

CALOVET

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Prop 63 Mental Health Grant Guidance and Tips

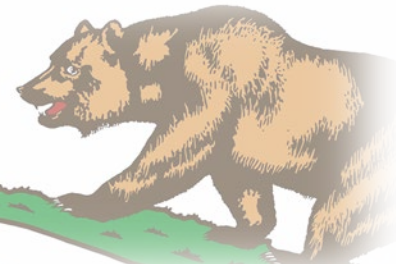
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CALIFORNIA

Introduction

The passage of Proposition 63 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) in November 2004 increased funding, personnel, and other resources to support county mental health programs and monitor progress toward statewide goals for serving children, transition age youth, adults, older adults, veterans, and families with mental health needs.



- Vet Services will email the Request For Applications to all CVSOs in the beginning of December and the deadline to return the completed application will be January 31.
- Applications are reviewed by a panel comprised of CalVet staff and will be rated on a 100-point scale. All final funding decisions will be made by the CalVet Deputy Secretary for Veteran Services.
- The total amount CalVet receives from the Mental Health Services Act is \$270,000.
- Funding awards will be made for a twelve month (12) period and proposed budgets cannot exceed \$45,000.00 in total (direct and indirect) costs.
- CalVet will perform site visits with potential grantees to review reporting metrics and implementation procedures.



Understand the Purpose of the Grant

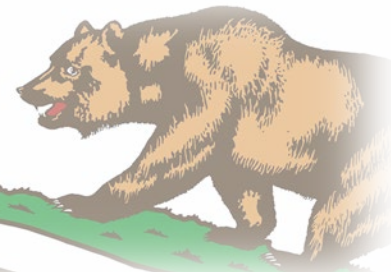
- Make sure to read the Request For Application (RFA) thoroughly.
- CalVet gives funding priority to counties that submit proposals that focus on particular service areas that are highlighted in the application.



18/19 Prop 63 RFA

Funding priority will be given to counties that submit proposals that focus on the following service areas:

- Working directly with transitioning service members, veterans, and their families through the Department of Defense Transition, Goals, Plans, Success program, Individual Ready Reserve muster briefings, or other veteran transition centric programs.
- Providing mental health services to underrepresented Veteran communities such as LGBTQ Veterans, women Veterans, and Native American Veterans.



Application and Submission Information

Project Narrative – The Project Narrative describes your project. It consists of the following sections:

Section A: Statement of Need;

Section B: Proposed Service/Project;

Section C: Proposed Implementation Approach; and

Section D: Performance Assessment and Data



Statement of Need -10 points/500 words max

- The statement of need presents facts and evidence to support the **need** for the program you are proposing. It also establishes your CVSO as being capable of addressing the **need**.
- Using both facts (quantitative data) and stories (qualitative data) is an excellent way to grab CalVet's interest. We want to know that what you propose to do is significant and that your CVSO is the right one to do it.



Statement of Need

- Winning grants typically include the following in the Statement of Need:
 - Focus on the people you serve, rather than your organization's needs.
 - Be well supported with evidence such as statistics, expert views, and trends.
 - Directly connect to, and support, your organization's ability to respond to that need.



Statement of Need (example)

- ...The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that one in four women and one in 100 men have experienced sexual trauma in the military. Military Sexual Trauma (MST) is a psychological trauma resulting from a sexual assault or repeated, threatening sexual harassment experienced during active duty or active duty military training...
- ...These veterans, identified and engaged through the County Veterans Service Office (VSO), outreach at local VetConnect clinics, the County jail, the VA Medical Clinic and The Palms Inn, a homeless housing facility for veterans, comprise the target population of the ***Forgotten Warriors Project...***
- ...This funding has enabled Verity to provide case coordination, group and individual mental health counseling, outreach, advocacy, and treatment programs to Sonoma County veterans of military sexual assault who are still transitioning...



Proposed Service - 30 points/1000 words max (Goals & Objectives)

- This section of your proposal describes what your CVSO hopes to accomplish with your project. It also spells out the specific results or outcomes you plan to achieve.
- You'll have to convince CalVet that your goal embodies a worthy vision and that you can realistically achieve your objectives.



Proposed Service (Goals & Objectives)

- A **goal** is a broad statement of what you wish to accomplish. Goals are:
 - Big and broad, even visionary
 - General intentions
 - Abstract
- A goal is really about the ultimate impact or outcome that you hope to bring about.
- Link the goals of your grant proposal back to your need statement.



Proposed Service (Goals & Objectives)

- An **objective** represents a step toward accomplishing a goal.
Objectives are:
 - Narrow
 - Precise
 - Measurable
- Objectives should identify the target audience or community that you plan to serve.
- Objectives need to be realistic and something you can accomplish within the grant period.



