



COLORADO

**Department of
Regulatory Agencies**

Colorado Office of Policy, Research &
Regulatory Reform

2023 Sunset Review

Veterans Assistance Grant
Program



October 13, 2023



COLORADO

**Department of
Regulatory Agencies**

Executive Director's Office

October 13, 2023

Members of the Colorado General Assembly
c/o the Office of Legislative Legal Services
State Capitol Building
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Members of the General Assembly:

The Colorado General Assembly established the sunset review process in 1976 as a way to analyze and evaluate regulatory programs and determine the least restrictive regulation consistent with the public interest. Pursuant to section 24-34-104(5)(a), Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.), the Colorado Office of Policy, Research and Regulatory Reform (COPRRR) at the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) undertakes a robust review process culminating in the release of multiple reports each year on October 15.

A national leader in regulatory reform, COPRRR takes the vision of their office, DORA and more broadly of our state government seriously. Specifically, COPRRR contributes to the strong economic landscape in Colorado by ensuring that we have thoughtful, efficient, and inclusive regulations that reduce barriers to entry into various professions and that open doors of opportunity for all Coloradans.

As part of this year's review, COPRRR has completed an evaluation of the Veterans Assistance Grant Program (Program). I am pleased to submit this written report, which will be the basis for COPRRR's oral testimony before the 2024 legislative committee of reference.

The report discusses the question of whether there is a need for the Program provided under Section 712 of Article 5 of Title 28, C.R.S. The report also discusses the effectiveness of the Division of Veterans Affairs in carrying out the intent of the statutes and makes recommendations for statutory and administrative changes for the review and discussion of the General Assembly.

To learn more about the sunset review process, among COPRRR's other functions, visit coprrr.colorado.gov.

Sincerely,

Patty Salazar
Executive Director





Sunset Report: Veterans Assistance Grant Program

Background

What is the Veterans Assistance Grant Program?

The Veterans Assistance Grant Program (Program) within the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' Division of Veterans Affairs extends grant funding opportunities to a variety of governmental and non-profit organizations which, as grantees, provide direct services to veterans across the state.

How is it administered?

The Program administers the application process to ensure that recipients meet the minimum requirements of the grant.

Once an application is approved for a specific award, the Program provides grant reimbursements to grantees and oversees the use of grant fund dollars to ensure that grant fund utilization is meeting the requirements delineated in statute.

In order to receive grant reimbursement, grant recipients must submit any requested documentation regarding grant reimbursement to the Program.

What does it cost?

Total program expenditures in fiscal year 21-22, including administrative costs and total grant funding, were \$808,479 with a total of 1.4 full-time equivalent employees allocated to administer the Program.

How is grant funding utilized?

The ways in which funding from the grant can be used are more flexible than many other available funding mechanisms.

Grant awards have been used to provide veterans with critical support with a variety of needs including, but not limited to, medical bills, utilities, suicide prevention, mobility assistance, bedding, furniture for transitioning veterans (veterans changing from military to civilian status), adaptive farm equipment, and veterans stand downs (one to three-day events that provide a variety of services to veterans experiencing homelessness including clothing, medical, and shelter services).

Key Recommendations

- Continue the Veterans Assistance Grant Program for seven years, until 2031.

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Background

Sunset Criteria

Enacted in 1976, Colorado's sunset law was the first of its kind in the United States. A sunset provision repeals all or part of a law after a specific date unless the legislature affirmatively acts to extend it. During the sunset review process, the Colorado Office of Policy, Research and Regulatory Reform (COPRRR) within the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) conducts a thorough evaluation of such programs based upon specific statutory criteria¹ and solicits diverse input from a broad spectrum of stakeholders including consumers, government agencies, public advocacy groups, and professional associations.

Sunset reviews are guided by statutory criteria and sunset reports are organized so that a reader may consider these criteria while reading. While not all criteria are applicable to all sunset reviews, the various sections of a sunset report generally call attention to the relevant criteria. For example,

- In order to address the first criterion and determine whether the program under review is necessary to protect the public, it is necessary to understand the details of the profession or industry at issue. The Profile section of a sunset report typically describes the profession or industry at issue and addresses the current environment, which may include economic data, to aid in this analysis.
- To address the second sunset criterion--whether conditions that led to the initial creation of the program have changed--the History of Regulation section of a sunset report explores any relevant changes that have occurred over time in the regulatory environment. The remainder of the Legal Framework section addresses the fifth sunset criterion by summarizing the organic statute and rules of the program, as well as relevant federal, state, and local laws to aid in the exploration of whether the program's operations are impeded or enhanced by existing statutes or rules.
- The Program Description section of a sunset report addresses several of the sunset criteria, including those inquiring whether the agency operates in the public interest and whether its operations are impeded or enhanced by existing statutes, rules, procedures, and practices; whether the agency or the agency's board performs efficiently and effectively and whether the board, if applicable, represents the public interest.
- The Analysis and Recommendations section of a sunset report, while generally applying multiple criteria, is specifically designed in response to the fourteenth criterion, which asks whether administrative or statutory changes are necessary to improve agency operations to enhance the public interest.

¹ Criteria may be found at § 24-34-104, C.R.S.

These are but a few examples of how the various sections of a sunset report provide the information and, where appropriate, analysis required by the sunset criteria. Just as not all criteria are applicable to every sunset review, not all criteria are specifically highlighted as they are applied throughout a sunset review. While not necessarily exhaustive, the table below indicates where these criteria are applied in this sunset report.

**Table 1
Application of Sunset Criteria**

Sunset Criteria	Where Applied
(I) Whether regulation or program administration by the agency is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profile of the Veteran Population; • History of Regulation; and • Recommendation 1.
(II) Whether the conditions that led to the initial creation of the program have changed and whether other conditions have arisen that would warrant more, less, or the same degree of governmental oversight.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of Regulation.
(III) If the program is necessary, whether the existing statutes and regulations establish the least restrictive form of governmental oversight consistent with the public interest, considering other available regulatory mechanisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Summary.
(IV) If the program is necessary, whether agency rules enhance the public interest and are within the scope of legislative intent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Summary; and • Administrative Recommendation 3.
(V) Whether the agency operates in the public interest and whether its operation is impeded or enhanced by existing statutes, rules, procedures, and practices and any other circumstances, including budgetary, resource, and personnel matters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Summary; • Program Description and Administration; and • Administrative Recommendations 1, 2, and 3.
(VI) Whether an analysis of agency operations indicates that the agency or the agency's board or commission performs its statutory duties efficiently and effectively.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Description and Administration.
(VII) Whether the composition of the agency's board or commission adequately represents the public interest and whether the agency encourages public participation in its decisions rather than participation only by the people it regulates.	Not applicable.
(VIII) Whether regulatory oversight can be achieved through a director model.	Not applicable.
(IX) The economic impact of the program and, if national economic information is not available, whether the agency stimulates or restricts competition.	Not applicable.

