

# STATE OF COLORADO

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## DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COLORADO DIVISION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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### Veterans Assistance Grant 2020-2021 Final Report

Pursuant to C.R.S. 28-5-712, Legislative appropriations authorized the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) Veterans Assistance Grant to receive \$850,000 from the general fund for FY 2020-2021. Of these funds, a total of \$800,000 was designated to be granted to non-profit or governmental agencies to provide assistance to veterans in the State. Additionally, a total of \$157,886 from the VAG Cash Fund was allocated, all of which was designated for grant funding. This resulted in a total of \$957,886 of funds available to be awarded to organizations throughout the state serving veterans. The following is a final report of the administration of those monies.

The grant program received requests in the amount of \$2,361,529.33 from a total of 47 applicants. A total of 29 non-profit organizations and governmental entities throughout the state were awarded grants totaling \$947,300. The direct services provided through the grants include the provision of shelter and housing (26.4%), emergency assistance (17.3%), transportation (4.1%), health and well-being services (19.4%), mental health services (15.7%), substance abuse treatment (11.8%) and other forms of assistance (3.7%). These "other services" include Veteran Stand Downs. A total of 2487 veterans were served during the contract period. Of those, 1484 were unduplicated, unique individuals of which 289 were female veterans. The allocation to administer the grant program was \$50,000, of which \$43,444 was spent. The administration of the grant was impacted as a number of planned site monitoring visits had to be cancelled. This resulted in some funds not utilized.

A total of \$756,746.72 was expended by the grantees, resulting in an 80% execution rate. The execution rate was impacted by a number of significant factors. Yearlong influences on expenditures were both needs created by COVID and other needs unpredictably met by COVID relief funding, making this a unique grant year. The grant programs continued to address housing stability needs for veterans not eligible for relief fund assistance, while referring those eligible for assistance to DOH relief funds. Homeless veterans normally served through temporary motel stays until gaining entry into a housing program were better served by other organizations that were able to provide long-term hotel stays. The entire grant period was impacted, otherwise, there is confidence that the execution rate would have been in the high 90% range. Many of the grantees demonstrated creativity and resiliency in adapting and finding ways of serving veterans during the pandemic.

Of note, one grantee, a residential substance abuse treatment program, adjusted the program to ensure social distancing, and surprisingly, has remained COVID free. Transportation programs were impacted by the VA shifting to telehealth appointments and essentially stopping in person appointments. Contactless assistance was a prevalent service delivery method.

Some programs were unable to adjust to the changing environment. For instance, one program funded to provide a Stand Down was unable to do so safely, and decided to return their grant funds. Others, particularly in rural areas without reliable, stable internet access could not operate in a remote environment as readily as those in metro areas. Still others experienced staffing issues as the pandemic directly impacted those providing the services. As a result, a number of grant awards were modified to reduce the amount to some and increase awards to others that were able to provide continuity of service.

Program evaluation measures include a service recipient survey 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 as well as changes in the overall health and well-being of veterans served. Overall, 95.7% of the veterans rated the services favorably with 89% of veterans indicating an increase in overall well-being for themselves and 54% reported an increase in wellbeing for their families. Another 53% reported that the services increased their mental health support and 56% noting a decrease in urgent needs. These indicators demonstrate that the services provided meet the statutory intent of improving veterans overall health and wellbeing and an increase in mental health support. An additional measure of housing stability was reported by 36%, and increased access to health care was noted by 54%. It should be noted that alternative health and dental services are included in this measure.

Of the total grantees, 60% are located within a metro area and 40% within rural areas.

Given the increasing interest in the Veterans Assistance Grant program as indicated by the number of applicants and amounts requested, we respectfully request the full amount of grant funds be allocated as noted in statute.

A full list of grant recipients, location and funding amount is attached.

