

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

County Grant Program For Veterans

Status Report on the Implementation of
2006 Iowa Acts, Chapter 1185, Section 34

October 1, 2007

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I. OVERVIEW OF CHAPTER 1185, SECTION 34

The 2006 Iowa Acts, chapter 1185, section 34, established the county grant program for veterans. The General Assembly appropriated \$1 million to the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) to fund this program. The purpose and legislative intent of this initiative was to provide matching grant dollars to improve delivery of services by the various County Commissions of Veteran Affairs to veterans in their respective counties.

The department was charged with establishing an application process and rules for the county administration of the grant program. The application process required that each county submit a plan for the utilization of the grant funds and demonstrate those funds would improve services to veterans. The maximum matching grant amount was \$10,000 for each county. In order to receive funds, counties had to match the grant dollar-for-dollar.

Iowa code required each participating county submit a detailed report to IDVA. This report was to identify how each county increased services to veterans with the grant monies. The department was required to submit this report by October 1, 2007 to the General Assembly summarizing the impact of the grant program on increasing services to veterans.

II. HISTORY OF THE PROGRAM

Initially there was a delay in administering the program due to confusion between the department and the Iowa Veterans Commission. It was unclear what entity was responsible for writing the administrative rules. This confusion was eliminated with the passage of HF817 which clarified that the department would create the administrative rules. The rules were developed and emergency filed on January 29, 2007 (Attachment "A").

A standardized application (Attachment "B") was presented to all county commissioners on April 12, 2007. Each application included a copy of the administrative rules and a list of approved uses of funds (Attachment "C"). The application deadline was June 4, 2007.

An email was drafted to Iowa Veterans Commission and counties on May 29, 2007 (Attachment "D") describing the status of the current application process and addressing concerns relating to the timing for the distribution of the grant monies. During this time, several auditors recognized that receipt of the grant money required a public notice announcing that the County Board of Supervisors would be required to schedule meetings with the commission's budget authority. A meeting was necessary because the commission's budget would need to be increased by the amount of grant awarded. However, this increase was difficult to enact due to the short amount of time remaining before the end of Fiscal Year 2007.

The May 29, 2007 email (Attachment "D") also reaffirmed the application deadline of June 4, 2007. This due date was created after considering the timing requirement of the report for August 15, 2007.

Correspondence was also sent on June 6, 2007 to the counties and the Iowa Veterans Commission providing an interim update (Attachment "E"). This document evaluated the process for Fiscal Year 2008. The department decided that the next application process would not begin until after the August 15th reports were received and the report to the legislature was issued October 1, 2007. The information from the report would help provide feedback to create the new application process, and would include a modified application, an updated list of approved uses, and expanded information. The email states that if the reports due on August 15th were incomplete or received after the due date, there would be potential for a delay in the processing of a new application. Attachment "H" provides information regarding report receipt and a summary of the information from each report.

On June 26, 2007, a memo was sent to Senator Thomas G. Courtney and Representative Vicki Lensing providing an update of the program (Attachment "F"). This email details what factors were considered in processing the grant applications. This included details regarding the counties needs, goals, results, innovation and accountability. Also mentioned in this memo were some of the challenges regarding the administering of the program.

July 9, 2007, a final memo went out to county commissioners as well as the county auditors (Attachment "G"). This memo offered an overview of the entire grant process. The information included:

- A reminder of the August 15th report requirement
- Report template
- Overview of the application process
- Explanation of the dollar-for-dollar matching grant
- Legislative intent
- Duty to report
- Budget adjustments
- Carry over options
- Reimbursement
- Misapplication of grant funds
- Identifying spending identification and impact on services
 - Report cutoff
 - Post-August 15th spending
- Fiscal Year 2008 application

The memo not only provided an explanation of the process but also included information needed to complete the required August 15th report (Attachment "H"). The purpose of the required report was to provide feedback to the department so that an evaluation of the process could be provided to legislators by October 1, 2007.

A total of \$578,096.33 was issued to the 67 counties that participated in the County Grant Program for Veterans. Below is a list of each participating county and the amounts distributed (Table 1).

Table 1: Participating Counties

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>GRANT AMOUNT</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>GRANT AMOUNT</u>
1	Allamakee	\$10,000.00	34	Iowa	\$10,000.00
2	Appanoose	\$10,000.00	35	Jackson	\$5,243.74
3	Black Hawk	\$10,000.00	36	Jefferson	\$7,615.80
4	Bremer	\$4,913.51	37	Johnson	\$10,000.00
5	Buchanan	\$10,000.00	38	Kossuth	\$10,000.00
6	Buena Vista	\$6,708.06	39	Lee	\$10,000.00
7	Calhoun	\$6,847.24	40	Linn	\$10,000.00
8	Cass	\$10,000.00	41	Lucas	\$5,793.76
9	Cedar	\$6,244.00	42	Lyon	\$7,479.44
10	Cherokee	\$10,000.00	43	Mahaska	\$10,000.00
11	Clarke	\$10,000.00	44	Marion	\$10,000.00
12	Clay	\$10,000.00	45	Marshall	\$10,000.00
13	Clayton	\$3,926.23	46	Mills	\$10,000.00
14	Clinton	\$10,000.00	47	Monroe	\$10,000.00
15	Crawford	\$10,000.00	48	Montgomery	\$6,004.27
16	Dallas	\$10,000.00	49	O'Brien	\$10,000.00
17	Decatur	\$7,518.40	50	Osceola	\$3,750.00
18	Delaware	\$10,000.00	51	Plymouth	\$6,965.61
19	Des Moines	\$10,000.00	52	Pocahontas	\$8,867.86
20	Dickinson	\$10,000.00	53	Pottawattamie	\$10,000.00
21	Dubuque	\$10,000.00	54	Poweshiek	\$7,723.76
22	Emmet	\$8,635.53	55	Sac	\$6,649.09
23	Fayette	\$10,000.00	56	Scott	\$9,274.65
24	Floyd	\$10,000.00	57	Sioux	\$10,000.00
25	Franklin	\$10,000.00	58	Tama	\$10,000.00
26	Fremont	\$4,529.13	59	Union	\$10,000.00
27	Greene	\$7,362.48	60	Van Buren	\$10,000.00
28	Guthrie	\$2,718.10	61	Wapello	\$10,000.00
29	Hancock	\$10,000.00	62	Warren	\$10,000.00
30	Hardin	\$10,000.00	63	Washington	\$10,000.00
31	Howard	\$3,146.35	64	Wayne	\$6,416.59
32	Humboldt	\$10,000.00	65	Webster	\$10,000.00
33	Ida	\$3,762.73	66	Winnebago	\$10,000.00
			67	Winneshiek	\$10,000.00
				TOTAL	\$578,096.33

III. REPORT FINDINGS

The August 15, 2007 report indicates that \$298,234.61 of those funds issued have been spent (or about 52%). However, there appears to have been some confusion with how to report the numbers. It's possible the numbers are not a clear and actual representation of dollars utilized because of differences in how each county reported their expenditures. The report did not specify if expenses were to be actual expenses or include projected expenses. Therefore, some counties included all expenditures and some counties simply included expenses as of August 15, 2007. This confusion may have developed in part because of misunderstandings among auditors and directors regarding proper use of grant funds.

Some of the most popular uses reported were:

- Computer – including laptops
- Software
- Copier
- Printer
- Veteran assistance – lodging, transportation, rent, utilities, medical, prescriptions
- Marketing and advertising
- Increased labor hours or personnel
- Office supplies
- Food pantry
- Office rent
- Training
- Projectors
- Phone

These uses of grant money all indicate an increase of services to veterans. Computers and office equipment have enabled better communication among the Veterans Affairs office and the county offices. It has also improved performance by enabling directors to process claims quicker, access information more easily, develop records, and in many cases be more mobile.

Another important use of funds was for veterans assistance programs. These services have an immediate impact on veterans. For example: rent, utilities, medical, and transportation assistance were funded by many county offices. Services of this nature help veterans and their families during an emergency or during a difficult time.

Training is another important use of funds by helping to ensure that veterans receive accurate information. The directors are able to receive information on new programs and available benefits. It also provides them the opportunity to speak and compare ideas with other directors.

Great examples of advertisements, pamphlets and articles were provided with some of the reports. Several examples have been attached (attachment "J"). It was gratifying to see the hard work some county offices put into increasing public awareness of their offices and services. Marketing is an important tool for providing all veterans the benefits and services they rightfully deserve.

IV. STORIES FROM VETERANS

Below is a list of stories that were provided by the county offices. These are a true testament of how much the grant funding has truly helped veterans.

"A vet came in to thank the admin for helping with his PTSD claim. He has been rated 100% service – connected disability. He now knows he'll be cared for the rest of his life."

"The administrator contacted a family of a local fallen soldier. They were not aware of the local office until they saw the flier in a local business and received the phone call. The family was very appreciative that Iowa cares so much about their veterans."