Sunset Criteria	Where Applied
(X) If reviewing a regulatory program, whether complaint, investigation, and disciplinary procedures adequately protect the public and whether final dispositions of complaints are in the public interest or self-serving to the profession or regulated entity.	Not applicable.
(XI) If reviewing a regulatory program, whether the scope of practice of the regulated occupation contributes to the optimum use of personnel.	Not applicable.
(XII) Whether entry requirements encourage equity, diversity, and inclusivity.	Not applicable.
(XIII) If reviewing a regulatory program, whether the agency, through its licensing, certification, or registration process, imposes any sanctions or disqualifications on applicants based on past criminal history and, if so, whether the sanctions or disqualifications serve public safety or commercial or consumer protection interests. To assist in considering this factor, the analysis prepared pursuant to subsection (5)(a) of this section must include data on the number of licenses, certifications, or registrations that the agency denied based on the applicant's criminal history, the number of conditional licenses, certifications, or registrations issued based upon the applicant's criminal history, and the number of licenses, certifications, or registrations revoked or suspended based on an individual's criminal conduct. For each set of data, the analysis must include the criminal offenses that led to the sanction or disqualification.	Not applicable.
(XIV) Whether administrative and statutory changes are necessary to improve agency operations to enhance the public interest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 1. • Administrative Recommendations 1 - 3.

Sunset Process

Regulatory programs scheduled for sunset review receive a comprehensive analysis. The review includes a thorough dialogue with agency officials, representatives of the regulated profession and other stakeholders. Anyone can submit input on any upcoming sunrise or sunset review on COPRRR's website at coprrr.colorado.gov.

The functions of the Division of Veterans Affairs (Division) related to the Veterans Assistance Grant Program (Program), as enumerated in Section 712 of Article 5 of Title 28, Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.), shall terminate on September 1, 2024, unless continued by the General Assembly. During the year prior to this date, it is the duty of COPRRR to conduct an analysis and evaluation of the Program pursuant to section 24-34-104, C.R.S.

The purpose of this review is to determine whether the currently prescribed Program should be continued and to evaluate the performance of the Program and Division. During this review, the Division must demonstrate that the Program serves the public interest. COPRRR's findings and recommendations are submitted via this report to the Office of Legislative Legal Services.

Methodology

As part of this review, COPRRR staff interviewed Program staff, award grantees, and officials with state and national associations; and reviewed Colorado statutes, and the laws of other states.

The major contacts made during this review include, but are not limited to:

- City and County of Broomfield;
- Costilla County;
- Division of Veterans Affairs;
- Douglas County Government;
- Grand County Veterans Service Office;
- Gunnison County Veterans Service Office;
- Healing Warriors Program;
- Home Front Military Network;
- Veterans Community Living Centers;
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3981;
- Volunteers of America; and
- Women Marines Association.

Profile of the Veteran Population

In a sunset review, the Colorado Office of Policy, Research and Regulatory Reform (COPRRR) is guided by the sunset criteria located in section 24-34-104(6)(b), Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S). The first criterion asks whether regulation or program administration by the agency is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

There are a variety of services available that provide assistance to veterans, and in Colorado, one such service is the Veterans Assistance Grant Program (Program). To understand the need for the Program, it is first necessary to understand the dynamics of the veteran population, their unique needs, and the resources that they utilize.

According to 2021 estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, there are 16.5 million military veterans in the United States. Additionally, it is estimated that 11.9 million veterans are living with disabilities, 2.1 million veterans struggle with mental health issues, and 40,401 veterans experience homelessness.² Veterans often face a myriad of challenges, and these are but a few of the struggles that veterans may experience.

The veteran population in the United States is declining, and it is estimated that by 2046 the number of veterans will decrease to approximately 12.5 million.³ Further, the total median age of veterans is 65: World War II veterans have a median age of 93; while Vietnam veterans have a median age of 71; and post-911 veterans hold the youngest median age at 37.⁴

Of those veterans who sustained a service-related disability, post-911 veterans had a 39 percent chance of having a disability rating of 70 or higher, which is significantly higher than veterans from any other time.⁵

It is estimated that Colorado is home to approximately 371,369 veterans, with the majority (37.2 percent) between the ages of 65 and 84, followed by veterans between the ages of 45 and 64 (34.6 percent). Most veterans in Colorado live in urban areas (87 percent), and the vast majority are male (89.7 percent).⁶

Additionally, it is estimated that 12 percent of Colorado veterans are in fair to poor health, while 15 percent struggle with fair to poor mental health,⁷ and Colorado's

² National Association of American Veterans. *NAAV Veterans Statistics for 2023*. Retrieved June 29, 2023, from naavets.org/naav-veterans-statistics-for-2023/

³ Pew Research Center. *The Changing Face of America's Veteran Population*. Retrieved June 29, 2023, from pewresearch.org/short-reads/2021/04/05/the-changing-face-of-americas-veteran-population/

⁴ United States Census Bureau. *Those Who Served: America's Veterans From World War II to the War on Terror*. Retrieved June 29, 2023, from census.gov/library/publications/2020/demo/acs-43.html

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ *Colorado Veterans Community Living Centers: Needs Assessment*, Colorado Department of Human Services and Colorado Health Institute (2021), p. 8.

⁷ *Colorado Veterans Community Living Centers: Needs Assessment*, Colorado Department of Human Services and Colorado Health Institute (2021), p. 8.

suicide rates among veterans continues to outpace the national average (31.6 per 100,000) with 43.1 suicide deaths in Colorado per 100,000 veterans in 2019.⁸

The ninth sunset criterion questions the economic impact of the program and, if national economic information is not available, whether the agency stimulates or restricts competition.

In 2022, the federal government spent approximately \$274 billion on programs supporting veterans.⁹

⁸ Faith Miller, "Colorado's Veteran Suicide Rate Outpaces the National Average, New 2019 Data Shows," *Colorado Newsline*, October 1, 2021.

