DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Veterans' Employment and Training Service Funding Opportunity Announcement FOA-VETS-25-01

Amendment One

Section I.A. Program Purpose

The fourth paragraph is deleted:

Recognizing current challenges, HVRP awardees **must** treat all prospective participants fairly, offering appropriate participant support to marginalized groups and making services accessible for underserved communities. Grant recipients will be better equipped to create equal opportunities for marginalized veterans by recognizing their current homeless or at risk of homelessness challenges.

Section III.C.1. Application Screening Criteria

The ninth row in the table under paragraph one is deleted:

HUD Continuum of Care (<u>CoC</u>) Letter of Support dated within 12 months from the FOA publication date. If your Service Delivery Area (SDA) encompasses multiple <u>CoC</u>s, you **must** provide a letter from each <u>CoC</u>.

Section IV.B.4.a.ii

Section IV.B.2.a. Participant Wages

The first paragraph is deleted and replaced with the following:

HVRP grant funds may be used to pay participant wages. Examples of wage subsidies include On-the-Job Training (OJT), subsidized state- or federally approved registered apprenticeships, and/or transitional jobs (TJ) strategies. The participant **must** be involved in job training, and the expectation is for employers to hire them afterwards. Funds can cover job training wages for up to 90 days and can contribute up to half of the participant's wages, based on the relevant market wage for the SDA county as shown in the *Abstract (Attachment A)*.

Section IV.B.3.c.(i) Outreach, Recruitment, and Engagement

The first paragraph is deleted and replaced with the following:

Applicants **must** have a comprehensive plan for outreach, recruitment, and engagement of veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

The third and fourth bullets under the second paragraph are deleted and replaced with the following:

- Describe how you will conduct outreach to other eligible veterans. (Up to 1 Point)
- Describe how you will engage communities not currently being served by an HVRP grant. HVRP strives to provide services to veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness in as many communities as possible throughout the nation. According to the <u>HUD AHAR Report</u>, every state has a population of veterans experiencing homelessness. To serve these populations, it is imperative that resources are provided in those communities. (Up to 1 Point)

Section IV.B.3.c.(ii) Intake and Assessment

The first, second, and fifth bullets under the first paragraph are deleted and replaced with the following:

- Describe how you will allow for in-person, virtual, or hybrid models of service. (Up to 1 Point)
- Describe how the intake process will remove barriers to ensure the eligible veteran's full participation in the project. (Up to 1 Point)
- Describe how you will ensure the participant's readiness to enter employment following the receipt of services and training. (Up to 1 Point)

Section IV.B.3.c.(iii) Employment and Job Training

The third paragraph is deleted and replaced with the following:

Grant recipients **must** have sound strategies for placing participants into unsubsidized employment in jobs that pay wages consistent with the relevant market. Grant recipients **must** work toward assisting participants to secure or attain employment in accordance with their employment goals during the PoP either through direct involvement by the grant recipient, through a robust referral system, or through the participant's own efforts.

The first bullet under the fourth paragraph is deleted and replaced with the following:

• Describe your strategies for working with employers and utilizing work-based learning activities to help participants attain their employment goals and address the needs of employers. (Up to 1 Point)

Section IV.B.3.c.(iv) Linkages and Supportive Services

The seventh paragraph is deleted and replaced with the following:

Persistent, coordinated, and creative outreach efforts are important to not only identify but also engage veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness and connect them to the services they need to obtain and retain employment. To ensure the proposed project is cultivating successful linkages to supportive service providers, applicants should employ and partner with veterans with lived experience and those with recent experience with homelessness and homeless service systems.

