



OREGON DEPARTMENT
of **VETERANS' AFFAIRS**



QUESTIONS/ANSWERS AND GRANT PROGRAMS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND EMERGENCY PREPARDNESS

29 JANUARY 2019

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS





HOME LOAN PROGRAM QUESTIONS

How do real estate brokers, lenders and mortgage brokers learn about the ODVA home loan program?

- ODVA presentations to broker and lender groups
- Word of mouth by existing lenders (8-10) and brokers (20-25)
- Plans to add to Business Development Representative

At one time, a veteran could only apply for a home loan if the total of all ODVA home loans the veteran had received was not more than a certain dollar amount.

How many ODVA home loans may a veteran obtain? What is the loan limit on each loan?

- A veteran may apply for a lifetime total of four home loans (Changed in 2013 – SB 34)
- Loan limit is the Fannie Mae limit (\$484,350 as of 2019)
- Purchase only loans. No refinancing of existing loans is available



DEFINITION OF VETERAN

What is the definition of “veteran”?

- A “veteran” is a person who served on “active duty” with the Armed Forces of the United States, and was honorably discharged
 - “Armed Forces” are the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard
- “Active duty.” A member of the state National Guard may be considered a “veteran” if ordered to federal-level “active duty” for federal-level missions
 - “Called up by the President.” “Deployed”
 - Serves active duty in the Armed Forces
- “Veteran” defined in ORS 408.225



MEASURE 96 LOTTERY FUNDS

What is Measure 96?

- Ballot measure passed in November 2016 that amended the Oregon Constitution
- 100% of Legislators approved HJR 202 (2016) to put the measure on the ballot
- 84% of Oregon voters voted in favor of the measure
- Measure 96 set aside 1.5% of Oregon Lottery funds for “veteran services”
- Language in Constitution:
 - “Money may be used **only to provide services for the benefit of veterans**”
 - “Veteran” means a resident of the State of Oregon who served in the Armed Forces Of the United States”
 - Note: “Armed Forces” are the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard



SPECIAL ADVOCACY: VETERANS COURTS

What are “veterans courts” or “veterans treatment courts?”

- Problem-solving courts within some Oregon county courts. Court-directed supervision and mandated treatment
- Nonviolent veterans
 - substance use or mental health issues underlying criminal behavior
- Impose a strenuous regimen of treatment and accountability
- Collaboration among a multidisciplinary team made up of judicial, treatment, supervision, legal staff, and other parties
- ODVA has worked with Marion County Treatment Court



OREGON VETERANS HOME IN THE DALLES AND IN LEBANON

Who is eligible to live at one of the Oregon Veterans' Homes?

- Oregon veterans
- Spouse of a veteran
- Gold Star Parents (parents who lost a child to war-time combat).

How is the skilled nursing care paid for at the Oregon Veterans' Homes?

- Established benefit. Allows veteran residents to combine funding to cover daily costs:
 - Private
 - Federal
 - Medicare
 - Medicaid



FEDERAL VA COMPENSATION AND PENSION BENEFITS

Does the dollar amount of Federal VA disability compensation increase each year based on increases in cost of living?

- 2019 COLA was 2.8%
- 2018 COLA was 2.0%
- 2017 COLA was 0.3%
- 2016 has no rate increase

VETERAN SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM





ODVA VETERAN SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM

ODVA VETERAN SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM

- HB 2891 (2017) established the ODVA Veterans Service Grant Program
 - Allocation: \$550,000 in Grant Funds (Lottery Funds)
 - Awards limited: \$25,000 to \$250,000
 - One-time grants and funded project must be completed by June 30, 2019
 - Only for “veteran services” because funded by Lottery funds
- Response to Request for Grant Proposals was overwhelming:
 - 59 grant proposals submitted
 - \$5.3 million in requests
 - Requests were 10 times the amount of available funds
- Proposals funded in April 2018
 - 10 proposals funded (2 of the 10 partially funded)
 - 17% of proposals submitted were funded
 - 10% of the dollar amount requested was funded