"Widow stopped by after opening the new office on main street. After several visits she was very happy to find out that she was eligible for a widow's pension."

"Saved a gentleman's life after he came upon our booth at a tradeshow. This veteran contemplated ending his life on several occasions. After discussing his situation w/ the local director the veteran made an appointment to the VA Hospital. Someone escorted him to his first appointment to help him feel more comfortable. He now has received a proper diagnosis and receives continued care. He reported to the Board of Supervisors, 'This local Veteran's Affairs Office is responsible for my being here and for the life I now have with my daughter and the future that I look forward to. Thank you for the difference you have made in so many lives!'"

"Helped a veteran who has PTSD symptoms. The vet knew he was ill but didn't have the money for a therapist or knew who to trust."

"A veteran lost his job then was hospitalized for 3 days without health insurance. Because of the grant we were able to assist him w/ \$500 of medical costs."

"A grateful surveying spouse gave me a hug w/ tears in her eyes. She was thankful for receiving a grocery allowance."

"My dad got his medications from the VA for the first time this month. He used to pay \$200 for his medications. He now pays \$40. Thanks so much for your help."

"A Veteran was awarded the full single veteran pension of \$1519/ month. His son drove to my office specifically to shake my hand and thank me for helping. He wanted to make sure his gravitated to those who support the activities of this office."

"Veteran's wife is ill w/ cancer. Veteran is unemployed because he needs to care for his ailing wife and 2 young sons. We are able to pay this veteran's benefits until he finds home employment."

"One gentleman was a truck driver that was suffering from pains due to cavities. His employer did not offer dental coverage. He would go to the VA hospital but would only receive pain medication. The veteran was laid off because of his use of pain medication. We provided him funds to handle his cavities and the veteran was able to return to work."

"For two and half years I had no dignity because I had my two front teeth taken from me for no reason. I thought I would never have the funds to get them replaced. Until the Gazette had an article about this grant and what a wonderful surprise- in 1 week I had my entire dental work done and I had my teeth back. I would like to thank everyone involved. I can smile again! Thank you."

"A spouse of a deceased veteran offered some needed medical equipment to another individual at a much reduced price. She stated that someone did something nice for me, and I just wanted to return the favor. She had received medical expense assistance for her spouse (prior to his death)."

"Unemployed veteran was able to avoid utility disconnect allowing him to focus is attention on retraining for a new career."

"County public health is providing services to a 92 year old WWII veteran, unmarried with no children. The veteran heats his home and cooks w/ a wood stove. (His neighbors bring him cut wood.) He is determined to remain in his home. He has a wheeled walker and back brace. After several months of in-home care he was able to reduce his dependency on medications. He has not been hospitalized all over the past year. Without this in home care he would be put into an institution."

V. CHALLENGES

Through the course of administering the grant there has been conflicting information among the department, county directors and county auditors regarding the process. Many of these challenges were discussed in a memo dated June 26, 2007 by Patrick Palmersheim (Attachment "F"). One such challenge included understanding the nature of the grant. Some counties believed the grant was a reimbursement of funds. There was also confusion regarding the dollar-for-dollar match of funds. Legal counsel and individuals with audit and grant backgrounds were sought after the initial development to advise the department on appropriate grant administration.

Although the intent was to increase services to veterans, there were some offices that found it difficult to partner their needs with the actual goals they intended to address. Some of this was complicated by time restraints of receipt of funds versus fiscal year end deadlines. The application evolved into an accountability tool ensuring that grant monies were appropriately matched versus an approved use already expended. This accountability was ascertained by obtaining the county's year-to-date expenditure report.

After review of the August 15th county reports, there are still concerns regarding the use of grant money with some counties potentially misusing the funds. Based on the administrative rules it may be determined that funding may need to be returned. Those counties will undergo further analysis by the department and necessary action will be determined by the Veterans Affairs Executive Director after consultation with the department's assigned assistant Attorney General.

In some cases grant funds were placed directly into the general fund, which is an incorrect handling of the grant dollars. Handling the funds in this manner essentially increased the county's budget and does not necessarily provide accountability for the use of funds. Some counties found it difficult to provide a breakdown of services provided to veterans this may be one of the reasons for these difficulties.

Counties rolling over funds to the next fiscal year had some difficulty determining how the funds were going to be spent in FY08. This is a concern since they are not complying with the grant rules. This is a matching grant and therefore a use of funds need be determined. Even if intended uses were already fulfilled it should be possible to project where additional funds will be applied.

Many of the reports provided only limited details regarding use of funds. Some reports stated the county increased services or intended to increase services but did not provide any specifics. Others described how the funds were used but were unable to fully explain how those uses increased services to veterans. In those cases, it was difficult to perceive if services were increased or if they were simply normal services that would have occurred if the grant money was not available. For example, one county described projected impact on services as "updated services to veterans" with no explanation as to what kind of services would be provided.

In one instance, funds were used for office furniture. When describing the impact of services it was noted that the appearance of the office was greatly improved. This is a difficult purpose to justify as an increasing service to veterans.

Another report stated that the entire \$10,000 was used for health benefit costs and increased hours for a director. Since the director added hours to become a full time employee the director also became health benefit eligible. The increase in hours was an approved use because that increases services to veterans. However, it is difficult to see how the director's health benefit costs are increasing services to veterans.

One county VA director is performing three jobs at a total of 20 hours per week. The report states he is receiving payment from the general relief and the environmental health budgets. The grant funds could have been able applied to increase the director's hours or increase staff to provide more time for VA duties.

Two unapproved uses were flags and grave markers. There was one county that used funds for these purposes, however categorizing these under office equipment.

One report indicated the funds were used for county car maintenance. If the car is not used exclusively for transportation of veterans, it is questionable as to whether using the grant dollars for this purpose is truly increasing services to veterans.

There was no impact of services reported by one county because the director was unable to use the computer because they weren't adequately trained on the windows software. The brochures produced hadn't been mailed because of a delay in the American Legion providing information. The funds were being used to increase services however no services had yet been provided.

As the report findings indicate, overall the counties used the funds as intended. Though there may have been some complications with the initial development of the grant the IDVA initiated processes to improve and clarify those situations as they arose.

VI. THE FUTURE

The County Grant Program for Veterans will now be administered by a newly hired employee dedicated to this, the Vietnam Conflict Veterans Bonus Program and the Trust Fund. In an effort to ensure proper administration of the 2008 grant, an explanation of the new application process will be provided at the county training in October 2007. This training will include a presentation explaining the program, a copy of the new application, an updated list of approved uses, and a question/answer period. Information will be provided for those unable to attend the training.

The department's intention is to have a clear process in place this year. The new process will take into account the previous history of each county including consideration of prior use of funds. As with any grant program, accountability for expenditures is important. We are confident that the new process will help minimize confusion and allow for a smooth process moving forward.

ATTACHMENT

“A”

CHAPTER 12
COUNTY GRANT PROGRAM FOR VETERANS

801—12.1(81GA, ch1185) Purpose. 2006 Iowa Acts, chapter 1185, section 34, enacts the county grant program for veterans. The general assembly appropriated a total of \$1 million to the Iowa department of Veterans Affairs to fund this program. The purpose and legislative intent of this grant program is to improve delivery of services by the various county commissions of veteran affairs to veterans in their respective counties.

801—12.2(81GA, ch1185) Grant amounts. The Iowa department of veterans affairs shall award grants in amounts up to a maximum of \$10,000 to each county submitting an application that is approved by the department. In order to qualify for a grant, a county must agree to expend an amount of county funds equal to the amount of the approved grant.

801—12.3(81GA, ch1185) Application procedure. Counties that wish to apply for a grant shall submit an application to the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs, Camp Dodge, Building A6A, 7105 NW 70th Avenue, Johnston, Iowa 50131. The application shall contain the following:

12.3(1) Application summary. The application summary shall consist of a brief description of the proposed project and the signatures of a member of the board of supervisors and a member of the county veteran affairs commission.

12.3(2) Narrative. The narrative shall explain the proposed project for which the funds will be used. The narrative must address the assessment factors listed in rule 801—12.4(81GA, ch1185). The assessment factors may be addressed in any sequence that is logical for the proposed project, but all factors should be identified and addressed. Any factors that are not addressed in the application may result in a reduced opportunity for funding of the project.

12.3(3) Proposed budget. The budget for the project should be developed for fiscal year 2007. It is understood that funding for subsequent years is dependent upon future legislative appropriations.

12.3(4) Letters of intent. If the proposed project involves additional funding from other sources, letters of intent to support the project are required from those additional sources.

801—12.4(81GA, ch1185) Assessment of applications. The Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs will make decisions on the applications based upon the following factors:

12.4(1) Need. The needs of the local veteran population that currently are not being addressed or that are not being addressed adequately are clearly identified.

12.4(2) Goals. The goals of the project are clearly outlined, and the sources of the services to be provided are clearly identified.