⁹ Statista. *Outlays of the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs in fiscal years 2000 to 2028*. Retrieved August 30, 2023, from www.statista.com/statistics/200507/outlays-of-the-us-department-of-veterans-affairs-since-2000/

Legal Framework

History of Regulation

In a sunset review, the Colorado Office of Policy, Research and Regulatory Reform (COPRRR) is guided by the sunset criteria located in section 24-34-104(6)(b), Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.). The first sunset and second sunset criteria question:

Whether regulation or program administration by the agency is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare; and

Whether the conditions that led to the initial creation of the program have changed and whether other conditions have arisen that would warrant more, less or the same degree of governmental oversight.

One way that COPRRR addresses this is by examining why the program was established and how it has evolved over time.

When the United States entered World War I in 1917, Congress enacted a unique system regarding veterans' benefits, which included insurance coverage for service personnel and veterans, vocational rehabilitation, and disability compensation. Congress then consolidated veterans' programs to create the Veterans Bureau in 1921.¹⁰

In 1930, President Herbert Hoover signed Executive Order 5398 which raised the Veterans Bureau to a federal administration and would from that point forward be known as the Veterans Administration (VA). The purpose of the newly established VA was to, "consolidate and coordinate government activities effecting war veterans."¹¹

The House Committee on Veterans Affairs was established by Congress through the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, and the committee was tasked with recommending legislation regarding veterans' benefits, and also to have oversight regarding the operations of the VA.¹²

The VA was later elevated to cabinet-level executive department by President Ronald Reagan in 1988.¹³

¹⁰ United States Department of Veterans Affairs. *History Overview*. Retrieved June 29, 2023, from department.va.gov/history/history-overview/

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. *History*. Retrieved June 29, 2023, from veterans.house.gov/about/history.htm

¹³ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. *History Overview*. Retrieved June 29, 2023, from department.va.gov/history/history-overview/

In 2002, the General Assembly passed House Bill 02-1413, which established the Division of Veterans Affairs (Division) within the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (Department) to provide a,

...restructuring of government resources to assist in the administration and coordination of programs for veterans.

House Bill 14-1205 passed the General Assembly in 2014, which established the Veterans Assistance Grant Program (Program) to allocate grant funding for governmental and non-profit organizations that provide services for veterans, established the Veterans Assistance Grant Program Cash Fund (Cash Fund), and established the first sunset date for the Program of September 1, 2024.

Additionally, during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the General Assembly enacted House Bill 20-1381, which transferred \$1 million dollars from the Cash Fund to the General Fund.

Legal Summary

The third, fourth and fifth sunset criteria question:

Whether the existing statutes and regulations establish the least restrictive form of governmental oversight consistent with the public interest, considering other available regulatory mechanisms;

Whether agency rules enhance the public interest and are within the scope of legislative intent; and

Whether the agency operates in the public interest and whether its operation is impeded or enhanced by existing statutes, rules, procedures, and practices and any other circumstances, including budgetary, resource, and personnel matters.

A summary of the current statutes and rules is necessary to understand whether the Program is set at the appropriate level and whether the current laws are impeding or enhancing the agency's ability to operate in the public interest.

The Program is administered by the Division in consultation with the Board of Veterans Affairs (Board), and was established to,¹⁴

...provide moneys to nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies that provide services to ensure the health and well-being of veterans of the United States Armed Forces who live in Colorado...

¹⁴ § 28-5-712(1), C.R.S.

Services that may be offered with grant funding provided by the Program include, but are not limited to:¹⁵

- Employment,
- Job training,
- Housing opportunities for veterans experiencing homelessness,
- Mental health services, and
- Family counseling services.

The Adjutant General, in consultation with the Board, is required by statute to develop rules for program administration that include criteria for grant funding eligibility and application procedures.¹⁶

Applicants are also required to be in good standing with the Colorado Secretary of State and must be recognized as a 501(c) tax exempt organization. Applicants must also provide proof of tax-exempt status with the grant request application.¹⁷

Additionally, the following elements are further required in the request for grant funding from each applicant:¹⁸

- A completed application form,
- A program detail narrative,
- Total organization or agency operating budget and budget narrative,
- Current signed and dated Internal Revenue Service Form W-9, and
- A completed pre-award assessment questionnaire.

Items in the pre-award assessment questionnaire include, but are not limited to:¹⁹

- Organization name,
- Organization contact information,
- A description of the accounting system that will be utilized for grant funding,
- Who within the organization is responsible for approving expenditures,
- Frequency of account reconciliation,
- Frequency of financial reviews,

¹⁵ § 28-5-712(1), C.R.S.

¹⁶ § 28-5-712(2), C.R.S.

¹⁷ Veterans Assistance Grant Application Packet for Applications due March 01, 2023, Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, p. 3.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. *Pre-Award Assessment Questionnaire*. Retrieved December 7, 2022, from vets.colorado.gov/grants

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- Whether the organization has policies and procedures regarding grant funding, and
 - Whether the organization has ever been found to be out of compliance with a government entity.

Further, the Department is required to provide annual reports to legislative committees of reference, to include information regarding grants that were awarded during the preceding year.²⁰

The Program may receive funding appropriated by the General Assembly,²¹ and additional funding may also be received in the form of grants, gifts, and donations.²² Additionally, the Division may not expend more than five percent of the total annual funds appropriated to pay for administrative costs.²³

Furthermore, any money received for Program funding must be transferred to the Cash Fund, and any unencumbered money in the Cash Fund will not be transferred to any other fund at the end of each fiscal year, except that any money remaining in the fund as of September 1, 2024 will be credited to the General Fund.²⁴

²⁰ § 28-5-712(4), C.R.S.

²¹ § 28-5-712(3)(a)(II), C.R.S.

²² § 28-5-712(3)(a)(I), C.R.S.

²³ § 28-5-712(3)(c), C.R.S.

²⁴ § 28-5-712(3)(b), C.R.S.

Program Description and Administration

In a sunset review, the Colorado Office of Policy, Research and Regulatory Reform (COPRRR) is guided by sunset criteria located in section 24-34-104(6)(b), Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.). The fifth and sixth sunset criteria question:

Whether the agency operates in the public interest and whether its operation is impeded or enhanced by existing statutes, rules, procedures, and practices and any other circumstances, including budgetary, resource, and personnel matters; and

Whether an analysis of agency operations indicates that the agency or the agency's board or commission performs its statutory duties efficiently and effectively.

In part, COPRRR utilizes this section of the report to evaluate the agency according to these criteria.

