

**DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS REPORT ON THE
COLORADO STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS TRUST FUND FOR FY 16-17**

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 16-17 covering the period from July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017.

Funds Received: The Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) received a Long Bill appropriation of \$845,588 for FY 16-17. The Division of Veterans Affairs was authorized to expend \$42,197 (less than 5% of the funds) for administration of the grant; the actual expenditures were \$38,595.27 (4.1%) for administration, which includes a significant amount of Board travel. Of the \$803,391 total trust fund monies provided for grants, \$95,283.73 was allocated to the State Veterans Cemetery in Grand Junction for necessary equipment and to the Division of Veterans Affairs for VetraSpec costs and equipment and \$76,431.59 of those funds were expended. The remainder or \$708,107.27 was awarded in grants to nonprofit organizations and Veterans Community Living Centers throughout the State. Of those grant funds awarded, \$671,573.46 was expended, resulting in a 95% execution rate for grants.

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. This included organizations 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 (16%), homelessness prevention and intervention (28%), emergency needs (25%), Stand Downs (10.8%), medical/mental health services not provided and/or covered through the VA (3.4%), veteran's employment training programs and job related services (.8%) and other needed services (17%).

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 \$671,573.46 in grant funds to support veterans and their needs.

- Homelake Veterans Community Living Center expended \$59,641.27 for a Scandent identification system and furniture. Bruce McCandless Veterans Community Living Center in Florence expended \$29,130.00 for a sensory room, enhanced technology and disaster preparedness.
- Non-Profit Veterans Service Organizations expended the remaining amount of grant funds. The services provided were located throughout the state, with 63% of the grantees in rural areas and 37% 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. Grantees spent a higher percentage of grant funds on housing support (both homeless intervention and homeless prevention) and emergency assistance than in previous years. Grantees report spending a higher percentage on these items due to the increasing costs of housing in the State.

During FY 2016-2017, the (duplicated) number of veterans served by grantees was 4,860 with 2,638 unique individuals (unduplicated) receiving services and support.

Program Effectiveness: A service recipient survey was utilized 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, 91% of the veterans rated the services highly favorable with 96% indicating an increase in well-being as a result of the program. Specific outcomes noted include gaining housing, resolving a crisis, and increased well-being. Many veterans write personal notes of appreciation on the surveys.

Evaluation of the Operation of the Program: Process improvements remain a primary focus. Additional grantee trainings via webinars were conducted. An updated and improved 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. During this year, previous grantees that are no longer applying for grant funds were surveyed as to the reasons for non-participation. The response rate was extremely poor, but those that did respond indicated a change in Post leadership impacted the ability to apply, resources were needed for other activities, the deadline was missed but would apply in the future, and one response that the grant process has become too difficult. Of note, several former and new organizations applied for funds for FY2017-2018.

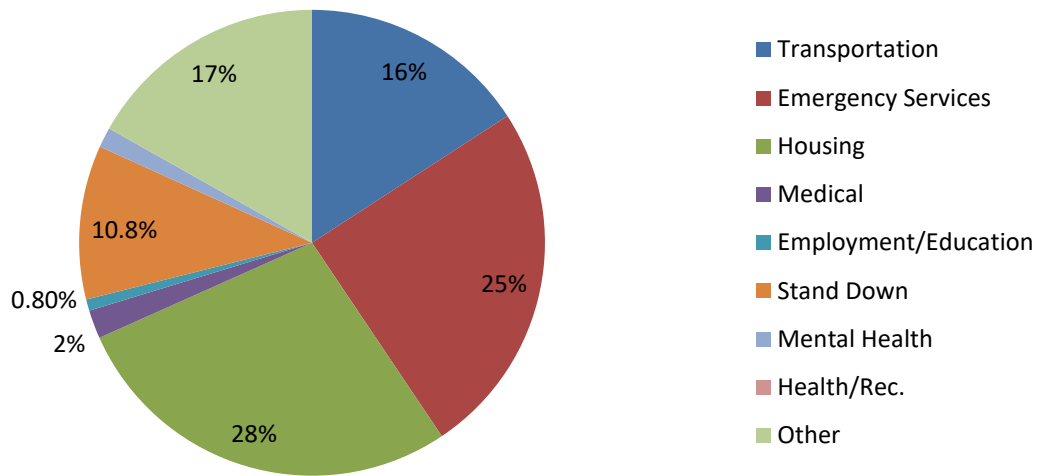
Grantees: Please see the attached list for all grantees awarded Veterans Trust Fund monies.

In Closing: Over the past fifteen 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 1% of total trust transfer funds available not to exceed \$1,000,000 for FY2018-2019.

FY2016-2017 Veterans Trust Fund Grantees

Grantee	Location	Purpose	Amount Awarded
VFW Post 12063	Westcliffe	Vet Assistance	\$40,000
DAV Chapter 48	Durango	Transport/Vet Assist/Stand Down/MH	\$81,720
VFW Post 8661	Conifer	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$8,400
American Legion Post 9	La Junta	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$7,553
American Legion Post 25	Florence	Vet Assistance	\$20,000
American Legion Post 44	Steamboat Springs	Transportation	\$6,550
American Legion Post 103	Littleton	Vet Assistance	\$30,000
VFW Post 41	Loveland	Vet Assistance/Employment	\$59,000
American Legion Post 88	Hot Sulphur Springs	Vet Assistance	\$20,000
VFW Post 899	Alamosa	Transportation	\$25,064
American Legion Post 108	Pagosa Springs	Transport/Vet Assistance/Vehicle	\$44,500
DAV Dept. of Colorado	Denver	Stand Down	\$19,300
Dept. of Colorado VFW	Lakewood	Vet Assistance	\$50,000
VFW Post 7829	Monument	Vet Assist/Stand Down/Transport	\$45,000
DAV Chapter 44	Cortez	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$63,200
DAV Chapter 25	Grand Junction	Stand Down/Vet Assistance	\$12,000
American Legion Post 32	Longmont	Transport/Vet Assist/Stand Down	\$60,000
VFW Post 5231	Mancos	Veterans Assistance	\$10,400
American Legion Post 62	Craig	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$17,000
SVCLC Homelake	Monte Vista	Scandent system, dining furniture	\$59,641.27
Bruce McCandless SVCLC	Florence	Tech room, Sensory Stimulation room, Disaster Preparedness	\$29,139
Total			\$708,107.27

Types of Services Provided



Location of Grantees