12.4(3) Results. A time line for the delivery of the proposed services is included. Quantitative measurements of success appropriate to the project are clearly identified and are expected to address the identified needs.

12.4(4) Innovation. The project addresses the implementation of new practices and methods for addressing the needs of the veteran community and improvement of delivery of services.

12.4(5) Accountability and project monitoring. The application demonstrates financial accountability and provides mechanisms to ensure proper evaluation of the project.

801—12.5(81GA, ch1185) Application decision. The director of the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs shall notify each county that submits an application of the department's decision regarding the county's application. An explanation of the reasons for the rejection of a project application and suggestions for improvement shall accompany project denials.

801—12.6(81GA, ch1185) Grant agreement. Each county that is awarded a grant will be required to enter into an agreement with the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs that specifies the reporting requirements. A written report shall be due to the department by August 15, 2007, and shall provide an assessment of the project, including measurable outcomes such as increased opportunities to publicize veterans' benefits, the number of outreach visits conducted to allow veterans to apply for benefits, the number of applications for benefits filed as a direct result of the project, and increased opportunities for veteran involvement in local veterans' organizations.

801—12.7(81GA, ch1185) Appeals. Applicants that are dissatisfied with the decision of the director of the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs may file an appeal with the Iowa commission of veterans affairs. The written appeal must be received within 15 working days of the date of the notice of decision; must be based on a contention that the process was conducted outside of statutory authority, violated state or federal law, policy or rules, did not provide adequate public notice, was altered without adequate public notice, or involved conflicts of interest by staff; and must include a request that the commission review the decision and the reasons for the appeal. The Iowa commission of veterans affairs shall review the appeal at its next regularly scheduled meeting and shall issue a final decision.

These rules are intended to implement 2006 Iowa Acts, chapter 1185, section 34.

[Filed emergency 1/29/07—published 2/28/07, effective 1/29/07]

ATTACHMENT “B”

APPLICATION FORM

COUNTY GRANT PROGRAM FOR VETERANS IOWA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Camp Dodge, Bldg. A6A
7105 NW 70th Avenue
Johnston, IA 50131-1824

Telephone: 515-242-5331 1-800-838-4692 Facsimile 515-242-5659

Patrick.Palmersheim@idva.state.ia.us

The *County Grant Program for Veterans* is designed to improve the delivery of services to veterans by County Commissions of Veterans Affairs. Applicants for grant consideration must complete this application and submit it to the Executive Director, Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA), at the address identified above. The maximum grant to be awarded to a county during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006 is \$10,000.00. Counties seeking a grant shall match the amount of the grant (the grant is not an offset to the County Commission's budget and shall be used solely for the purposes stated in the grant application). **Each county receiving a grant shall submit a report to IDVA no later than August 15, 2007, identifying the impact of the grant on increasing services to veterans.**

COUNTY AUDITOR INFORMATION

County Name: _____
Tax Identification Number (TIN): _____
Contact Person: _____
Street: _____
City/Zip Code: _____
Telephone: _____
Facsimile: _____
Email Address: _____

COMMISSION INFORMATION

County Service Office: _____
Contact Person/email: _____
Street: _____
City/Zip Code: _____
Telephone: _____
Facsimile: _____

GRANT REQUEST

Amount Requested: \$ _____

ENCLOSURE #2

GENERAL GRANT INFORMATION

- For more information concerning the grant program, refer to 801 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 12. (Enclosed)
- To qualify for a grant, a county must agree to expend (or has spent) an amount of county funds equal to the amount of the grant being requested. On projected expenditures, the grant will only be approved for one-half of that expenditure.
- A member of the County Board of Supervisors and a member of the County Commission of Veterans Affairs must sign the grant application, attesting by certification that the approved grant monies will be used for the purposes stated in the grant and will be matched by county funds.
- Amendments must be approved by the Executive Director, IDVA. Amendments to spending must be consistent with the stated purpose of the grant. Notice of amendments may be accomplished by email to the Executive Director.
 - Submit an expenditure exceeding 10% of line-item grant authorization;
 - Submit any new line items added;
 - Make no expenditure until amendment approved.
- The IDVA, or its designee, may conduct an on-site audit of the grant's performance without prior advance notice to the grant recipient.
- Unspent grant monies may be carried over for 12 months from the expiration date (June 30, 2007) of the grant upon approval of the Executive Director, IDVA.
- No later than August 15, 2007, each county receiving a grant shall provide an assessment of the grants performance, including quantitative measurable outcomes with copies of receipts for all grant expenditures.
 - Provide proof that the county matched the grant funds.
- Applicants dissatisfied with the action taken on the application may file an appeal within 15 working days of the date of the notice of decision with the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs. See 801 IAC section 12.7.

GRANT SUMMARY

Describe the **purposes** for which this grant is being requested (needs of veteran community not currently being addressed):

Detail how the grant will **improve the delivery of services** to veterans in your county (how will the goals of the service delivery system be improved by the grant—itemization of delivery of services, such as training, equipment, food voucher, etc. Itemization should reflect a county expenditure committed to matching (or has been spent) the grant amount requested). See the enclosed handout of approved costs identified as examples improving the service delivery system depicted in this application:

What are the **measurable outcomes** for which you are requesting support (how many veterans will be served/benefited, how will they be benefited, how have the previously identified services been positively impacted, quantitative measures of success clearly identifying the results, etc.):

Is there **other information** that might be considered as the application is considered (innovative practices and methods for addressing the needs and improvement of the service delivery, demonstrated financial accountability—mechanism to ensure proper oversight and use of grant funds for the express purpose stated in the application):

COUNTY CERTIFICATION

The below undersigned certifies that the grant money will be used for the stated purposes in the grant application and that the county will provide increased funding (or has already made an expenditure) to match the line item amount of the approved grant. Further, no later than August 15, 2007, the undersigned will provide to the Director, IDVA, an assessment of the grants performance, including quantitative measurable outcomes with receipts.

County Board of Supervisors (Member) _____
County Veterans Affairs Commission (Member)

Date: _____

FOR INTERNAL ACTION ONLY

Executive Director, IDVA

Approved. I certify that the grant application meets all legislative program requirements.

Disapproved.

Decision deferred pending receipt of more information from applicant.

Director, Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs

Date

ATTACHMENT “C”

County Grants

Examples of Approved Uses of Funds

- Increased office hours
- New office space (rent)
- National training
- State Training
- VIMS Program
- Computer or laptop
- Printer
- Copier
- Scanner
- Video projector
- Cell phone
- Stamps, postage
- Office supplies
- Van transportation to VA hospitals
- Counseling
- Rent assistance
- Office telephone
- Medical fees, medical supplies and medical equipment
- Utility deposits
- Haircuts for the homeless
- Dental and vision for the homeless
- Food pantry for veterans
- Homeless stand downs

Examples of Unapproved Uses of Funds

- Burial assistance
- Pay increase
- Grave markers
- Flags
- Care of graves
- Conference room furniture
- State flags
- No donations to third party accounts

THIS LIST IS NOT ALL INCLUSIVE

ATTACHMENT “D”

Mielke, Mari [IDVA]

From: Young, Steve [IDVA]
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2007 2:59 PM
To: Mielke, Mari [IDVA]
Subject: FW: County Grant Program for Veterans
Attachments: ISVC_highway sign-clup.jpg

Humbolt and Sioux will be faxing and sending in. I approved if past deadline.

Steve Young, Director
Iowa Veterans Cemetery
Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs
Camp Dodge, Bldg A6A
7105 Johnston, IA 50131-4692
515-242-5338

From: Young, Steve [IDVA]
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2007 1:19 PM
To: IDVA Commissioners; IDVA Counties
Cc: Palmersheim, Patrick [IDVA]
Subject: County Grant Program for Veterans

County Commissions and Commissioners: To date, the department has processed 55 county grant applications and awarded just over \$488,000+. One application is pending (we have a faxed copy without signatures). By any stretch, the program would have been deemed a success the first year even if we had started making awards July 1, 2006 (the effective date of the program). The benefit of starting later allowed a dollar-for-dollar match on monies already spent on approved uses. This maximized several county awards (more than requested in the application).

I've been in contact with several County Auditors around the state. The issue/concern they are relaying to me relates to timing.

The receipt of any grant monies causes the Auditor to post a public notice announcing that the County Board of Supervisors will be taking up at their next scheduled meeting the Commission's budget authority (increasing the Commission's budget by the amount of the grant awarded). Receipt of the grant necessitates an adjustment to your budget authorization. Then the Board must meet to take it up. The problem we have as this fiscal year ends is that the Auditor and Board aren't able to take this issue up on short notice—process it before the end of June. The result, in at least two counties I've talked to, is that the Commission is not being allowed to spend any grant money this fiscal year. Instead, the money is not being made available until July 1.