The Veterans Assistance Grant Program (Program) is administered by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' Division of Veterans Affairs (Department and Division, respectively) in consultation with the Board of Veterans Affairs (Board), and was established to,

...provide moneys to nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies that provide services to ensure the health and well-being of veterans of the United States Armed Forces who live in Colorado...²⁵

The Program may receive funding appropriated by the General Assembly,²⁶ and additional funding may also be received in the form of grants, gifts, and donations.²⁷ Additionally, the Division may not expend more than five percent of the total annual funds appropriated to pay for administrative costs.²⁸

Table 2 highlights the total program expenditures, including administrative costs and total grant funding, as well as the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) employees dedicated to the Program for fiscal years 17-18 through fiscal year 21-22.

²⁵ § 28-5-712(1), C.R.S.

²⁶ § 28-5-712(3)(a)(II), C.R.S.

²⁷ § 28-5-712(3)(a)(I), C.R.S.

²⁸ § 28-8-712(3)(c), C.R.S.

**Table 2
Program Expenditures and FTE**

Fiscal Year	Total Program Expenditure	FTE
17-18	\$960,454	1.2
18-19	\$967,916	1.0
19-20	\$991,108	1.0
20-21	\$794,560	1.0
21-22	\$808,479	1.4

At the end of fiscal year 17-18, 0.2 FTE from the Program was reallocated within the Division to serve other programs. In fiscal year 21-22, 0.4 FTE was added back to the Program to provide additional support to the Grant Specialist.

Total program expenditures declined in fiscal years 20-21 and 21-22. According to Program staff, the COVID-19 pandemic and the reduction in staffing allocation contributed to this decrease.

In fiscal year 22-23, the Division allocated staff to administer the Program in the following manner:

- Grant Specialist (Grants Manager) - 1.0 FTE. This position provides management, oversees all aspects of the Program, and implements all processes, procedures, guidelines, rules, and policies related to the Program. Further, this position utilizes knowledge and expertise to perform advisory functions for the Department and the Board; and
- Grant Program Assistant (Program Assistant II) - 0.4 FTE. This position primarily reviews and enters payments into the state accounting system. Additionally, this position also provides support to the Grant Specialist by conducting webinar trainings for grant applicants, assisting with the preparation of applications, and performs desk audits regarding reimbursement payments.

Table 3 highlights the total amount of funds that were allocated for Program administration costs as well as the actual costs spent on Program administration during fiscal years 17-18 through 21-22.

Table 3
Funds Allocated for Program Administration

Fiscal Year	Funds Allocated for Program Administration	Actual Program Administration Costs
17-18	\$50,000	\$29,812
18-19	\$50,000	\$43,310
19-20	\$57,894	\$46,147
20-21	\$50,000	\$43,444
21-22	\$50,000	\$38,127

Administration costs include salary, travel, and equipment costs. Program staff has indicated that the Program does not currently have access to a computer system for application and reimbursement tracking management.

During fiscal year 19-20, funding sources for Program administration included a combination of General Fund (\$50,000) and Veterans Assistance Grant Program Cash Fund (Cash Fund) dollars. During fiscal years 19-20 and 20-21, multiple site monitoring visits were cancelled, which reduced the utilization of some funding allocated to Program administration.

Vacancy savings and the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions resulted in reduced utilization of Program administration funding allocations during fiscal year 21-22.

Grant Application Process

The Veterans Assistance Grant (Grant) is available to all 501(c) status nonprofit organizations, other than 501(c)19 or 501(c)23 government entities. In order to apply for the Grant, applicants must, among other things:²⁹

- Submit an application;
- Provide a program narrative;
- Complete the pre-award questionnaire;
- Provide the total agency operating budget with a budget narrative;
- Submit a current Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form W-9, signed, and dated; and
- Provide proof of good standing with the Colorado Secretary of State and be recognized by the IRS as a 501(c) tax exempt organization, excluding 501(c)19 and 501(c)23 government entities.

²⁹ Veterans Assistance Grant Application Packet for Applications due March 01, 2023, Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, p. 3.

Additionally, each application is reviewed by the Grant Specialist, the Program Assistant, and a member of the Board to assess eligibility and completeness.

The applications are then evaluated by a committee comprised of the Director of Veterans Affairs or their designee, a Board member, and the Grants Specialist for evaluation. Recommendations are then forwarded to the Adjutant General for final approval.

The committee's objective is to develop funding recommendations using an objective scoring tool, which takes into consideration the grant funds available, as well as factors regarding geographic distribution of grant funding. The factors determining scoring of grant applications include, but are not limited to:³⁰

- Need - The extent to which the applicant establishes a need for funding regarding specific services that will be delivered. The applicant must include information regarding the estimated number of veterans within the target area where services will be provided and any currently existing gaps in services;
- Local partnerships - The extent to which the applicant demonstrates collaborative approaches or partnerships;
- Number of veterans - Identification of the number of veterans that will be served, the program budget, and the level of services that will be delivered; and
- Geographic distribution - Considerations regarding the locations where veterans will be served by mapping to ensure the delivery of services in the widest coverage area possible, and to identify any duplicate services in specific areas of the state.

A total of 100 points are possible utilizing the grant scoring tool, and applicants who receive fewer than 60 points upon evaluation will not receive grant funding.

The deadline established for grant application is March 1 on an annual basis. If an award is offered, applicants are notified in June and grant awardees may begin utilizing funds for reimbursement as of July 1.

Once an application is approved for a specific award, the Program provides grant reimbursements to grantees and oversees the use of grant fund dollars to ensure that grant fund utilization is meeting the requirements delineated in statute.

In order to receive grant reimbursement, grant recipients must submit any requested documentation regarding grant reimbursement to the Program. Once received, calculations are performed to verify reimbursement amounts, which are then entered into the state accounting system and reviewed for final approval. According to Program staff, reimbursement is typically completed within 30 to 45 days.

³⁰ Veterans Assistance Grant Application Packet for Applications due March 01, 2023, Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, p. 7.

In-person site visits had been periodically conducted to audit grant recipients' reporting elements, including a random sampling of client files, a review of customer satisfaction surveys, and payment information. The Program has indicated that in-person site visits are no longer being performed due to a lack of Program staffing.

However, Program staff have indicated that desk audits are performed on all documentation prior to grant reimbursement including, but not limited to bank statements, receipts, and lease agreements. Additionally, Program staff still hold meetings and trainings with award recipients to discuss any questions or concerns regarding documentation, programming, or reimbursement.

Table 4 details the number of governmental entities and non-profit organizations throughout the state that received grants during fiscal years 17-18 through 21-22.

Table 4
Total Number of Applicants and Award Grantees

Fiscal Year	Number of Grant Applicants	Number of Award Grantees
17-18	Not available	32
18-19	Not available	30
19-20	Not available	30
20-21	47	29
21-22	Not available	26

According to the Program, the number of grant applicants was not available for fiscal years 17-18 through 19-20 and 21-22.

