 01-21](#)):

- *For purposes of determining a veteran's eligibility for the HVRP programs, DOL-VETS considers "recently released from incarceration" to mean a veteran released from incarceration in the last 12 months.*

Q: Do you have recommendations for targeting and/or finding underserved veterans?

A: There are many pre-recorded trainings on the [nvtac.org](#) website, including outreach to veterans. Visit the webpage on [Virtual Learning Courses](#) (VLCs) to find out more.

Q: Can an HRVP project target only one of the eligible populations? For example, can you have a program that is only geared toward homeless veterans and women but not for incarcerated veterans?

A: Historically, there have been three distinct areas of HVRP funding: HFVWC; the Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program; and general HVRP, which would include the above populations as well as other veterans that meet program eligibility. Please refer to the 2023 FOA for complete and up-to-date information.

Training

Q: If our organization is an authorized vendor of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, can we provide training?

A: Historically, job training received by participants may be provided directly through the grant or provided to participants through partnerships with an American Job Center (AJC), the GI Bill, Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E), State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) programs, or other training providers.

Q: Can you explain the difference between employment training and life skills?

A: Typically, employment training helps to prepare the veteran for the workforce with job-specific skills. Life skills are important for navigating through everyday life, not necessarily specific to employment goal setting, such as learning how to do laundry or navigate the bus system. Please review the 2023 FOA to determine if this information is still accurate.

Q: Do unsubsidized apprenticeships count as employment?

A: Historically, HVRP grant funds have been used for participant wages. Examples of wage subsidies include on-the-job training (OJT), subsidized apprenticeships, and/or transitional jobs (TJ) strategies.

Q: Can HVRP grant funds be used to pay the apprenticeship application fees that are often required?

A: Historically, HVRP funds have been allowed to be used to pay the apprenticeship application fees. Please review the 2023 FOA to determine if this information is still accurate.

Q: Do training providers have to be listed on the state or county's eligible training provider list?

A: Generally, qualified training providers are not limited to the state or county's provider list. Please refer to the 2023 FOA for complete and up-to-date information.

Q: What happens if the individual does not want to engage in job training or credentialing services?

A: NVTAC offers VLCs that will support HVRP staff to continually improve services to veterans. "[Case Management and Goal Planning](#)" is an excellent NVTAC webinar to build on your current case management strategies to help your veteran reengage in services.

Q: Does providing help with résumés count as "training?"

A: Résumé help would be considered part of HVRP case management services—not training.

Q: Are there any geographic restrictions, or is this national in scope and open to online/virtual training combined with in-person support services?

A: HVRP's success is dependent on addressing specific conditions affecting veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness in a defined service delivery area. Please refer to the 2023 FOA for complete and up-to-date information.

Q: Can job training include soft skills/employability skills?

A: Typically, it is allowed if it is part of a job training activity where hard skills are performed.

Q: Is this training and grant opportunity for new prospective HVRP applicants, or does it also include existing HVRP providers who are looking to re-apply for the upcoming program year?

A: Historically, it has included both. Please refer to the 2023 FOA for complete and possibly up-to-date information.

Renewals

Q: How will requests for option year (OY) renewals be facilitated? Will contracting officers reach out to program leads?

A: HVRP is funded under a three-year cycle. Existing grantees in their base year or first OY will be notified of this process through their GOTR.

Q: How heavily weighted is a current grantee's past performance when reviewing a renewal or a new application?

A: For detailed information, please refer to the 2023 FOA's scoring criteria.

Q: We are in a current grant. How does budgeting work year to year?

A: Existing grantees in their base year or first OY will be notified by their GOTR of the process to apply for OY funding.

Miscellaneous

Q: What is the average amount of award per participant served?

A: Targets for these amounts will be detailed in the 2023 FOA.

Q: Is the 10 percent for "at risk" quarterly or annually? Is that referring to the number of "at risk" of being homeless?

A: Historically, the 10 percent refers to the number of "at risk" veterans that can be served as part of the total number of veterans served on an annual basis. Please refer to the 2023 FOA and current VETS policy for complete and up-to-date information.

Q: Will there be allowable cost one of two again?

A: For specifics on allowable costs, refer to the 2023 FOA.

Q: Is there a target number of veterans that grantees are required to serve and find employment for each year?

A: HVRP applicants set their own targets and are held to outcomes provided at application, including wages at exit and placement numbers. Failure to meet those outcomes may result in TA or other intervention by DOL-VETS, such as issuance of a Corrective Action Plan (CAP). Failure to meet performance goals may also have a significant impact on future grants with DOL-VETS.

Q: Does NVTAC notify the DOL-VETS when a grantee has their funding revoked?

A: NVTAC has been contracted by DOL-VETS to provide technical assistance to HVRP grantees and is not involved in any revocation or punitive processes.

Q: Can we assume the new 2023 FOA will be the same or very similar to the 2022 FOA?

A: There will be updated requirements and details. Please refer to the 2023 FOA for the most up-to-date information.

Q: How can we get help applying for the grant?

A: Creating a possible partnership with another agency that is in line with your values may help you to leverage the resources they have in house, such as a possible grant writer.

Q: We are a new applicant. What can we do to prepare for the FOA?

A: To prepare, read the [2022 FOA](#) and visit the NVTAC's [Welcome HVRP Grantees](#) subpage for more details on how to be a successful HVRP grantee.

Q: Can an applicant request a coverage area outside their immediate county?

A: Generally, applicants can propose coverage areas (service delivery areas) to include any counties they wish to serve.

Q: Where can I find recordings of the Bidders' Conference?

A: The recording, slide deck, and this Q&A document are available on NVTAC's [Topical Webinars](#) subpage.