To complicate matters, those of you that have received a grant later still have to report by August 15 how it was spent (at least what you could spend and promise to spend if carried over) to increase services for veterans. Come August 15, those receiving a grant must report to the department (a template will be provided) how the money increases services. If a Commission can't even spend the money until after July 1, this report will be relatively meaningless because there would be likely very little immediate impact to report. The department is expected to present to the legislature on October 1 a meaningful summary of the services positively impacted by the grant monies.

Accordingly, through consultation with Patrick and our Commissioners, a decision has been made to set a terminal date. The department will not process any more County Grant Applications for Veterans received after June 4, 2007. Next fiscal year the grant program will be funded in the amount of \$750,000.

Thank you for your interest in the program. We know Iowa's veterans will be well served by it.

On an unrelated note, the Iowa Veterans Cemetery homepage linked to the department's homepage should be

6/8/2007

on-line around June 15. Be looking for that and the fundraising effort we will have initiated by then to pay for a prominent interstate road sign announcing the presence of the cemetery. An artist's rendering is attached. This sign is not covered by the federal grant to build the cemetery.

Steve Young, Director
Iowa Veterans Cemetery
Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs
Camp Dodge, Bldg. A6A
7105 Johnston, IA 50131-4692
515-242-5338

6/8/2007

ATTACHMENT “E”

Mielke, Mari [IDVA]

From: Young, Steve [IDVA]
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2007 8:37 PM
To: IDVA Counties; IDVA Commissioners
Cc: Palmersheim, Patrick [IDVA]; Mielke, Mari [IDVA]
Subject: County Grant Program for Veterans--Interim Update

County Commissions and Commissioners: A number of counties have suggested that they are beginning to prepare their grant application for next fiscal year's program. It will be funded in the amount of \$760,000. They were intending to use this year's application that was provided to everyone by email on April 12.

I recommended to Executive Director Palmersheim (he concurred) that we inform you about next fiscal year's process. We will be developing a different application for your use--so you can't use the old application. We have decided not to accept applications until after August 15 (date yet to be determined, but you will be informed). For many counties waiting until approved uses are spent benefits them for a dollar-for-dollar match. Equally relevant, we need you to focus on providing a detailed and well thought out report due to the department on August 15 (we will be providing a template later in July). We have to provide a report to the legislature on October 1. Besides, many of you were unable to spend all of your grant money necessitating a rollover into next fiscal year. County's presenting incomplete reports on August 15 (or late reports) should expect delays in processing a new application.

Hope this helps.

On a related matter, one County Director asked me to clarify for Auditors how the process is to work with regard to allocating grant money along budget lines and the statutory requirement to post a public notice to increase your budget. I declined to go direct to the Auditors unsolicited. However, I offered to answer the Director's email questions presented to me on this subject. I will share those answers with you. If you perceive confusion in your county, you may elect to share our emails with your county Auditor.

Mark your calendar for June 15. Sometime during the day the Iowa Veterans Cemetery dedicated homepage linked to the department's homepage will be unveiled. I will send out an email notice when that occurs. Of interest will be a new fundraising initiative.

Steve Young, Director
Iowa Veterans Cemetery
Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs

6/7/2007

ATTACHMENT “F”

Memo

To: Senator Thomas G. Courtney and Representative Vicki Lensing
From: Patrick Palmersheim
Date: 6/26/2007
Re: Government Oversight – Update, County Grant Program for Veterans

Purpose and Process: 2006 Iowa Acts, chapter 1185, section 34, enacted the County Grant Program for Veterans. One million dollars was appropriated to the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) to fund the program for FY07, which was created to improve services to veterans through the County Commissions of Veterans Affairs. The maximum matching grant to be awarded a county was \$10,000 (matched by the county on a dollar-for-dollar basis).

IDVA's administrative rule governing this program was effective on 1/29/07. (Enclosure #1). The rule placed on IDVA the responsibility to assess each grant application based on the following factors:

- Need – identify needs not being addressed (or inadequately addressed)
- Goals – goals of a project outlined, and sources of services provided identified
- Results – quantitative measurement of successes identified (time line for delivery)
- Innovation – project addresses new practices addressing the needs
- Accountability – application demonstrates financial accountability

IDVA coordinated the administration of this program with its assigned Assistant Attorney General and individuals with audit and grant backgrounds to ensure compliance before taking applications.

A standardized application was published on 4/12/07. (Enclosure #2). County Commissions were also provided an "approved" and "unapproved" uses list. (Enclosure #3). Legal advice indicated that since the intent of the legislation was to improve services to veterans, only services involving living veterans should be considered eligible for grant consideration (e.g., grant monies could not be spent on headstones, funeral, etc.).

Program Application: Applications were accepted through the close of business on 6/4/07. Sixty-seven (67) counties (68%) applied for a grant for awards totaling \$578,096.33. (Enclosure #4)

Challenges: Several challenges in administering this program were identified:

- The Department and its Commission were uncertain as to which entity had responsibility for writing the administrative rules relating to program administration. This delayed the publishing of the rules. This confusion was remedied by passage of HF 817, which, among other things, vested in the department that responsibility.

- Before legal counsel/individuals with audit and grant backgrounds were engaged to advise the department on grant administration, County Commissions believed they were eligible for the maximum grant amount if their budget had an appropriation for a like amount. Further, they could use the monies as they determined. This created frustration when they were informed by the department it would only match on a dollar-for-dollar basis "approved uses" already expended up to \$10,000, and that the monies received could only be expended on approved uses. The department advised that it would match "projected" expenditures at 50% of future expenditures on approved uses.
 - The delay in administering the program benefited County Commissions with smaller appropriations because they had accumulated approved use expenditures they were able to match.
- Although the standardized application was designed with the assessment factors in mind, the counties varied in their ability to present with particularity the needs and goals they intended to address upon receipt of the grant. Clearly, they all intended to use the grant to increase services to veterans. This challenge was created, in part, by the compressed time that counties needed to apply (recognizing they also needed to have a Commissioner and member of the Board of Supervisors both sign the application). The application evolved, in many cases, into more of an accountability tool—ensuring that the amount of the grant received was appropriately matched against an approved use already expended (or a projected expenditure of an approved use). This was done by requesting and obtaining the Commission's most recent year-to-date Expenditure Report, which identified approved uses expended to date (and having the application detail how projected expenditures would be used).
- Some counties mistakenly believed that the grant was a reimbursement. They suggested that their Auditor intended to roll over any unspent grant money this fiscal year into the county's general fund. The department spent considerable time speaking to Commission members and its Directors/Administrators and Auditors to explain the difference in application.
- Many counties were unaware that their Commission budget needed to be amended to reflect an increased spending authority. They were advised that their Auditor would have to publish a notice reflecting as much, and that their Board of Supervisors would have to address that issue by minute or resolution.
- Since the grant was administered later in the fiscal year, counties were advised they could roll over unused grant monies into the next fiscal year.
 - Some counties received their grant too late to permit their Auditor and Board to take action this fiscal year (as described above). The grant will be earmarked in the Commission's budget for next fiscal year.
 - The department has offered to the President of the Iowa State Association of County Auditors to provide an email detailing the program, which she, at her discretion, could share with her fellow Auditors.

Moving Forward: Counties must submit a report to the department by August 15, 2007, detailing how the grant was used to increase services to county veterans. The department has committed to providing a template for their use. The department, in turn, must provide a report to the legislature detailing the program's success on October 1, 2007. The department believes that the blending of the application (which ensured a match to approved use year-to-date expenditures) with the August 15 report detailing how grants monies were spent, should provide the accountability envisioned by the legislation and administrative rule. The Program was extended into next fiscal year and was funded at \$750,000. The department has advised county's that it won't be accepting applications until after their August 15 report submission deadline (it is hope this will ensure timely report submission, and they will focus on providing the necessary detail in their report to make the department's October 1 report meaningful).

Conclusion: The department believes that given the compressed schedule, a 68% participation rate with \$578,096.33 being awarded represents some measure of success in the program's first year. Overall, however, success will be determined through analysis of the August 15 reports submitted by the grant recipients.

ATTACHMENT “G”

Mielke, Mari [IDVA]

From: Young, Steve [IDVA]
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2007 4:55 PM
To: Benton Co Auditor - Jill Marlow
Cc: Palmersheim, Patrick [IDVA]; Mielke, Mari [IDVA]
Subject: County Grant Program for Veterans
Attachments: County Grant Memo.7.9.07.doc; Template.Grant Activities Report.doc; County Grant Program for Veterans.xls

Ms. Marlow: Recently we discussed the possibility of this department providing to you the information that was being forwarded to the County Commissions of Veteran Affairs concerning the County Grant Program for Veterans. I spoke to several Auditors during the program's administration and they were always very helpful. It's the department's belief that each county Auditor is a key partner in this process.

Attached to this email is a detailed memo discussing the grant program, a template to be used by the Commission for their August 15, 2007, report, and a spreadsheet identifying the counties that were awarded a grant and in what amount. 67 counties will be reporting on their grant activity.