Table 5 lists the total General Fund appropriations allocated to the Program by the General Assembly, and of those funds, also indicates the dollar amount specifically designated for grant awards. Additionally, the table provides the total dollar amount requested as grant funding by non-profit and governmental agencies during fiscal years 17-18 through 21-22.

Table 5
Total Appropriations and Funding Allocations

Fiscal Year	Total General Fund Appropriated	General Fund Designated for Grant Awards	Total Funds Available for Grant Awards	Total Dollar Amount of Grant Requests Received per Fiscal Year
17-18	\$1,000,000	\$950,000	\$950,000	\$1,962,542
18-19	\$1,000,000	\$950,000	\$950,000	\$1,617,792
19-20	\$1,000,000	\$950,000	\$1,099,992	\$1,827,111
20-21	\$850,000	\$800,000	\$957,886	\$2,361,529
21-22	\$850,000	\$800,000	\$957,886	\$1,541,512

According to the Program, any portion of unused funds appropriated to the Program on an annual basis are retained within the Cash Fund. Monies in the Cash Fund can only be utilized when additional spending authority is granted by the General Assembly.

In fiscal year 19-20, funds designated for grant funding included an additional \$157,886 from the Cash Fund, of which \$149,992 was specifically designated for grant awards.

In fiscal years 20-21 and 21-22, funds designated for grant funding included an additional \$157,886 from the Cash Fund, all of which was specifically designated for grant awards.

Table 6 provides information regarding the total dollar amount of grants awarded, the total amount of grant funding expended on direct services to veterans, and the execution rate of funding utilized expressed in percentages during fiscal years 17-18 through 21-22.

Table 6
Grant Funds Expended on Direct Services

Fiscal Year	Total Grants Awarded	Total Grant Funds Expended	Execution Rate
17-18	\$950,000	\$930,642	98%
18-19	\$939,846	\$924,606	98%
19-20	\$1,097,052	\$946,254	86%
20-21	\$947,300	\$756,747	80%
21-22	\$869,905	\$766,113	88%

According to the Program, the Execution Rate is defined as the amount of funds awarded, versus the amount of funds that were spent, which is expressed in percentages.

During fiscal year 19-20, the closure of one grantee contributed to a reduction in grant fund utilization. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted grant award utilization during fiscal years 19-20, 20-21, and 21-22.

Table 7 details the total number of veterans services provided utilizing grant awards, as well as the total number of veterans who were served for the first time using grant awards during fiscal years 17-18 through 21-22.

**Table 7
Veterans Services Provided per Fiscal Year**

Fiscal Year	Total Number of Veterans Services Provided by Grant Funds	Total Number of Recipients
17-18	4,552	2, 472
18-19	5,100	2,973
19-20	4,083	2,023
20-21	2,487	1,484
21-22	6,557	1,389

According to the Program, demographic data relating to veterans receiving services from the grant funding is not available, since the Program does not currently track this information.

Table 8 highlights the percentage of grant utilization in rural parts of the state versus urban areas during fiscal years 17-18 through 21-22.

**Table 8
Rural and Urban Grant Utilization**

Fiscal Year	Rural Grant Fund Use	Urban Grant Fund Use
17-18	40%	60%
18-19	40%	60%
19-20	26%	74%
20-21	45%	55%
21-22	35%	65%

Urban areas are defined as the Front Range corridor while rural areas encompass the remainder of the state. See Appendix A for a complete list of grantees per fiscal year.

Table 9 indicates the percentage of the types of direct services provided to veterans during fiscal years 17-18 through 21-22.

**Table 9
Direct Services Provided**

Fiscal Year	Emergency Assistance	Shelter and Housing	Transportation	Education and Employment	Health and Well-being (including mental health)	Substance Abuse	Other*
17-18	9.0%	28.6%	6.5%	0.7%	32.6%	8.9%	11%
18-19	13.2%	26.6%	5.9%	1.6%	23.4%	9.9%	16.3%
19-20	21.4%	34.5%	5.5%	1.0%	20.9%	10.1%	4.8%
20-21	17.3%	26.4%	4.1%	Not applicable	35.1%	11.8%	3.7%
21-22	12%	8.0%	9.0%	Not applicable	50.0%	Not applicable	21.0%

The “other” category listed in the table above includes:

- Fiscal year 17-18 - Mobility assistance, bedding, and furniture for transitioning veterans (veterans changing from military to civilian status), adaptive farm equipment, and veterans stand downs (one to three-day events that provide a variety of services to veterans experiencing homelessness including clothing, medical, and shelter services);
- Fiscal year 18-19 - Bedding and furniture for transitioning veterans, veterans stand downs, and an advanced dog training program specific to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD);
- Fiscal year 18-19 - Bedding and furniture for transitioning veterans and veterans stand downs;
- Fiscal Year 19-20 - Bedding and furniture for transitioning veterans and veterans stand downs;
- Fiscal year 20-21- Veterans stand downs; and
- Fiscal year 21-22 - Other services data are not available. Also in fiscal year 21-22, the “other” category was significantly higher than previous years. According to Program staff, not all grant awardees provided detailed information regarding how grant awards were utilized.

Additionally, all services listed in the Health and Well-being category were related to mental health services in fiscal year 21-22.

According to the Program, total dollar amounts per fiscal year related to each category of direct services provided are not available.

Complaint Process

According to the Program, there is no formalized process for complaints, although it is currently being evaluated whether to implement an appeals process related to grant applications. Additionally, no complaints have been received according to the current Program staff's knowledge during the years under review.

Analysis and Recommendations

The final sunset criterion questions whether administrative and statutory changes are necessary to improve agency operations to enhance the public interest. The recommendations that follow are offered in consideration of this criterion, in general, and any criteria specifically referenced in those recommendations.

Recommendation 1 – Continue the Veterans Assistance Grant Program for seven years, until 2031.

The Veterans Assistance Grant Program (Program) within the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' Division of Veterans Affairs (Department and Division, respectively) extends grant funding opportunities to a variety of governmental and non-profit organizations which, as grantees, provide direct services to veterans across the state. Section 28-5-712(1), Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.), states that grant awards may be used for a variety of purposes, including, but not limited to,

- Mental health services,
- Family counseling services,
- Job training,
- Employment, and
- Housing for veterans experiencing homelessness.

For example, in fiscal year 21-22, \$766,113 in total funds were expended on services by 26 grant awardees, who provided a total of 6,557 individual services to veterans across the state.

