

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS REPORT ON THE COLORADO STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS TRUST FUND FOR FY 14-15

Subject: Colorado State Veterans Trust Fund

Requirement: Pursuant to §25-1-108.5 (2), C.R.S. as amended, the following report is provided for State Fiscal Year 14-15 covering the period from July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015.

Funds Received: The Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) received a Long Bill appropriation of \$880,000 for FY 14-15. The Division of Veterans Affairs was authorized to expend \$42,197 (5% of the funds) for administration of the grant; however the actual expenditures were \$19,333 (2.7%) for administration. Each year, VTF grant applications exceed the annual appropriation provided to the trust fund. Of the \$836,000 of trust fund monies provided for grants, \$792,330.88 was awarded in grants, and \$710,280.94 was expended. Additional funds would have been spent by grantees but for the delays caused by CORE.

Program Description (with eligible population): The Colorado State Veterans Trust Fund is designed with the overall goal of assisting all veterans in need of assistance residing in the State of Colorado regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, marital or religious status. The key goals of the program are to provide sufficient support and funding to meet the needs of veterans in the four areas defined below:

- State Veteran's Nursing Homes for capital improvements or needed amenities for existing or future state veterans nursing homes.
- Operation and maintenance of existing or future State Veterans Cemeteries.
- Costs incurred by the Division of Veterans Affairs.
- Veterans programs operated by nonprofit veterans' organizations that meet criteria adopted by the board and that are selected by the Board as grant recipients.

Non-Profit Criteria:

Nonprofit veterans' organizations: Nonprofit veterans' organizations must be nationally recognized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as an organization that can provide services to veterans under Title 38, USC. The organization must be designated by the IRS as a 501(c)19 or 501(c)23 organization.

Program Criteria: The Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs (BVA) criteria for veterans programs operated by nonprofit veteran's organizations located within the State of Colorado are programs that provide assistance to the needs of veterans for their health and well being. Examples of such programs are providing assistance to homeless or near homeless veterans, assistance to previously incarcerated veterans, homeless veteran's stand-downs, emergency assistance, veteran's transportation programs to medical centers and/or clinics, veteran's employment training programs and job related services.

Eligible Population: Veterans within the state of Colorado with an other than dishonorable discharge. There are no income eligibility requirements.

Services Provided: The following represents a breakdown by category of agencies that received funding, grants or awards during the reporting period, to include the type of service and/or assistance provided.

Non-Profit Veterans Service Organizations and State Veterans Nursing Homes – these organizations expended \$710,280.94 in grant funds to support veterans and their needs.

- Homelake State Veterans Nursing Home (SVNH) expended \$14,097 for wall mounted TV's in residents' rooms, Florence SNVH expended \$15,710 for residential furniture, Walsenburg SVNH expended \$14,212 for security cameras, and Rifle SVNH expended \$13,975.94 for new electric beds and mattresses.
- Non-Profit Veterans Service Organizations expended the remaining amount of grant funds. The services provided included: transportation to medical appointments (not funded by the VA), emergency assistance and basic needs, homeless veteran assistance, and veteran stand downs.

During FY 2014-2015, the (duplicated) number of veterans served by grantees was: 12,049.

Program Effectiveness: Throughout FY2014-2015, the program focused on implementing changes to more effectively measure effectiveness and goal attainment. Previous data collection efforts have focused primarily on outputs including number of grants awarded and number of veterans assisted. While those are still considered to be critical measures, BVA and DVA are moving forward with outcome measurement as well. The goal will be to determine if the services provided lead to a decrease in need and an increase in health and well-being for veterans in the state. Additionally, BVA is looking to those measures to ensure that funding is directed toward the right programs to have the greatest impact and cost outcome benefit.

Evaluation of the Operation of the Program: The State Auditors reviewed the program operations during FY14-15. All of the recommendations have been implemented. Process improvements are on-going. As a result of the changes implemented, training webinars for grantees have been conducted and will continue to be held for training purposes, to build collaboration and cooperation within regions, and to seek input from grantees for further program enhancements.

Grantees: Please see the attached list for all grantees awarded Veterans Trust Fund monies.

In Closing: Over the past thirteen years the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs, through the Colorado Veterans Trust Fund, have provided direct benefits ranging from emergency assistance, work clothes, rent assistance, utility assistance and transportation to Veterans Affairs medical facilities to tens of thousands of veterans throughout the State.

FY2014-2015 Veterans Trust Fund Grantees

Grantee	Location	Purpose	Amount Awarded
American Legion Post 25	Florence	Vet Assistance	\$15,000
American Legion Post 44	Steamboat Springs	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$5,600
American Legion Post 115	Rye	Vet Assistance	\$5,000
American Legion Post 66	Akron	Transportation	\$3,500
VFW Post 3621	Lamar	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$10,000
VFW Post 8661	Conifer	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$7,200
American Legion Post 103	Littleton	Vet Assistance	\$20,000
VFW Post 899	Alamosa	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$25,000
American Legion Post 108	Pagosa Springs	Transport/Vet Assistance/Van	\$50,000
VFW Post 7829	Monument	Stand Down/Vet Assistance	\$15,000
VFW Post 5231	Mancos	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$4,810
American Legion Post 113	Alamosa	Transportation	\$2,000
American Legion Post 23	Aurora	Vet Assistance	\$10,000
American Legion Post 2	Pueblo	Transport/Vet Assistance/Van	\$42,000
VFW Post 1	Denver	Vet Assistance/Stand Down/Homeless Programs	\$89,000
NABVETS Chapter 24	Aurora	Vet Assistance	\$20,000
DAV Chapter 25	Grand Junction	Stand Down/Vet Assistance	\$12,000
American Legion Post 32	Longmont	Transport/Vet Assistance/Stand Down	\$20,000
VFW Post 41	Loveland	Veterans Assistance	\$40,000
DAV Chapter 48	Durango	Transport/Vet Assist/Stand Down	\$36,000
American Legion Post 88	Hot Sulphur Springs	Vet Assistance	\$7,000
American Legion Post 109	Windsor	Vet Assistance/Stand Down	\$40,000
American Legion Post 170	Westcliffe	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$40,000
VFW Post 4265	Craig	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$10,000

VFW Post 5843	Meeker	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$6,000
AL Department of Colorado	Denver (statewide)	Vet Assistance	\$20,000
DAV Chapter 44	Delores	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$40,000
DAV Region	Denver	Stand Down	\$18,000
VFW Department of Colorado	Lakewood	Vet Assistance	\$40,000
VFW Post 4171	Golden	Vet Assistance	\$20,000
American Legion Post 29	Aurora	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$6,000
American Legion Post 22	Northglenn	Vet Assistance	\$25,000
Vietnam Veterans of America Chap. 1071	Denver	Vet Assistance	\$12,500
SVCLC Homelake	Monte Vista	Wall Mounted TVs	\$14,097
SVCLC Bruce McCandless	Florence	Resident Furniture	\$15,710
SVCLC Rifle	Rifle	Beds and Mattresses	\$14,085.88
SVCLC Walsenburg	Walsenburg	Security Cameras	\$16,828
Total			\$792,330.88