The memo was developed to put everyone on the same level of understanding relative to the grant's administration (so we advised Commissions not to be intimidated by its length). A major portion of the memo details the answers provided to inquiries made from Commissions, members of Boards of Supervisors, and Auditors concerning the grant's administration.

Part VIII of the template will require thoughtful analysis—the same analysis that was expected in the application under the section "measurable outcomes"—but, unfortunately, was lacking in most all cases. Part IX requires the same analysis for grant monies unspent by the submission date of your report.

Some Commissions would greatly benefit from Auditor assistance. Even helping them with the template form would be a great start.

Feel free to forward this email on to your association members. And always, thank you for your assistance.

Steve Young, Director
Iowa Veterans Cemetery
Camp Dodge, Bldg A6A
7106 NW 70th Avenue
Johnston, IA 50131-1824
(515) 242-5338

7/19/2007

Memo

To: County Commissions of Veterans Affairs
From: Steve Young [steve.young@idva.state.ia.us; (515) 242-5338 (work)]
Copy: County Auditor
Date: July 9, 2007
Re: County Grant Program for Veterans – Background, Template and Spreadsheet

You were a recipient of a County Grant Program for Veterans grant. The purpose of this memo is to provide some background information to assist you to better understand your statutory obligation to report how the grant was spent to increase services to veterans. The enclosed template should be used for that purpose, which should make your reporting easier. It also allows for uniformity in reporting to assist the department in assembling the reported data and to compile its legislative report. Don't be intimidated by the detail presented in this memo. The detail is being offered to place everyone on the same level of understanding relative to grant administration and issues that have surfaced. Sixty-seven counties applied for and were approved for a grant. We very possibly answered as many questions and variations of questions the last three months.

A copy of this memo and template will be provided to all county Auditors (along with the attached spreadsheet identifying what counties were awarded grants and in what amounts). Your Auditor was the recipient of the grant check and should be viewed as a partner. The Auditor took action to adjust your budget (to permit the spending of the grant above your preset appropriation) and tracks how the grant is being spent. You may wish to consider asking your Auditor to assist you in fulfilling your reporting obligation.

Purpose and Reporting Mandate: The County Grant Program for Veterans was enacted to benefit veterans through matching grant awards to County Commissions of Veteran Affairs for the purpose of increasing services to veterans. A grant recipient **shall submit a report** to the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) **no later than August 15, 2007**, detailing how the grant was used to increase services. In turn, IDVA is mandated to submit its report summarizing grant activity to the Iowa legislature by October 1, 2007. The enclosed template should be used to complete your report.

Standard Application: There has been some confusion surrounding grant administration. Delays in administering the program created frustration, as did the financial verification used to determine entitlement (amount of grant award). The Iowa Attorney General's Office and budget analysts with audit backgrounds were engaged to assist in developing grant protocols, as was a legislative representative.

A standard application was distributed on April 12, 2007 via email (and by regular mail to Commissions that do not have email access). The application was designed to address two issues. First, to identify “approved uses” that could be matched to establish the amount of grant eligibility. Secondly, to have applicants identify measurable outcomes—how the grant would be used to increase services. Generally accepted grant administration protocols and accountable government mandates required both concepts to be addressed in the evaluation of an application.

Processing Applications: Early conflicting guidance (before the administrative rule was published and before the application had been developed, approved and distributed) did not restrict categories of Commission expenses that could be considered in determining entitlement. For example, legal counsel advised that a category of “unapproved uses” such as grave markers and funeral expenses could not be considered in determining a dollar-for-dollar match (only “approved use” expenses were eligible to determine entitlement). A list of approved and unapproved uses was provided with the standard application.

This aspect of grant administration was frustrating for some because they understood the grant was a reimbursement regardless of how monies had been spent. To ensure appropriate accountability, grant applications were processed using the Commission’s most recent expenditure report. Approved use expenditures were matched dollar-for-dollar. In those cases where a Commission had not spent to the grant maximum of \$10,000 on approved uses, projected expenses were considered (e.g., computer purchases, printers, training, etc.). Projected expenses were reimbursed at 50% on the dollar.

As previously mentioned, generally accepted protocols also required counties to project how the grant would be spent to increase services. Most counties found this aspect of the application difficult to articulate. The detailed foresight required to complete the application given the short turnaround time expected was challenging. The department was left with two options given the nature of the applications being received: either defer or deny grant applications that did not project service impact; or, fashion a remedy that would approach the spirit of accountability expected in grant administration. The latter option was selected.

The remedy fashioned was to move forward with the applications by merging the dollar-for-dollar match formulation (using the expenditure report) with the detailed analysis expected in your mid- August report. Combining both aspects, it has been offered, will ensure grant administration accountability. Some within our initial advisory group feel differently. Nonetheless, the department is relying on your August 15th report to complete and compliment the accountability required by law. The department’s report to the legislature is premised on grant recipients submitting thoughtful analysis in answers to questions presented in the enclosed template.

Issues to Consider: Commission members and Auditors sought guidance on a number of issues as applications were being developed and processed. What follows is a listing of some of those issues and how they have been addressed:

- **Legislative Intent** – The underlying intent of the legislation was to encourage counties that only had a voluntary presence of staff to develop a plan to fund staff (full, part time and/or increase hours). The grant was designed (among other purposes) to match dollar-for-dollar up to \$10,000 a county’s commitment in developing this presence. A couple of counties increased staff hours, hired staff and opened secondary offices. In these situations, the grant was

appropriately used to fund staff during FY07. After the grant had been exhausted, it was hoped that those counties would realize the benefit to veterans of having an office staffed and elect to fund a continuing presence. This fiscal year the grant can't be used to fund existing staff (for those counties that already used the grant for this purpose) unless they are working additional hours or are new hires (not replacements for departing staff).

- Duty to Report – Respective County Commissions are responsible to ensure the timely submission of their report of activities detailing how services to veterans were increased. One county Supervisor inquired about the Board's obligation relative to reporting. Recall, both a Commission member and Supervisor signed the grant certification. Both agreed by their signature to submit a report. Both the County Commissions of Veteran Affairs and the County Board of Supervisors have equal responsibility to ensure timely submission.

- Budget Adjustment – County Commissions had preset budgets well before the grant was administered. In order for the Commission to exceed its spending authority, your county Auditor needed to post a public notice announcing that the Board of Supervisors would be taking up an amendment to your budget. The Board would by minute or resolution amend the Commission's budget by the amount of the grant, thus authorizing an increased spending authority above the previously preset budget. Some Auditors took this action early in the fiscal year. Given the late nature of grant awards, many Auditors did their best to take appropriate steps before the end of the fiscal year so their Commission could access the grant during FY07. Because of timing, other Auditors could not take the necessary steps to amend a Commission's budget in time. (See "Carryover Option" below.)
 - Grant Identification – In all but one case (and that single situation might have changed), the grant is being allocated to the Commission's budget either in a lump sum or spread between different expenditures. In the single case noted, the Auditor was contemplating identifying the grant in the county's general fund for exclusive use by the Commission. This, too, would take a budget amendment. Upon reflection, the Auditor might transfer the grant to the Commission's budget.

 - Spending Identification – Several Commissions have made arrangements with their Auditors to identify expenditures to be applied to the grant (e.g., noting on invoices). It is believed this will make it easier to capture grant expenditures and assist with subsequent reporting.

- Carryover Option – Anticipating that Commissions might not be able to spend their entire grant award before the end of FY07, and that in some cases budgets could not be amended before the end of the fiscal year, the department informed recipients that they were authorized to carryover for one year from June 30, 2007, unspent grant monies. Carryover was an unusual feature and caused some confusion. We spoke to several Auditors about this issue. It was agreed that carryover was appropriate and that the Board of Supervisors would again have to take action by minute or resolution earmarking unspent grant monies to the Commission's budget in FY08. This included grant monies unspent by June 30th, and in those limited circumstances where the county had to carryover the

entire grant because they did not have sufficient time to take the necessary steps to amend a Commission's budget.