The ways in which funding from the grant can be used are more flexible than many other available funding mechanisms, and stakeholders have indicated that grant awards have been used in additional ways to provide veterans with critical assistance with a variety of needs including medical bills, utilities, and suicide prevention.

Furthermore, the applications for grant awards consistently and significantly outpace the amount of grant funds available during all fiscal years that were reviewed as a part of this sunset review.

The first sunset criterion asks whether regulation or program administration by the agency is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

Stakeholders overwhelmingly indicated that the grant is crucial for filling the gaps in funding for veterans' services, allowing more veterans to receive services to improve the quality of their lives.

Additionally, the Program administers the application process to ensure that recipients meet the minimum requirements of the grant, and the Program also provides grant reimbursements to grantees and oversees the use of grant fund dollars to ensure that grant fund utilization is meeting the requirements delineated in statute.

The Program provides substantive support to the veteran community in Colorado through the administration of the grant, which justifies its continuation. However, improvement is needed in order for the Program to increase its effectiveness in the services provided, as is detailed in the administrative recommendations that follow. Therefore, given the need for structural and policy adjustments, the General Assembly should continue the Program for only seven years, until 2031.

Administrative Recommendation 1 – The Division should increase staffing for the Program.

The staff at the Program perform a variety of tasks, including administration of the grant application process, hosting meetings and trainings regarding the grant process, assisting with the determination of which applicants are qualified to receive awards, distributing grant award reimbursements, performing site monitoring or desk audits of grantees, and data tracking and reporting components.

As was indicated in the data reported by the Program in Table 2, in only two of the fiscal years evaluated during this sunset review were any support staff provided (total staffing allocation for the program was 1.2 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees in fiscal year 17-18, and 1.4 FTE in fiscal year 21-22). Of the remaining three fiscal years evaluated for the sunset review, only one full-time Grant Specialist was employed to perform all of the previously mentioned duties. Additionally, Program staff has indicated that no accountant is specifically dedicated to providing assistance to the Program and site monitoring visits have ceased to occur in recent years due to a lack of administrative support.

The fifth and fourteenth sunset criteria ask,

Whether the agency operates in the public interest and whether its operation is impeded or enhanced by existing statutes, rules, procedures, and practices and any other circumstances, including budgetary, resource, and personnel matters; and

Whether administrative and statutory changes are necessary to improve agency operations to enhance the public interest.

Throughout the course of this sunset review, issues were raised by stakeholders related to delays in the reimbursement process and increased processing times, which have been reported as debilitating to the cash flow of some organizations who count on the timely reimbursement of funds allocated for services provided to veterans in need.

Additionally, without dedicated accounting staff or additional support staff, funds expended through the grant process may not be tracked as efficiently or accounted for as effectively.

The limited staffing resources currently available to the Program are largely due to budgetary constraints. For example, the Division is directed by statute that it may not expend more than five percent of the total annual funds appropriated for the Program to pay for administrative costs. Hence, the amount of funding that can be dedicated to grant administration is extremely limited and may need to be increased to ensure that staffing is adequate to ensure effectiveness of the Program.

It should be noted that the annual appropriation for administrative costs has not been fully utilized during the fiscal years under review. For example, during fiscal year 21-22, \$50,000 was allocated to administrative costs, but only \$38,127 was reported as utilized. This indicates that a remaining balance of \$11,873 was not utilized for administrative purposes. However, it should be considered that this sum may not be sufficient to hire additional support staff as needed.

Therefore, the Division should seek to increase staffing for the Program through the budget process to employ enough additional staff to ensure that the Program can continue its operations to effectively and efficiently provide grant assistance for veterans in need, thereby enhancing the public interest.

Administrative Recommendation 2 – The Division should obtain a grant tracking computer system for the Program and implement its utilization as soon as possible.

According to the Program, there is no grant-related computer system available to staff to track applicants, grantees, or grant reimbursements. As evidenced from the data provided in this sunset review, the Program is currently utilizing methods with extreme limitations that affect the quality and quantity of data that the Program can track.

For example, data were unavailable in standard metric areas, including the total number of grant applicants per fiscal year, as well as a clear understanding of grant funding components, such as the total amount deposited into the Cash Fund each fiscal year or a clear accounting of total Program expenditures.

The fifth sunset criterion asks,

Whether the agency operates in the public interest and whether its operation is impeded or enhanced by existing statutes, rules, procedures, and practices and any other circumstances, including budgetary, resource, and personnel matters.

The tracking mechanisms currently utilized are not adequate to support the Program. The implementation of a computer system that is designed to meet the unique needs of the Program would undoubtedly benefit Program staff in process efficiency and data tracking which would better protect the public welfare by increasing transparency and accountability.

Therefore, the Division should obtain a grant tracking computer system and implement its utilization as soon as possible.

Administrative Recommendation 3 – The Division should establish a formal complaint and appeals process for the Program.

Although no complaints have been received by the Program during the years under review, no formalized process for complaints has been established by the Program. Additionally, although staff has indicated that, while an appeals process relating to grant awards has been contemplated, no formal process is available to grant applicants.

The fourth, fifth, and fourteenth criteria ask,

If the program is necessary, whether agency rules enhance the public interest and are within the scope of legislative intent;

Whether the agency operates in the public interest and whether its operation is impeded or enhanced by existing statutes, rules, procedures, and practices and any other circumstances, including budgetary, resource, and personnel matters; and

Whether administrative and statutory changes are necessary to improve agency operations to enhance the public interest.

Establishment of formal processes for both complaints and appeals would provide a venue through which members of the public could provide feedback and further understand the decisions made by the Program, which is in the public interest. Therefore, the Division should establish a formal complaint and appeals process.

Appendix A – Veterans Assistance Grantees

Data highlighting award grantees for each fiscal year was retrieved from the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs’ Board of Veterans Affairs annual reports for fiscal years 17-18 through 21-22.