Proposed Service(example)

Project Goal: The *Forgotten Warriors Project* will improve long-term health indicators for men and women veterans in Sonoma County to ease their transition back to the civilian world.

Project Objectives: By June 30, 2018, the *Forgotten Warriors Project* will accomplish the following for MST survivor veterans:

- increase collaboration with federal, state, and community-based service providers and institutions of higher education through networking, prevention, intervention and improved access to comprehensive support services;
- increase outreach to transitioning service members at the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Training Center, Petaluma, as well as National Guard units in the area.
- decrease veterans' symptoms of anxiety, such as need for medication and desire to commit self-harm through enhanced access to mental and physical healthcare;
- improve veterans' capacity to return to work/school and to build and maintain positive relationships with significant others, friends and family members through a system of wraparound advocacy, referrals, and support.



Proposed Implementation - 40 points/1500 words max (Methods and Strategies)

- Understanding why your proposed method is just right for the problem you're addressing and then articulating that justification well can add power to your grant proposal.
- How to describe your methods:
 - Firmly tie your methods to the proposed program's objectives and needs statement.
 - Explain why you chose these methods by including research, expert opinion, and your experience.



Methods and Strategies (example)

With funds from the California Department of Veterans Affairs, Proposition 63, the *Forgotten Warriors Project* will continue to implement a continuum of care for veterans from outreach and referral to mental health counseling in order to improve long-term health indicators and ease veterans' transition back to the civilian world. The following services will be provided to **195 unduplicated veterans and their family members** for the period July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018:

- Intensive collaboration with federal, state, and community-based service providers and institutions of higher education by Verity's Case Manager will increase access to comprehensive services for veterans and their families through the *Forgotten Warriors Project*. The Case Manager will conduct **outreach, case management and case coordination to 195 historically underserved veterans and their families** at the following institutions:



Methods and Strategies (example)

- USCG Training Center Petaluma – Verity’s Case Manager will work directly with the USCG Transitions, Goals, Plans, Success (TGPS) program through John Schempf, USCG Petaluma Sexual Assault Response Coordinator.
- Sonoma County Main Adult Detention Facility (Jail) - Verity and the VSO will provide outreach materials about Verity’s services to all identified incarcerated veterans.
- *The Palms Project* - A partnership between Sonoma County’s CVSO and Catholic Charities provides 60 units of single-room housing for chronically homeless veterans. Verity’s Case Manager will provide Verity’s mental health services information and case management to resident veterans; will make referrals to Verity’s MFT and other community resources...



Performance Assessment - 20 points/1,000 words max (Evaluation)

- Evaluation helps your program. It gives your CVSO critical feedback that tells you if it works, how well it works, and how to improve it. Without evaluation, you're flying blind.
- CalVet requires evaluation. Every funder, whether a foundation, a corporation or a government agency wants to know if the project they funded worked or not.



Performance Assessment (Evaluation)

- Decide how you will evaluate the impact of your project. Include what records you will keep or data you will collect, and how you will use that data. Remember this is how you will determine if your specified **methods** were used, **objectives** were met, and impact was made on the identified **need**.
- Your proposal must include an example of the metric report you will provide to CalVet after every quarter.



Budget Form

The budget should be accurate to reassure CalVet that the CVSO has a realistic sense of what it will cost to complete the work proposed. The budget includes Personnel, Fringe Benefits, Travel, Supplies, Contracting and Other.

- Align figures correctly
- Double-check your figures
- The CVSO must also provide justification narrative of the items included in your proposed budget.



Letters of Support

- Letters of support do not win a grant by themselves, but good letters can make a grant more competitive.
- The letters of support show that the planned collaboration is both appropriate and genuine.



Tips

Do:

- **Eliminate jargon.** Eliminate all internally used acronyms and jargon. Keep it simple and “tell a story and paint a picture”
- **Objective reviewer.** After you finish writing a grant proposal, send it to a friend or colleague who doesn’t know anything about your organization. If that person can understand it and become inspired, you will know it’s good.
- **Positive attitude.** Understand that this is a competitive grant and not all applicants will receive an award but you can always apply the following year.



Tips (cont.)

Don't:

- **Talking more about problems than solutions.** The proposal should show that you are familiar with the issue you're dealing with, but must focus on what you're are going to do about the problem or need.
- **Addressing specific problems with general solutions.** A successful proposal provides a clear picture of what your CVSO will do to address the issue at hand.
- **Budgets that don't make sense.** Make sure the math adds up.



Questions?



Contact Information

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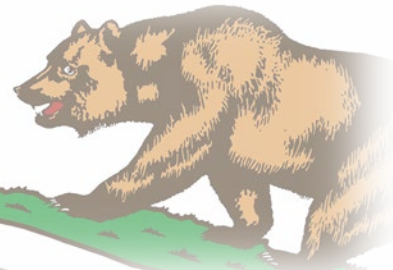
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