- Reimbursement – A very limited number of Commissions and/or Auditors considered the grant a reimbursement. As such, the thought was the county could revert the grant to the county's general fund. This is not an option and was explained to those involved. Applying this logic, the grant would have no impact on increasing services to veterans. A version of this misunderstanding involved one county believing that the Commission was spending the grant before they received it because the grant had been identified in their budget. Once received, the grant would revert to the county's general fund at the end of the fiscal year. Commission spending before the grant arrives is just that—the Commission spending its budget not the grant. Your report of activities should only report on how the spending of the grant after it was received increased services to veterans.
- Misapplication of the Grant – If the county elects not to take action to amend a Commission's budget to account for the grant, declines to carryover unspent monies, or mistakenly believes they can revert unspent monies to the county's general fund, they are mistaken. This would be a misapplication of the grant. Unspent grant monies shall be returned to the department.
- Identifying Spending and Impact on Services – You should give some thought to how every grant dollar is being spent—how does the expenditure impact services to veterans? Buying a computer to replace an outdated one could be an appropriate grant expenditure. However, you need to be able to articulate how that expense increased services to veterans (e.g., able to see “x” number more veterans, processing “x” number of claims faster, Internet access assisted “x” number of veterans identify benefits, etc.). Simply identifying an expense without tying it to increase service impact would be an incomplete analysis. The analysis becomes somewhat less complicated when you have used the grant to increase hours of operation. In this case, you can track how many more veterans you were able to assist with identified services.
 - Reporting Cutoff – Counties should be able to identify when they received the grant and what expenditures have been applied against it. Since the report is due in mid-August, a cutoff will have to be set as to when to capture those expenditures and report on service impact. The cutoff contemplated is not June 30, 2007, unless the grant was completely spent by that date. Assuming carryover of unspent grant monies into FY08, continue to track spending and service impact until the report is submitted.
 - Post-August 15 Spending – It is expected that some counties will not have spend the entire grant by the time their report is submitted. The template contemplates that possibility. You will have to identify the amount of the grant unspent at the time of the report's submission and provide detail on how you intend to spend the remainder and how that spending will increase services to veterans.

- FY08 Grant Application – The department has advised Commissions that the County Grant Program for Veterans has been extended at least into FY08. A new application with instructional guidance will be provided. Second year applications will be expected to provide the necessary detail describing how the grant will be used to increase services (with those services being identified). Grant applications will not be accepted until sometime after the submission of the August 15th report of activities. Commissions need to focus on providing a thoughtful and detailed analysis in this report instead of attempting to access more money to spend when in most cases they haven't spent all of the money they received from the first grant. Additionally, the department determined we need to ensure grant compliance last year before proceeding with processing new applications.

We hope this background will help you better understand how the grant was administered and clarify your reporting requirements. The template is self-explanatory and is in a Microsoft Word Form format (type your response in the "grey" box, which expands with your answer). Don't hesitate to call with questions. Completing the report of activities should assist Commissions to better understand the process and their obligations when applying for a grant in FY08.

Good luck!

ATTACHMENT

“H”

TEMPLATE: Report of Activities

County Grant Program for Veterans (FY07)

**The Report of Activities on the County Grant Program for Veterans is
due to the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs by August 15, 2007.**

Part I: Report Submission

Date Report of Activities Submitted:

Part II: County Information

County:

Contact Person:

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address: Street ; City , IA Zip

Number of Commission Members:

Full Time Staff (40 hours/week):

Director;

Assistant(s) (number)

Part Time Staff (less than 40 hours/week):

Director (hours worked/week);

Assistant(s) (hours worked/week)

Other County Employees Performing Function:

Title/other duties

Hours Spent Weekly on Commission Business:

Part III: Auditor Information

Contact Person:

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address: Street ; City , IA Zip

Part IV: Commission FY07 Budget

Commission's FY07 Budget:

Staff Salaries: Budgeted ; Expended

Grave Markers: Budgeted ; Expended

Grave Maintenance: Budgeted ; Expended

Commission's anticipated (or actual) Budget Reversion to County:

Part V: Commission FY08 Budget

Commission's FY08 Budget:

Amount of Unspent Grant Remaining after Report Submission:

Part VI: Grant Information

ATTACHMENT

“1”

County Grant Report

Grant updated	9/18/2007								
County	Date report received	Requested	Awarded	Spent by 6-30-07	Unspent forward to FY08	Grant spent by Submission	Grant Expenses	Uses - current funds	Uses - carry over funds
Alamakes	6/10/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$9,168.96	\$6,851.04	\$4,753.44	\$4,753.44	Counseling Services; mileage	Counseling Services; mileage
Appanoose	6/10/2007	\$9,877.00	\$10,000.00	\$1,175.00	\$8,825.00	\$5,674.38	\$5,944.38	vet -rent, transportation, utilities, food/ provisions; increased hours	lease van, office rental - new office, increased hours
Black Hawk	8/14/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$5,548.31	\$4,451.69	\$5,548.31	\$5,280.74	Computer; printers; laptop computer; monitors; training; mileage	Brochures, software, VIMS remote, mileage for outreach
Bremar	8/15/2007	\$10,000.00	\$4,913.51	\$4,913.51	\$0.00	\$4,913.51	\$4,913.51	new staff; increased office hours, software, VIMS, file cabinet	n/a
Buchanan	8/7/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$7,241.13	\$2,758.87	\$7,241.13	\$7,240.53	computer; printer; scanner; desk; fair basin; desk; office equipment; outreach - brochures, folders, vet transportation	Transportation, Education, Outreach
Buena Vista	8/13/2007	\$8,708.06	\$8,708.06	\$0.00	\$8,708.06	\$0.00	\$8,150.00	National training, brochures; flyers; fax machines; computer	training, brochures, flyers, fax machines, computer, office equip, scooter
Calhoun	8/14/2007	\$8,500.00	\$8,847.24	\$8,601.54	\$7,092.94	\$0.00	\$7,100.00	n/a	National training; outreach; laptop & remote printer; chair; vet utility and food assist
Cass	9/4/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$11,385.00	Additional staffing; scanning; filing; nursing home calls; computer; desk; file cabinets; shredder; VIMS Program; copier/fax/scanner	n/a
Cedar	8/9/2007	\$8,244.00	\$8,244.00	\$8,412.21	\$831.79	\$8,244.00	\$8,244.00	training; shredder; file cabinet; label maker; laptop; VIMS maintenance; postage; office supplies; advertising; County fair cost	n/a
Cherokee	8/13/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$7,835.00	\$2,185.00	\$0.00	\$7,835.00	new office supplies; shredder; phone; folders; vacuum; floor mats; training; projector; postage; direct phone line; rent for new office; vet assistance - transportation, food, rent, utility	Computer; outreach services
Clarke	8/14/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$818.84	\$2,181.36	\$3,379.84	\$3,379.84	Labor; postage; Banner; office supplies; vet transportation, meals; food; outreach; advertising; mileage	training; advertising; postage/ printing; vet - utilities, rent, food; transport; copier

County Grant Report

County	Dates report received	Requested	Awarded	Spent by 6-30-07	Unspent forward to FY08	Grant spent by Submission	Grant Expenses	Uses - current funds	Uses - carry over funds
Clay	8/30/2007	\$49,992.64	\$10,000.00	\$1,289.60	\$8,710.40	\$0.00	\$1,056.18	national training transportation expenses; postage & telephone; VIMS computer support; vet transportation	training; outreach; computer; printer; home visits
Clayton	8/31/2007	\$3,926.23	\$3,926.23	\$3,914.87	\$11.36	\$3,914.87	\$3,914.85	computer and accessories; printer; telephone expenses; benefit consultant; cell phone for van appts; brochures; Veterans Day; Office Supplies; mental health consultant; poster; brochures, pens	increase mental health services; increase hours for veteran service officer
Clinton	8/14/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	Director - full time status; Health Care cost	n/a
Crawford	8/15/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$9,050.08	\$1,076.29	\$40,126.38	\$10,126.38	Computer; printer; installation of computer/printer; YAMC Medical Van; school; mileage - outreach to home bound veterans; postage; fair booth rental; projector	software; vet-transport assist; advertising; veteran medical assistance; training; outreach meeting; equipment and supplies; postage
Dallas	8/9/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$1,052.94	\$1,852.94	laptop computer; veteran utility & fuel assistance; supplies for outreach meeting; mileage; outreach meeting expenses; Advertising; Summer school lighting; meals & mileage	software; vet-transport assist; advertising; veteran medical assistance; training; outreach meeting; equipment and supplies; postage
Dallas	8/14/2007	\$7,488.40	\$7,518.40	\$0.00	\$7,518.40	\$1,055.05	\$1,055.05	Computer; vet rent; utility assistance; training	n/a
Delaware	8/16/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,836.08	\$19,636.08	emergency needs assist - temp. utility; health, food	training; financial assistance - rent; utility; hearing aids; glasses
Delaware	8/20/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$1,630.76	\$1,820.76	2 computers; projector; vet	advertising; veteran assistance - dental; utility
Delaware	8/12/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$6,346.97	\$3,653.03	\$7,118.97	\$7,118.97	none	computer; scanner
Dubuque	8/15/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	none	outreach; vet transport; computer & copier; travel for director
Emmett	8/14/2007	\$6,387.96	\$6,335.23	\$0.00	\$6,335.23	\$0.00	\$0.00	advertising; magnetic car strips; hanging file; office rent; postage; lodging for training; phone; internet; software; training registrations; file cabinet; rent assistance; utility printer; vet transportation	advertising; pens; magnetic strips; vet eye; Dental; vet housing; training; postage; radio; scanner/copier/ printer
Fayette	8/3/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$4,831.00	\$5,169.00	\$7,205.00	\$4,831.00	none	advertising; pens; magnetic strips; vet eye; Dental; vet housing; training; postage; radio; scanner/copier/ printer