Fiscal Year 17-18 Grantees

Grantee	Location	Purpose	Amount Awarded
La Puente Home, Inc.,	Alamosa	Veterans Assistance/ Education/Employment	\$20,000
Alamosa County Veterans Services	Alamosa	Emergency/Veterans Assistance/Transportation	\$51,487
Grand County Veterans Services	Hot Sulphur Springs	Veterans Assistance/ Mental Health	\$20,500
CO Veterans Resource Coalition	Colorado Springs	Substance Abuse Shelter	\$80,000
Pikes Peak Workforce Center	Colorado Springs	Employment/ Veterans Assistance	\$30,000
Catholic Charities of Denver	Denver/ Ft. Collins	Housing/Veterans Assistance	\$46,750
Mountain Resource Center	Conifer	Emergency Assistance/ Mental Health/Educ. and Employment	\$40,000
Operation Revamp	Grand Junction	Veterans Arts Program/Health and Wellness/Mental Health	\$53,552
Sobriety House, Inc.	Denver	Substance Use/Abuse Treatment	\$90,000
Montrose County	Montrose	Veterans Assistance	\$5,500
Archuleta County Veterans Services	Pagosa Springs	Mental Health/ Emergency Assistance	\$40,000
Goodwill Industries of Denver	Denver	Adaptive Equipment	\$30,000
Providers Resource Clearinghouse	Aurora	Furniture/Bedding	\$65,500
BPOE Lodge #1319	Lamar	Transportation/Emergency Assistance	\$15,050-original \$11,250-modified
Pueblo Veterans Council	Pueblo	Emergency Assistance	\$5,000
Park County Senior Coalition	Fairplay	Emergency Assistance	\$25,000
Chaffee County	Salida	Emergency Assistance	\$10,000
Healing Warriors Program	Ft. Collins	Alternative Health/Mental Health Therapies	\$22,487-original \$25,387-modified

Grantee	Location	Purpose	Amount Awarded
Douglas County Office of Veteran Affairs	Castle Rock	Emergency Assistance	\$7,500-original \$5,500-modified
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless	Denver	Emergency Assistance	\$5,000
Veterans Acupuncture Center	Denver	Alternative Health	\$10,000
City/County of Denver DHS	Denver	Emergency Assistance	\$23,000
Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County	Pagosa Springs	Housing/ Emergency Assistance/Stand Down	\$52,924
Home Front Cares, Inc.	Colorado Springs	Emergency Assistance/ Housing	\$72,500-original \$75,400-modified
Second Chance Veterans Charity	Denver	Mobility Assistance	\$8,000
Posada	Pueblo	Veterans Assistance	\$17,500
Colorado Veterans Health and Wellness	Colorado Springs	Mental Health/Veterans Court Assessments	\$40,000
Veteran's Puppy for Life	Denver	PTSD Dog Program	\$30,000
Saguache County Veterans Services	Saguache	Emergency Assistance	\$2,250
City/County of Broomfield DHHS	Broomfield	Veterans Assistance	\$8,000
Park County DHS	Fairplay	Veterans Assistance	\$25,000
Pueblo Veterans Ritual Team	Pueblo	Transportation	\$2,500
TOTAL			\$950,000

Fiscal Year 18-19 Grantees

Grantee	Location	Purpose	Amount Awarded
La Puente Home, Inc.	Alamosa	Veterans Assistance/ Education/Employment	\$25,000
Alamosa County Veterans Services	Alamosa	Emergency/Veterans Assistance/Transportation	\$53,510
Grand County Veterans Services	Hot Sulphur Springs	Veterans Assistance/ Mental Health	\$26,500
CO Veterans Health & Wellness	Colorado Springs	Mental Health	\$40,000
Pikes Peak Workforce Center	Colorado Springs	Employment/ Veterans Assistance	\$30,000
Catholic Charities of Denver	Denver/Ft. Collins	Housing/Veterans Assistance	\$50,000
Mountain Resource Center	Conifer	Emergency Assistance/ Mental Health/Educ. and Employment	\$40,000
Operation Revamp	Grand Junction	Veterans Arts Program/Health and Wellness/Mental Health	\$53,802
Sobriety House, Inc.	Denver	Substance Use/Abuse Treatment	\$90,000
Hinsdale County	Lake City	Transportation	\$1,452
Archuleta County Veterans Services	Pagosa Springs	Mental Health	\$25,000
Veteran's Puppy for Life	Denver	PTSD Service Dogs	\$45,000
Providers Resource Clearinghouse	Aurora	Furniture/Bedding	\$99,300
BPOE Lodge #1319	Lamar	Transportation/Emergency Assistance	\$12,500
Pueblo Veterans Council	Pueblo	Stand Down	\$8,060
Saguache County Veterans Services	Saguache	Veterans Assistance	\$2,250
Costilla County	San Luis	Veterans Assistance/ Mental Health	\$8,500
Healing Warriors Program	Ft. Collins	Alternative Health/Mental Health Therapies	\$33,000
Douglas County Office of Veteran Affairs	Castle Rock	Emergency Assistance	\$10,000
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless	Denver	Emergency Assistance/Employment	\$7,500
Veterans Acupuncture Center	Denver	Alternative Health	\$17,500
City/County of Denver DHS	Denver	Emergency Assistance	\$46,000
Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County	Pagosa Springs	Housing/ Emergency Assistance/Stand Down	\$75,000

Grantee	Location	Purpose	Amount Awarded
Home Front Cares, Inc.	Colorado Springs	Emergency Assistance/ Housing	\$75,000
Posada	Pueblo	Veterans Assistance	\$20,000
Comitis Crisis Center	Aurora	Homeless Services	\$14,972
City/County of Broomfield DHHS	Broomfield	Veterans Assistance	\$5,000
Park County OHS	Fairplay	Veterans Assistance	\$20,000
Pueblo Veterans Ritual Team	Pueblo	Transportation	\$5,000
TOTAL			\$939,846

Fiscal Year 19-20 Grantees

Grantee	Location	Purpose	Amount Awarded
La Puente Home, Inc.,	Alamosa	Veterans Assistance/ Education/Employment	\$35,000
Alamosa County Veterans Services	Alamosa	Emergency/Veterans Assistance/Transportation	\$55,000
Grand County Veterans Services	Hot Sulphur Springs	Veterans Assistance/ Mental Health	\$26,500
CO Veterans Health & Wellness	Colorado Springs	Mental Health ***modification decrease	\$40,000-original award \$20,000-after modification
Pikes Peak Workforce Center	Colorado Springs	Employment/ Veterans Assistance	\$30,000
Catholic Charities of Denver	Denver/Ft. Collins	Housing/Veterans Assistance	\$35,000
Mountain Resource Center	Conifer	Emergency Assistance/ Mental Health/Educ. and Employment	\$40,000
Operation Revamp	Grand Junction	Veterans Arts Program/Health and Wellness/Mental Health	\$53,802
Sobriety House, Inc.	Denver	Substance Use/Abuse Treatment	\$95,000
Morgan County Family Center	Fort Morgan	Veterans Assistance, Mental Health	\$18,250
Archuleta County Veterans Services	Pagosa Springs	Mental Health	\$12,500
Vets for Vets of La Plata County	Durango	Mental Health	\$10,000

