

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS REPORT ON THE COLORADO STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS TRUST FUND FOR FY 17-18

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 17-18 covering the period from July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018.

Funds Received: The Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) received a Long Bill appropriation of \$782,830 for FY 17-18. The Division of Veterans Affairs was authorized to expend \$42,197 for administration of the grant; the actual expenditures were \$41,988 for administration which includes \$13,000 for Board travel. Of the \$740,633 total trust fund monies provided for grants, \$734,933.00 was awarded in grants. Midway through the grant period, 3 grant awards were modified to reduce the award, and \$21,000 was then allocated to the State Veterans Cemetery in Grand Junction. The final total of \$716,010.12 was awarded in grants to nonprofit organizations and Veterans Community Living Centers throughout the State. Of those grant funds awarded, \$620,337.39 was expended, resulting in an 87% 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 Community Living centers 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 includes 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 for veterans in need. Examples of such programs are veteran's transportation programs to medical centers and/or clinics (11.2%), homelessness prevention and intervention (37.4%), emergency needs (28.8%), Stand Downs (6.8%), medical/mental health services not provided and/or covered through the VA (3.0%), veteran's employment training programs and job related services (.8%) and other needed services such as food (12%).

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 \$\$620,337.39 in grant funds to support veterans and their needs.

- Spanish Peaks Veterans Community Living Center in Walsenburg expended \$11,615.11 for a Security Camera system. Bruce McCandless Veterans Community Living Center in Florence expended \$16,000.00 for Barber/Beauty Shop equipment and supplies, Fitzsimmons Community Living Center in Aurora expended \$16,714.51 for Bariatric Accommodations, and the Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake, in Monte Vista expended \$5,485 for exercise equipment.
- Non-Profit Veterans Service Organizations expended the remaining amount of grant funds. The services provided were located throughout the state, with 60% of the grantees in rural areas and 40% 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. For the second year in a row, grantees report spending a higher percentage on these items due to the increasing costs of housing in the State.

During FY 2017-2018, the (duplicated) number of veterans served by grantees was 3,043 with 1,852 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, 96% of the veterans rated the services favorably with 43% indicating a decrease in urgent needs, 35% noting an increase in well-being and 30% citing an increase in overall family well-being as a result of the program. Specific outcomes noted include gaining housing stability, resolving a crisis, and increased access to health care. 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. For instance, based upon grantee feedback, the grant application for 2018-2019 was simplified into a question/answer format rather than a narrative format. During this FY, a greater emphasis was placed on moving funding from organizations unable to expend the award and reallocating those funds. Grantees will continue to be educated on the importance of shifting funds to those areas of greatest need.

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

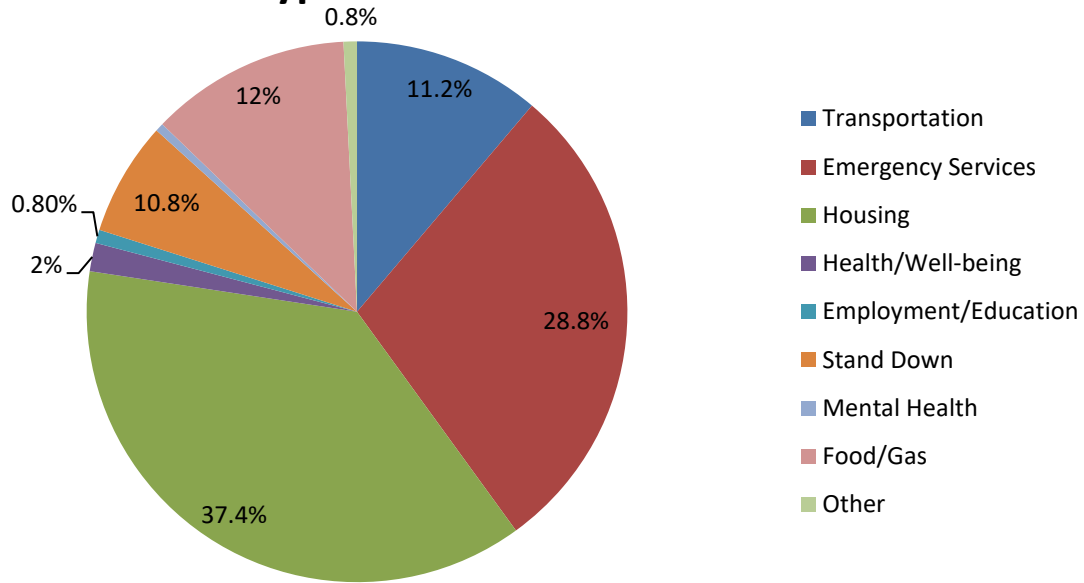
In Closing: Over the past fifteen years the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs, through the Colorado Veterans Trust Fund, have provided direct benefits ranging from emergency assistance, housing assistance, work clothes, rent assistance, utility 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 FY2019-2020.

FY2017-2018 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	\$80,270
VFW Post 8661	Conifer	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$8,400
American Legion Post 9	La Junta	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$7,157.12
American Legion Post 25	Florence	Vet Assistance	\$15,000
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
American Legion Post 1980	Woodland Park	Vet assistance	\$25,000
American Legion Post 108	Pagosa Springs	Transport/Vet Assistance/Vehicle	\$30,000-original \$20,000-modified
DAV Dept. of Colorado	Denver	Stand Down	\$19,300
Dept. of Colorado VFW	Lakewood	Vet Assistance	\$30,000
VFW Post 7829	Monument	Vet Assist/Stand Down/Transport	\$40,450
DAV Chapter 44	Cortez	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$63,200
DAV Chapter 25	Grand Junction	Stand Down/Vet Assistance	\$11,000-original \$3,000-modified
American Legion Post 32	Longmont	Transport/Vet Assist/Stand Down	\$60,000
VFW Post 5231	Mancos	Veterans Assistance	\$7,000
American Legion Post 62	Craig	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$7,000-original \$5,000-modified
VFW Post 5843	Meeker	Transportation	\$7,500

American Legion Post 22	Northglenn	Vet Assistance	\$20,000
American Legion Post 38	Fountain	Vet Assist	\$25,000
American Legion Post 4	Ft. Collins	Vet Assistance/ Educ./ Transportation/Stand Down/	\$50,000
American Legion Post 16	Huerfano	Transport/Vet Assistance	\$10,000
VFW Post 1	Denver	Transportation	\$4,000
Spanish Peaks VCLC	Walsenburg	Security camera system	\$12,016
SVCLC Fitzsimmons	Aurora	Bariatric accommodations	\$26,682
Bruce McCandless SVCLC	Florence	Barber/Beauty Shop equipment	\$16,000
SVCLC at Homelake	Monte Vista	Exercise Equipment	\$5,485
Total			\$716,010.12

Types of Services Provided



Location of Grantees