ODVA VETERAN SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM

ODVA VETERAN SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM

- Evaluation Committee
 - Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee, community stakeholders, agency personnel
 - Scoring based on 100 points, including the following:
 - Goals and targeted subject area
 - Meeting the needs of veterans and number of veterans served
 - Proposer capacity
 - Measurable outcomes
 - Fulfills gaps in services (geographic/demographic diversity, underserved veterans)

- Grantees must submit quarterly reports
 - Details on funds spent
 - Measureable outcomes
 - Activities



ODVA VETERAN SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM

GRANT RECIPIENTS

- Community Connection of NE Oregon
Baker/Union (\$50,000)
“Rides to Wellness.” Medical transportation programs; 269 trips.
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Yamhill, Polk and Marion (\$8,688)
Outreach to all veterans, including tribal; medical, dental and eye care
- Coos County Area Transit
Coos \$ (130,840)
Shuttle service from Coos to Roseburg VA hospital or Eugene CBOC
- Klamath-Lake Community Action Services
Klamath/Lake (\$35,000)
Emergency housing for veterans/families awaiting rehousing/permanent
Plus job training/SOAR program



ODVA VETERAN SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM

- Lane Council of Governments, Seniors and Disability Division
Lane (\$46,933)
Case management for veteran's access/use of community services/benefits; develop action plan, assist on applications
- Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest
Greater Portland (\$74,990).
Outreach and case management for Native American/Alaska Indian homeless veterans address health/mental health care, housing.
- Oregon City Police
Oregon City (\$25,000)
Dedicated officer serving the homeless; funds help get veterans off street, provide for temporary housing until more permanent solutions are found.



ODVA VETERAN SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM

- Polk County, Family and Community Outreach Department
Polk (\$39,160)
Provide homeless veterans meals, stable transitional housing, laundry, shower, connection to veteran service organizations
- Project ABLE
Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Linn, Tillamook, Washington and Multnomah (\$87,725)
Train veterans as veteran-specific Peer Support Specialists to support veterans with behavioral health issues
- St. Andrew Legal Clinic
Yamhill, Columbia, Clackamas, Washington and Multnomah (\$50,000)
Provide full legal services to veterans with a focus on issues of economic stability and housing security

CAMPUS VETERAN GRANT PROGRAM





ODVA CAMPUS VETERAN GRANT PROGRAM

ODVA CAMPUS VETERAN GRANT PROGRAM

- SB 143 (2017) established the ODVA Campus Veteran Grant Fund
- \$1 million Grant Funds to public universities and community colleges
- Purpose of the Grant Program. To expand and enhance veteran resource centers and programs to help veterans:
 - 1) successfully transition from military service to college life;
 - 2) succeed in college and complete educational goals; and
 - 3) transition from college to the workforce and the community.



ODVA CAMPUS VETERAN GRANT PROGRAM

SUMMARY OF ODVA CAMPUS VETERAN GRANT AWARDS

- 14 Community Colleges and Oregon Universities applied for and were awarded grants
 - Established new veteran resource centers (VRC); a third school is in construction
 - Completed upgrades to existing VRC's; two others schools are in progress
 - Recruited and hired new Campus Veteran Outreach Coordinators
 - Purchased and implemented training software to increase awareness of student veteran needs for staff and faculty members
 - Started a new college entry course specifically designed for student veterans
 - Hosted several outreach events which include job fair and career orientations



ODVA CAMPUS VETERAN GRANT PROGRAM

EARLY RESULTS AND LOOKING FORWARD

- One school reported a 5% increase in student veteran enrollment since receiving grant funds
- Four schools will host a statewide student veteran conference, with guest speakers and workshops to assist veterans through school and transition to the workforce

ODVA CAMPUS STUDENT VETERAN COORDINATOR

- To work closely with veteran service coordinators on grant implementation and outcomes and best practices for student veteran engagement.

A person is seen from behind, holding a large American flag on a hillside. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting dusk or dawn. The background shows a valley and distant hills. A white rectangular frame is superimposed over the center of the image, containing the text 'QUESTIONS?'.

QUESTIONS?



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