Grantee	Location	Purpose	Amount Awarded
Providers Resource Clearinghouse	Aurora	Furniture/Bedding ***award returned; modification decrease	\$99,300-original award \$0.00 after modification
University of Colorado, Denver Heroes Clinic	Aurora	Dental care ***modification increase	\$25,000-original award \$75,000-after modification
Pueblo Veterans Council	Pueblo	Stand Down	\$8,060
Colorado Veterans Project	Littleton	Stand Down ***modification decrease	\$19,700-original award \$7,500-after modification
Costilla County	San Luis	Veterans Assistance/ Mental Health ***modification increase	\$9,000-original award \$18,000-after modification
Healing Warriors Program	Ft. Collins	Alternative Health/ Mental Health Therapies ***modification increase	\$35,000-original award \$57,500-after modification
Douglas County Office of Veteran Affairs	Castle Rock	Emergency Assistance ***modification increase	\$10,000-original award \$12,500-after modification
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless	Denver	Emergency Assistance/ Employment	\$7,500
Veterans Acupuncture Center	Denver	Alternative Health ***modification increase	\$17,500-original award \$24,000-after modification
City/County of Denver DHS	Denver	Emergency Assistance/ Mental Health ***modification increase	\$50,000-original award \$60,000-after modification
Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County	Pagosa Springs	Housing/ Emergency Assistance/ Stand Down	\$80,000
Home Front Cares, Inc.	Colorado Springs	Emergency Assistance/ Housing	\$90,000
Posada	Pueblo	Veterans Assistance	\$25,000
Mt. Carmel Veteran Service Center	Colorado Springs	Veterans Assistance	\$50,000
City/County of Broomfield DHHS	Broomfield	Veterans Assistance	\$5,000
DAV Chapter 2	Pueblo	Veterans Assistance	\$7,500
El Paso County Homeless Veterans Coalition	Colorado Springs	Stand Down, Homeless Transition Program, Veterans Assistance	\$98,750
Pueblo Veterans Ritual Team	Pueblo	Transportation	\$8,790
TOTAL			\$1, 072,417

Fiscal Year 20-21 Grantees

Grantee	Location	Purpose	Amount Awarded
Alamosa County	Alamosa	Homeless Vet Assistance	\$23,000
Park County Senior Coalition	Fairplay	Vet Assistance	\$35,000
Pikes Peak Work Force Center	Colorado Springs	Employment/Vet Assistance	\$20,000
CO Veterans Resource Coalition	Colorado Springs	Homeless Shelter	\$152,000
Pueblo Veterans Council	Pueblo	Vet Assistance	\$10,000
Providers' Resource Clearing House	Aurora	Furniture for Vets	\$34,000
CNDC- Veterans Helping Veterans Now	Boulder	Mental Health	\$50,000
Veterans for Veterans Archuleta County	Pagosa Springs	Homeless Vet Assistance	\$25,000
American Military Family	Brighton	Mental Health/Vet Assistance	\$30,000
Grand County	Hot Sulphur Springs	Transportation/Vet Assistance, Mental Health	\$30,000
Second Chance Veterans Charity	Dacono	Disabled Vet Mobility	\$50,000
Catholic Charities	Denver	Homeless Vet Program/Vehicle	\$50,000
Bo Matthews Center for Excellence	Denver	Veterans Housing	\$200,000
La Puente Home, Inc.	Alamosa	Vet Assistance	\$10,000
A Strong Tower Ministry	Denver	Homeless Ex-Offenders	\$50,000
Mountain Resource Center	Conifer	Vet Assistance/Mental Health	\$35,000
Delores County	Delores	Transportation	\$41,530
Chaffee County	Salida	Homeless Vet Assistance	\$50,000
Home Front Cares	Colorado Springs	Veterans Assistance	\$14,910
Project Sanctuary	Granby	Family Retreat	\$45,000
Archuleta County	Pagosa Springs	Mental Health/Vet Assistance	\$14,560
TOTAL			\$970,000

Fiscal Year 21-22 Grantees

Grantee	Location	Purpose	Amount Awarded
Grand County VSO	Grand County	Veterans Assistance Mental Health	\$26,500
BPO Elks Lodge 1319	Lamar	Transportation	\$16,830
Vets for Vets of Archuleta County	Archuleta County	Veterans Assistance Mental Health	\$75,000
El Paso County Homeless Vet Coalition	El Paso County	Homeless Transition Veterans Assistance	\$75,000
Women Marines Association	Aurora	Veterans Assistance	Original Award \$4,000 Increase \$6,000 Total \$10,000
Douglas County VSO	Douglas County	Veterans Assistance Mental Health	Original Award \$10,000 Decrease \$3,000 Total \$7,000
Pikes Peak Workforce Center	Colorado Springs	Veterans Assistance Employment Assistance	Original Award \$20,000 Decrease \$5,000 Total \$15,000
Park County DHS VSO	Park County	Veterans Assistance Employment Assistance	\$10,000
Costilla County	Costilla County	Veterans Assistance Mental Health	Original Award \$12,500 Increase \$6,000 Total \$18,500
Colorado Coalition for Homeless	Denver	Homeless Employment Assistance Transportation	\$4,000
Pueblo Veteran Ritual Team	Pueblo	Transportation	Returned Grant
Home Front Military Network	Colorado Springs	Veterans Assistance	\$75,000
Colorado Veterans Health & Wellness	Colorado Springs	Mental Health	Returned Grant
City and County of Broomfield	Broomfield	Veterans Assistance	Original Award \$5,000 Decrease \$4,000 Total \$1,000
Warrior Wellness Foundation	Colorado Springs	Equine Assisted Therapy	\$48,000
Healing Warriors Program	Fort Collins	Mental Health	\$50,000
University of Colorado Anschutz	Aurora	Medical Services	\$55,000
La Puente Home, Inc.	Alamosa	Veterans Assistance	\$20,000
Sobriety House	Denver	Residential Treatment	\$90,000

Grantee	Location	Purpose	Amount Awarded
Mt. Carmel Veteran Service Center	Colorado Springs	Veterans Assistance	\$50,000
City and County of Denver	Denver	Veterans Assistance	\$37,500
Conejos County VSO	Conejos County	Veterans Assistance	\$10,000
Operation Revamp	Grand Junction	Veterans Assistance	\$45,575
Veterans Puppy for Life	Denver	Veterans Assistance Support Animals	\$40,000
Alamosa County	Alamosa County	Transportation Veterans Assistance	\$55,000
Posada Pueblo	Pueblo	Transportation Veterans Assistance	\$35,000
TOTAL			\$869,905