County Grant Report

County	Date report received	Requested	Awarded	Spent by 6-30-07	Unspent forward to FY08	Grant spent by Submission	Grant Expenses	Uses - Current funds	Uses - Carry over funds
Floyd	8/13/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$4,616.17	\$5,383.83	\$4,616.17	\$4,616.17	Education/ training; Vet Transportation and Utilities	part time assistance; cell phone; outreach; fax machine
Franklin	8/15/2007	10,000.00	10,000.00	5,146.47	4,853.53	669.78	5,146.47	vet medical travel; Advertising; computer; printer; vet medications; copier/ printer; food pantry	vet medical travel; vet medications; Advertising; computer/ printer; increased office hours
Fremont	8/15/2007	\$8,681.00	\$4,599.13	\$1,026.00	\$3,593.00	\$3,028.00	\$5,707.04	denial services	Denial services
Greene	6/31/2007	\$0.00	\$7,392.44	\$1,564.00	\$5,828.44	\$0.00	\$1,564.00	Computer; printer; vet bedding; transportation; brochure rack	Business cards; Broadbanding marketing; Vet transportation; Vet utilities & rental assistance
Guthrie	8/13/2007	\$2,465.00	\$2,718.10	\$2,003.12	\$714.98	\$0.00	\$2,003.12	Printer; 2 laptop cabinets; shredder; Vet transportation; rent	
Hancock	8/15/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,986.00	typewriter copier; brochures; sign rental to Logon; new office supplies - Desk & chairs; postage; Vet assistance - rent; food; transportation; utilities	n/a
Hardin	8/12/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$4,638.27	\$5,361.73	\$0,695.64	\$3,969.64	Office supplies; publication and legal notices; postage & mailing; mileage & subsistence; telephone service; training; office & data processing equipment; dues & memberships; veteran gasoline assistance	Vet Rental; Utility and food assistance; supplies for new office
Howard	8/16/2007	\$3,146.35	\$3,146.35	\$3,146.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,146.35	computer; vet travel reimbursement for dialysis; mailing; postage; VIMS program	n/a
Humboldt	8/15/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$8,045.24	\$1,954.76	\$0,025.24	\$8,025.24	phone service; vet assistance; transportation; food; utilities; school expenses; office supplies	portable wheelchair; razors; vet furnace repair; Mailing; vet transportation assistance
Iowa	9/5/2007	\$3,502.00	\$3,762.73	\$2,424.00	\$1,338.73	\$1,178.00	\$2,424.00	Salary for PT Exec director; training; outreach travel; new office equipment/supplies; telephone & internet; vet assistance - rent & utilities	As earmarked?
Low	8/07/2007	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$16,050.04	laptop computer; wireless printer; VIMS remote software; DAY Van Program (Dubuque IA, 3 Savanna, IL; Advertising; @manager; increased hours; file cabinet; office supplies; cell phone	n/a
Jackson	8/10/2007	\$10,000.00	\$8,243.74	\$5,143.24	\$3,099.50	\$5,243.74	\$5,279.06		n/a

County Grant Report

County	Date report received	Requested	Awarded	Spent by 6-30-07	Unspent forward to FY08	Grant spent by Submission	Grant Expenses	Uses - current funds	Uses - carry over funds
Jefferson	8/15/2007	\$7,100.00	\$7,615.60	\$4,003.40	\$3,612.32	\$3,598.73	\$3,598.73	Copier, printer, scanner, fax; Lateral files; vet assistance - gasoline, rent & utility assistance; increased staff hrs office supplies; chairs; telephone; postage; bulletin board; paper; van lease; arm chairs	rent & utility assistance
Johnson	8/17/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$650.00	\$9,350.00	\$3,785.00	\$3,785.00	Veteran rental assistance	Veteran rental assistance
Kossuth	9/11/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$14,533.18	Legal file cabinets; phone headset; cell phone; car maintenance; increased hours; school; Equipment	n/a
Lee	6/24/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	Rental assistance	n/a
Linn	8/15/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$12,443.00	Vet dental assistance	none
Lucas	8/10/2007	\$5,585.57	\$5,793.36	\$5,793.36	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,793.76	Training; vet assistance - transportation, rent & gas; telephone; lifeline; food vouchers; National Membership Dues	none
Lyon	8/15/2007	\$7,479.44	\$7,479.44	\$0.00	\$7,479.44	\$0.00	\$0.00	none	training; postage; vet assistance - rent, medical, utilities; telephone; copy machine
Marietta	7/25/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	07 Ford Econoline 8 passenger Club Wagon - DAV Van used to transport for medical treatment	none
Marion	8/17/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	none	vet assistance - food, rental, utilities, pill counters; state training; district 4 conference expense; National school; computer; lap top computer
Marshall	8/9/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$4,731.30	\$4,731.30	3 LDR custom computers; 2 monitors; printer; supplies; fax; 2 yr warranty on computer; training; VIMS program	increase in assistants hours; training; filing equipment & furniture
Mills	8/13/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$11,498.53	laptop; training; mileage - schools & grant meetings; Books, CD's; newsletter; VIMS; marketing materials; county website development; vet utility	n/a
Monroe	8/5/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	Medical expenses	none
Montgomery	8/13/2007	\$5,166.01	\$6,004.27	\$4,208.45	\$1,795.82	\$4,589.36	\$5,916.68	supplies; mileage; postage; phone; internet; education; vet assistance - travel, rent, utility; NACYSO certification	training; marketing supplies; mileage
O'Brien	8/15/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$2,997.00	\$7,043.00	\$3,495.00	\$2,967.03	remote program license; portable printer; training; increased hours	increased hours, computer

County Grant Report

County	Date report received	Requested	Awarded	Spent by 6-30-07	Unspent forward to FY08	Grant spent by Submitter	Grant Expenses	Uses - current funds	Uses - carry over funds
Owasa	8/12/2007	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00	\$2,035.00	\$0.00	\$0.485.00	\$3,635.00	computer, printer, supplies; brochures	brochures, website
Plymouth	8/30/2007	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.965.81	\$2,293.74	\$2,263.74	miscellaneous information - book; district meeting registration; vet. utilities; transportation; rent; business cards; postage; paper shredder	none
Pocahontas	8/2/2007	\$4,642.00	\$8,867.86	\$5,288.84	\$3,578.04	\$5,289.82	\$5,344.00	bus/social supplies; general office supplies; magazine & periodicals; postage; mileage & subsistence; telephone services; training office hour; etamp; dues; office equipment & furniture; vet utility assistance	laptop, printer; VMS program & maintenance; postage; projector; screen & case; office supplies
Pottawatomie	8/8/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$1,445.28	\$0.564.72	\$9,099.19	\$1,980.87	computer, travel, outreach	outreach, education & training; National Guard Roofings; add part time receptionist
Poweshiek	8/18/2007	\$0.00	\$7,723.00	\$2,034.00	\$0.699.00	\$2,034.00	\$2,034.46	Computer/printer/machine	phone bill; van lease; copier; printer; scanner; screen & projector; training; outreach
Sac	8/15/2007	\$5,648.46	\$8,649.09	\$0.00	\$6,649.09	\$0.00	\$6,649.00	none	none
Scott	8/14/2007	\$10,000.00	\$9,274.86	\$0.274.65	\$0.00	\$0.374.82	\$9,561.78	food for homeless veterans; school maintenance & equipment; vet. rental & electrical assistance	School; Homeless and rental assistance
Sibour	8/16/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$3,510.00	\$0.485.00	\$3,515.00	\$3,815.06	New staff & benefits outreach; brochures; office supplies; outreach activities; education expense	increase hours PT outreach coordinator; school, laptop computer
Tama	8/14/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,018.35	wages - adult staff and increased hours; computer; printer; postage; mileage; school; dues & membership - cross accreditation; vet transport office supplies; phone service - vms only; VMS program	wages; training; vet rental; utilities assistance
Union	8/13/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$720.00	\$720.00	wages - increased hours; advertising; office supplies; vet dental assistance	increase hours of administrative; continued advertising; training; vet dental; utilities; food; transport assistance; home repair

County Grant Report

County	Reports Received by 8-15-07	Requested	Awarded	Spent by 6-30-07	Unspent forward to FY08	Grant spent by Submission	Grant Expended	Uses - current funds	Uses - carry over funds
Van Buren	8/10/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$7,600.09	\$7,600.90	computer, printer, outreach-nursing services, office supplies, provision of basic needs	contribution of outreach nursing services, health care equipment
Wapello	8/18/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$2,727.00	\$7,273.00	\$3,637.00	\$3,637.00	veteran assistance - food, rent, utility, transportation, increase hours	additional hours: veteran assistance
Warren	8/14/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$6,584.04	\$6,584.04	permanence copier fax, laptop, projector, VIMS program, computer, rent assistance, mileage	increase hours worked; mileage allowance; rent assist; advertising; outreach; office supplies; telephone/fax, laptop; rent; utilities; postage
Washington	8/13/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$1,782.94	\$4,001.64	Salary increases, Laptop	add additional staff
Wayne	8/15/2007	\$6,416.48	\$6,416.48	\$0.00	\$6,416.48	\$2,116.61	\$2,117.00	copier, printer, copier/fax	
Webster	8/13/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$3,852.12	\$6,147.88	\$4,255.79	\$4,255.79	veteran rental, utilities & transportation assistance	
Winnebago	8/22/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$13,729.00	Office supplies, vest assistance, transcription, rent & utilities, transport (telephone, copier)	
Winnebago	8/20/2007	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$1,135.00	\$1,135.00	counseling services & mileage, VIMS program	counseling services & mileage, VIMS program
Totals		\$618,483.81	\$578,094.77	\$281,468.77	\$367,187.68	\$298,234.61	\$368,022.41		

ATTACHMENT

“J”



FALL OUT!



