

**DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS REPORT ON THE
COLORADO STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS TRUST FUND FOR FY 15-16**

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 15-16 covering the period from July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016.

Funds Received: The Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) received a Long Bill appropriation of \$876,770 for FY 15-16. The Division of Veterans Affairs was authorized to expend \$42,197 (less than 5% of the funds) for administration of the grant; however the actual expenditures were \$32,796.89 (3.7%) for administration, which includes a significant amount of Board travel. VTF grant applications exceed the annual appropriation provided to the trust fund. Of the \$832,931 of trust fund monies provided for grants, \$832,930.75 was awarded in grants, and \$753,236.26 was expended. Of the unspent funds, a significant amount of \$32,345.25 was returned by a grantee upon learning they would not be considered for funding for the 2016-2017 FY due to a late submission of an application. The grantee returned the funds too late to be reallocated or redirected.

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 veteran's transportation programs to medical centers and/or clinics (23%), homelessness prevention and intervention (35%), emergency needs (28%), Stand Downs (5.6%), medical/mental health services not provided and/or covered through the VA (1.8%), veteran's employment training programs and job related services (.8%) and other needed services (5.6%).

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 Community Living Centers – these organizations expended \$753,236.26 in grant funds to support veterans and their needs.

- Homelake Veterans Community Living Center expended \$9,683 for alternative therapy supplies. Walsenburg Veterans Community Living Center expended \$19,576.40 for telephones for each veteran’s room.
- Non-Profit Veterans Service Organizations expended the remaining amount of grant funds. The services provided were located throughout the state, with 59% of the grantees in rural areas and 41% in metro areas. As previously noted, services include transportation to medical appointments, emergency assistance, housing support, Stand Downs, medical/mental health assistance not provided by the VA, employment and educational assistance and other services to meet the needs of veterans.

During FY 2015-2016, the (duplicated) number of veterans served by grantees was 8,680 with 4,966 unique individuals receiving services and support.

Program Effectiveness: During 2015-2016, a service recipient survey was implemented to measure the effectiveness of the services provided by the grantees and to measure the outcomes or impact of the services. The survey utilizes a standard Likert scale to rate the grantee program effectiveness, and changes in well-being. Overall, 99.5% of the veterans rated the services favorable with 96% indicating an increase in well-being as a result of the program. Many veterans write personal notes of appreciation on the surveys. Examples include an indication that medical appointments would not be possible without the transportation programs; veterans were able to remain housed rather than becoming homeless; a few indicated that the services received prevented suicide.

Evaluation of the Operation of the Program: Process improvements remain a primary focus. Additional grantee trainings via webinars were conducted. A Grantee Handbook was provided to all grantees with specific details on VTF policies, procedures and processes. We continue to seek input from grantees for further program enhancements. For example, based upon grantee feedback, the service recipient survey was modified for FY2016-2017.

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

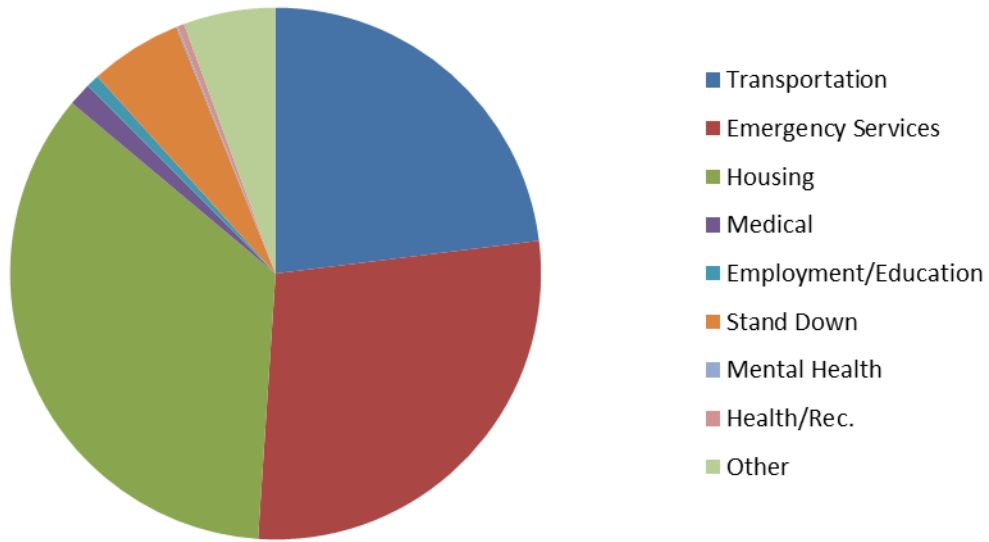
In Closing: Over the past fourteen years the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs, through the Colorado Veterans Trust Fund, have provided direct benefits ranging from emergency assistance, housing assistance, work clothes, rent assistance, utility assistance and transportation to Veterans Affairs medical facilities to tens of thousands of veterans throughout the State. We would request \$803,391 for FY2017-2018.

FY2015-2016 Veterans Trust Fund Grantees

Grantee	Location	Purpose	Amount Awarded
American Legion Post 44	Steamboat Springs	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$5,600
DAV Chapter 48	Durango	Transport/Vet Assist/Stand Down	\$80,270
American Legion Post 103	Littleton	Vet Assistance	\$30,000
VFW Post 5231	Mancos	Housing/Vet Assistance	\$4,810

American Legion Post 115	Rye	Vet Assistance	\$5,000
DAV Chapter 44	Cortez	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$68,900
American Legion Post 18	Greeley	Vet Assistance	\$16,600
VFW Post 899	Alamosa	Transport/Vet Assistance/Van	\$48,568.35
American Legion Post 108	Pagosa Springs	Transport/Vet Assistance/Van	\$50,000
VFW Post 7829	Monument	Stand Down	\$20,000
American Legion Post 88	Hot Sulphur Springs	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$20,000
American Legion Post 170	Westcliffe	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$51,750
American Legion Post 2	Pueblo	Transport/Vet Assist/Stand Down	\$18,000
VFW Post 1	Denver	Vet Assistance	\$5,625
VFW Post 8661	Bailey	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$8,400
DAV Chapter 25	Grand Junction	Stand Down/Vet Assistance	\$12,000
American Legion Post 32	Longmont	Transport/Vet Assist/Stand Down	\$50,000
VFW Post 41	Loveland	Veterans Assistance	\$58,000
DAV Chapter 48	Durango	Transport/Vet Assist/Stand Down	\$36,000
American Legion Post 25	Florence	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$25,000
American Legion Post 109	Windsor	Transport/Vet Assist/Stand Down	\$60,000
American Legion Post 170	Westcliffe	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$40,000
VFW Post 4265	Craig	Transport/Vet Assistance/Van	\$36,120
VFW Post 5843	Meeker	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$6,500
VFW Department of Colorado	Lakewood	Vet Assistance	\$53,028
American Legion Post 143	Bayfield	Housing/Vet Assistance	48,000
Vietnam Veterans of America Chap. 1071	Denver	Vet Assistance	\$25,000
SVCLC Homelake	Monte Vista	Alternative therapy supplies	\$9,683
SVCLC Walsenburg	Walsenburg	Phones for veteran rooms	\$19,576.40
Total			\$832,930.75

Types of Services Provided



Location of Grantees