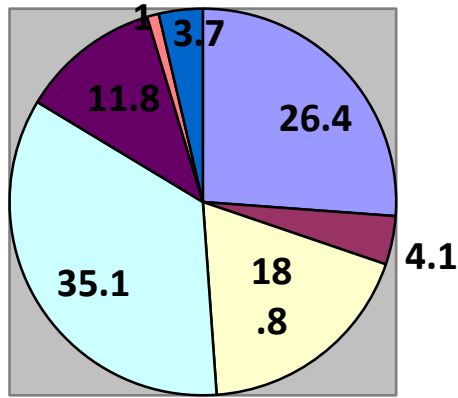
FY2020-2021 Veterans Assistance Grantees

Grantee	Location	Purpose	Amount Awarded
La Puente Home, Inc.,	Alamosa	Veteran Assistance	\$25,000
Alamosa County Veterans Services	Alamosa	Emergency/Veteran Assistance/Transportation	\$55,000
Grand County Veterans Services	Hot Sulphur Springs	Veteran Assistance/ Mental Health	\$25,500
CO Veterans Health & Wellness	Colorado Springs	Mental Health ***modification increase	\$10,000-original award \$20,000-after modification
Pikes Peak Workforce Center	Colorado Springs	Employment/ Veteran Assistance ***modification decrease	\$30,000-original award \$20,000-after modification
Saguache County VSO	Saguache	Veteran Assistance	\$5,500
Mountain Resource Center	Conifer	Emergency Assistance/ Mental Health/Educ. and Employment	\$15,000
Operation Revamp	Grand Junction	Veterans Arts Program/ Health and Wellness/ Mental Health	\$50,000
Sobriety House, Inc.	Denver	Substance Use/Abuse Treatment	\$90,000
City of Aurora Veterans Commission	Aurora	Stand Down	\$20,000-initial award \$0-returned grant

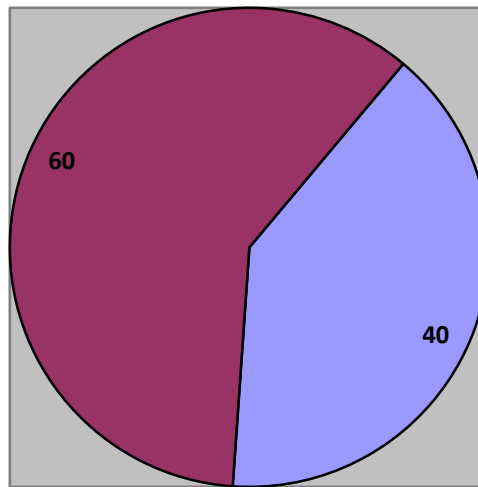
Women Marines Association CO1	Aurora	Veteran Assistance	\$4,000
BPO Elks #1319	Lamar	Transportation/Vet Assistance	\$18,000-original award \$8,000-after modification
Warrior Wellness Foundation	Colorado Springs	Equine Assisted Therapy	\$40,000
University of Colorado, Denver Heroes Clinic	Aurora	Dental care ***modification increase	\$40,000-original award \$55,000-after modification
Pueblo Veterans Council	Pueblo	Stand Down	\$8,000
Pitkin County Human Services	Aspen	Veteran Assistance	\$20,000
Costilla County	San Luis	Veteran Assistance/ Mental Health ***modification increase	\$10,000-original award \$20,000-after modification
Healing Warriors Program	Ft. Collins	Alternative Health/Mental Health Therapies	\$50,000
Douglas County Office of Veteran Affairs	Castle Rock	Vet Assistance/Mental Health	\$12,500
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless	Denver	Emergency Assistance/Employment	\$3,800
Veterans Puppy for Life	Denver	PTSD Dog Program	\$45,000
City/County of Denver DHS	Denver	Veteran Assistance/Mental Health ***modification decrease	\$50,000-original award \$20,000-after modification

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County	Pagosa Springs	Housing/ Emergency Assistance/Stand Down ***modification increase	\$75,000-initial award \$85,000-after modification
Home Front Military Network	Colorado Springs	Emergency Assistance/ Housing	\$65,000
Posada	Pueblo	Veterans Assistance	\$30,000
Mt. Carmel Veteran Service Center	Colorado Springs	Veteran Assistance	\$35,000
Park County DHS	Fairplay	Veteran Assist/Trans./Mental Health	\$15,000
El Paso County Homeless Veterans Coalition	Colorado Springs	Stand Down, Homeless Transition Program, Veterans Assistance	\$65,000
Pueblo Veterans Ritual Team	Pueblo	Transportation Program/Vehicle Purchase	\$35,000
<b>Total (after modifications)</b>			<b>\$947,300</b>

# Types of Services



- Housing
- Transportation
- Emergency Serv.
- Health/Mental Health
- Substance abuse
- Educ./Employ



- Rural
- Metro