Hyman-Pearcey American Legion Post #188 - Iowa Falls
Volume 11 July, August, September 2007 Number 3

NHC LEGION BASEBALL

2007 TEAM UPDATE
by Coach Mark Noll

North Hardin County-NHC has had a Legion Baseball Team for High School youth since 2003. The team follows the normal course of other teams in Iowa; we play an early spring schedule in March and April, then the ball players play their high school seasons in May, June, and July, we reconvene our team at the end of July for the National Legion Baseball Tournament that starts with Iowa District play around August 1.

In past springs NHC teams have a 20-23-1 record. This year we had 9 double header dates scheduled- 18 games, our toughest opponent was the weather with persistent rains allowing us to play 4 dates and 7 games, the team was 3-4.

We are in the process of completing the

continued on page 2

MORE HELP FOR VETERANS NOW AVAILABLE HERE

Hardin County Veterans Affairs will be partnering with Iowa Falls Legion, Post 188 in setting up a satellite office in Iowa Falls at the Legion. The Hardin County Veterans Affairs Commission has put in for a \$10,000.00 grant from the State. They received their grant and now are planning to be in Iowa Falls 2 days a week. This grant has allowed Hardin County Veterans Affairs to purchase office equipment for the Iowa Falls office.

The schedule will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday in Eldora, Tuesday and Thursday in Iowa Falls. Previously Veterans Affairs was only in Iowa Falls a few hours on Thursday afternoon. Now with this grant and the cooperation of the Iowa Falls Legion, more hours will be available for the Iowa Falls office.

The hours for the Iowa Falls office will be:

Tuesday from 8 A.M to 2:30 P.M.

Thursday from 8 A.M to 2:30 P.M.

Appointments for the Iowa Falls office should be made through the Office in Eldora at 641-939-8240. David Roelis, the Veterans Affairs Service Officer will be working between the two offices.

2008 DUES - PAY NOW

Dues for year 2008 can be paid anytime now until December 31. To maintain continuous membership years, you must be paid before December 31. Again this year, the dues will be \$30, which includes local, district, state and national dues.

You get this local newsletter, the state newspaper and the national Legion magazine plus many other benefits for these dues dollars. You can send your money to Box 163 or you can drop it in the outside box by the double doors at the Post. Pay early and then forget about it!

PUBLIC SERVICES

Grant to pay for dental care for poor veterans

The Gazette
 ORDAR RAPIDS — A \$10,000 grant from the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs will help provide access to dental care for low-income veterans in Linn County, the state said Monday.

The grant was made to the Linn County Department of Veteran Affairs to help low-income Linn County veterans who would otherwise not receive dental care. The county will work cooperatively with the community care center to implement the program. The grant will be used to provide dental services for veterans with service-connected compensation, said

Dona Tye, Linn County Board of Supervisors' chairwoman. Tye said dental care is consistently one of the top three needs for working veterans. Dental problems add to the financial burden of veterans who are unable to work. Tye said the grant will be used to provide dental care for about 200 veterans. The grant will be used to provide dental care for about 200 veterans. The grant will be used to provide dental care for about 200 veterans.





Benefits for Iowa Veterans

In addition to benefits from the federal government, the State of Iowa Veteran Benefit programs include:

The Iowa Veteran's Housing Grant Program

gives a \$5,000 matching grant to any veteran for the purchase of a home, tax free. To qualify, the service member must have served on active duty under title 10, 90 days or more after 9/11. Active duty for training does not count. For more information, log on to: <http://www.iowafinanceauthority.gov/> Veterans also receive an annual property tax exemption on their homes.

The Injured Veteran Grant Program

provides grants to any Iowa veteran injured in a combat zone while in the line of duty. The injury does not have to be combat action related. To qualify, the injured veteran must be medically evacuated from a combat zone. Within one week of evacuation, the veteran or his/her designated family member receives a check for \$2,500. The veteran will continue to receive \$2,500 every 30 days while he or she is receiving medical treatment, up to a maximum of \$10,000. This grant is provided by the state to help offset the additional financial burdens veterans and their families incur during convalescence.

College Tuition

If you join the Iowa National Guard, the state will pay 100% of your college tuition for four years, up to a maximum of about \$5,000 a year. This amount can be applied to attend any private or independent college as well. Guardsmen can then use their GI bill to pay for other expenses.

Use of the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown, Iowa.

Presently, the home provides personalized medical, nursing, rehabilitative care, mental health, pharmacy and dietary services, along with many other services. Applications are obtained through the county of residence Veteran's Affairs Office.

Use of the State of Iowa Veterans Cemetery
when constructed.

VA Healthcare
Veterans only!
Currently Limited Enrollment

Operation Recognition High School Diploma Application

IDVA and the Department of Education partnered to establish eligibility for honorably discharged veterans who did not complete high school due to armed service enlistment. This program will furnish a honorary high school diploma to these veterans.

Veteran Lifetime Hunting / Fishing License

license to an Iowa veteran who was disabled or was a prisoner of war during that veteran's military service. Upon payment of \$5.50, the Department of Natural Resources will issue a lifetime combination hunting and fishing license to a resident of Iowa who is a veteran as defined in Iowa Code Section 35.1 or served in the armed forces of the United States for a minimum aggregate of ninety days of active federal service, who was disabled or was a prisoner of war during that veteran's military service. To qualify due to disability, the law requires that the veteran be entitled to compensation under the United States Code, Title 38, Chapter 11.

War Orphans Educational Aid

from the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs may be used to defray the expenses of tuition, matriculation, laboratory and similar fees, books and supplies, board, lodging, and any other reasonably necessary expense for the War Orphan to attend the educational institute of higher learning. Aid is limited to \$600. Proof of 2-year residency required.

Iowa Workforce Development Center Vets Team

specializes in serving today's veterans and getting employers connected with qualified veteran applicants. Iowa Veterans' Employment Training Service (VETS) consist of State Representatives, Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVER); and Disabled Veterans Outreach Representatives (DVOR).

Federal Benefits:

Disability - Veterans Only! Vietnam Veteran Type II Diabetes or Prostate Cancer Automatic Disability

Disability compensation is a monetary benefit paid to veterans who are disabled by an injury or disease that was incurred or aggravated during active military service. These disabilities are considered to be service-connected. Disability compensation varies with the degree of disability and the number of dependents, and is paid monthly. The benefits are not subject to federal or state income tax.

Pensions - Veterans and / or Widows (War Era Service)

Eligibility: Veterans with low incomes who are permanently and totally disabled, or are age 65 and older, may be eligible for monetary support if they have 90 days or more of active military service, at least one day of which was during a period of war. (Veterans who entered active duty on or after Sept. 8, 1980, or officers who entered active duty on or after Oct. 16, 1981, may have to meet a longer minimum period of active duty.) The veteran's discharge must have been under conditions other than dishonorable and their disability must be for reasons other than their own willful misconduct.

Payments are made to bring the veteran's total income, including other retirement or Social Security income, to a level set by Congress. Unreimbursed medical expenses may reduce countable income for VA purposes.

WWII Oceangoing Merchant Marine Service Compensation

Each person who served on active duty in the active, oceangoing merchant marine service of the United States, at any time between Dec. 7, 1941 and Dec. 31, 1946, both dates inclusive, and who served for a period of not less than 120 days on or before Dec. 31, 1946, and who at the time of entering into the merchant marine service was a legal resident of the state of Iowa.

If You Have Questions on Any Of These Benefits, contact Dickinson County Veterans Office, Ernie Cupp

Please call for appointment: **712-336-0883**

The Dickinson County Veterans Service Office is located in the Dickinson County Courthouse.

No Dickinson County funds were used to pay for this ad.

BENEFITS FOR IOWA VETERANS • BENEFITS FOR IOWA VETERANS

BENEFITS FOR IOWA VETERANS • BENEFITS FOR IOWA VETERANS