The first bullet under the ninth paragraph is deleted and replaced with the following:

• Describe your plan to leverage existing relationships and/or develop new relationships with existing <u>CoC</u>s and/or employer partners. Provide at least one example of how your organization has done so in the past. Provide evidence of these partnerships with a requested HUD <u>CoC</u> Letter of Support that describes the relationship and the roles and responsibilities of each party. If your SDA encompasses multiple <u>CoC</u>s, you should provide a letter from each <u>CoC</u> in the SDA. Your SDA's <u>CoC</u>s are identified in the *Abstract (tab 2 in Attachment A) – Unduplicated CoC Number & Name*. A congressional letter of support is not needed. (Up to 3 Points)

Section IV.B.3.c.(v) Employer Engagement Strategies

The third bullet under the first paragraph is deleted and replaced with the following:

• Describe how you will increase employment opportunities for participants. (Up to 1 Point)

Section IV.B.4.a. Required Attachments

Section (ii) is deleted:

(ii) **HUD CoC** Letter(s) of Support

Section IV.B.4.b. Requested Attachments

Section (ii) is added:

(ii) **HUD CoC** Letter(s) of Support

Applicants should provide a letter of support from a <u>HUD CoC</u> within your SDA. To connect with contacts within a specific CoC, please click <u>CoC HUD Regional Teams – HUD Exchange</u>. This provides information about the Collaborative Applicant, Homeless Management Information System Lead, and Point of Contact for people experiencing homelessness for every <u>CoC</u> across the country. If your SDA encompasses multiple <u>CoC</u>s, (refer to *Abstract (tab 2 in Attachment A) – Unduplicated CoC Number and Name* for the full list of <u>CoCs</u> in your SDA) you should provide a separate <u>CoC</u> letter for each <u>CoC</u>.

The Letter(s) of Support should be dated within the last 12 months from the date the FOA is published with the printed name and either a wet or digital signature of the <u>CoC</u>'s authorized official and should include the following information:

- Number and title of this FOA;
- Name and address of legal applicant organization;
- Clear demonstration of the <u>CoC</u>'s level of collaboration, contribution, and/or commitment to the project; and
- Summary of any actual or planned agreements.

Submit the letter(s) as a separate attachment. The naming convention for each attachment **must** be "HUD-CoC-Letter-of-Support.pdf." If multiple CoC letters are submitted, add a dash and the CoC number for each one, such as -CA-506, -CA-508, etc., after "Support."

Section (iii) (formally section (ii)) is deleted and replaced with the following:

(iii) AJC Letter(s) of Support (dated within the last 12 months from the date the FOA is published) from an AJC located within the CoC(s) in your SDA(s). Submit the letter(s) as a separate attachment. The naming convention for each attachment must be "AJC-Letter-of-Support." If multiple letters, add a dash and the number, such as -1, -2, etc. after "Support."

Section VIII.F. Resources For Serving Homeless Veterans

The fifth bullet under the first paragraph is deleted:

• <u>HUD's House America Initiative</u> provides an opportunity for state, local, and tribal leaders to set and achieve ambitious goals to re-house individuals experiencing homelessness.

The seventh bullet under the first paragraph is deleted:

• The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has provided <u>Social Determinates of Health at CDC</u> that influence health outcomes. They are the conditions in which people are born, grow,

work, live, and age and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life.

Attachment A – VETS-704 Form, Abstract & Planned Goals Chart

Attachment A has been updated. Applicants that have already submitted Attachment A do not need to resubmit the attachment. The updates to Attachment A have no impact on the scoring of the application. Attachment A summary of changes:

Abstract, tab 2

- Cell E4 is deleted and replaced with "SDA Average Market Wage"
- Cell E11 is deleted and replaced with "County Market Wage"

Planned Goals Chart, tab 4

- Cell M5 is deleted and replaced with "SDA Average Market Wage"
- Cell B22 is deleted and replaced with "Percentage of SDA average market wage for exiters placed into employment (100% will match the SDA Average Market Wage"
- Cell D22 is deleted and replaced with "SDA Average Market Wage"
- Cell B52 is deleted and replaced with "Average Hourly Wage at Placement percentage SDA average market wage for exiters placed into employment"

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL HVRPFOA@dol.gov.

Signed February 21, 2025, in Washington, D.C., by: Kia Mason Grant Officer, Employment and Training Administration