

**VETERANS TRUST FUND GRANT PROGRAM
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**



**Pennsylvania
Veterans' Trust Fund**

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
GOVERNOR JOSH SHAPIRO**

**DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
ADJUTANT GENERAL MAJOR GENERAL JOHN R. PIPPY**

WWW.DMVA.PA.GOV

APPLICATIONS DUE: DECEMBER 19, 2025



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KEY DATES

DATE	DESCRIPTION
November 3, 2025	Request For Applications Release Date
November 12, 2025 @ 11 a.m.	<p>Veterans' Trust Fund Grant Program Webinar Join the Meeting</p> <p>Meeting ID: 264 753 605 832 0 Passcode: 6n6kf7J4</p> <p>Dial in by phone +1 267-332-8737,,423121793# United States, Philadelphia Phone conference ID: 423 121 793#</p>
December 12, 2025	<p>Questions Due Date Questions must be submitted via email to ra-mvvettrustfund@pa.gov. Questions received after the due date will not be answered.</p>
December 19, 2025	<p>Application Due Date Applications must be submitted no later than 2 pm via eGrants at https://grants.pa.gov/.</p>
Spring 2026	<p>Grant Awards Announcement Awards are announced via press release. Grantees are informed of the status of their grant application.</p>
July 1, 2026	Grant Activity Period Start Date
October 1, 2026	Quarter 1 Report Due
January 2, 2027	Quarter 2 Report Due
April 1, 2027	Quarter 3 Report Due
June 30, 2027	Grant Activity Period End Date



July 1, 2027	Quarter 4 Report Due
October 1, 2027	Close-Out Process Final Program Financial Statement Due Date (for awards under \$40,000)
January 1, 2028	Close-Out Process Final Formal Audit Due Date (for awards of \$40,000)



FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT SUMMARY

Funding Announcement Title: Veterans' Trust Fund Grant Program (Competitive)

Funding – Eligible non-profit organizations and veterans' organizations can request up to \$40,000. County directors of Veterans Affairs/Pennsylvania Association of County Directors of Veterans Affairs can request up to \$15,000.

Grant Activity Period – The period of performance will be July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.

Due Date – All applications must be submitted via [eGrants](#) no later than 2 p.m. on December 19, 2025. Late submissions will not be accepted.

eGrants Submission – All applications must be submitted via [eGrants](#). Applications submitted via any other method will not be accepted. Only signed and submitted applications will be considered. Applications in process but not yet signed and/or submitted will not be accepted.

Technical Assistance – Guidance for using eGrants can be found online. If answers cannot be found in the [VTF Applicant Instructions document](#), contact the Enterprise eGrants Customer Service Center for support. Representatives are available Monday through Friday, from 7:00 AM until 6:00 PM, at 833-448-0647. Email inquiries can also be sent to egrantshelp@pa.gov.

Scoring – Applications received in full and on time will be competitively reviewed, scored, and selected by committee.

Administrative Rejection – An application that does not meet all listed requirements may be administratively rejected without competitive review.

Contact Information – Questions should be directed to RA-MVVetTrustFund@pa.gov.



NOTICE OF FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT AND PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) announces the fiscal year 2026-27 Veterans' Trust Fund (VTF) competitive grant cycle.

CONTEXT

For most veterans, the transition from the military to civilian life is smooth and uneventful. However, not all veterans are as fortunate, falling on hard times and finding themselves looking for assistance to sustain a quality life. This assistance often comes from statewide charitable organizations and county directors of veterans affairs. The Veterans Trust Fund, administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, provides grants to veterans advocates that ultimately assist Pennsylvania veterans and their families in need of housing, financial help, food, training, recovery and more.

The VTF is funded by grants, gifts, and donations from people, business, and governmental entities; voluntary donations from Pennsylvania driver's license and photo identification applications and renewals and motor vehicle registrations; and proceeds from the sale of the Honoring Our Veterans standard and motorcycle license plates and Honoring Our Women Veterans standard license plates.

GRANT PURPOSE

The VTF grant funding is for new, innovative, and/or expanded programs or services that increase or improve services to veterans in their county, region, or across the Commonwealth.

PRIORITY AREAS

Priority is given to eligible non-profit organizations and veterans' organizations that propose projects that address:

- [Mental Health & Behavioral Health](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Employment](#)

Priority is given to county directors of veterans affairs/Pennsylvania Association of County Directors of Veterans Affairs who propose projects that address:

- [Veteran Outreach Initiatives](#)

FUNDING AVAILABILITY

[Eligible non-profit organizations and veterans' organizations](#) can request up to \$40,000.

[County directors of Veterans Affairs/Pennsylvania Association of County Directors of Veterans Affairs](#) can request up to \$15,000.



DMVA reserves the right to award grants in an amount less than the applicants requested funding.

ELIGIBLE PROGRAM EXPENSES

Expense	Description
Administrative Personnel*	Expenses incurred in support of day-to-day operations of the organization. These overhead costs are the expenses that are not directly tied to a specific program purpose. <i>Not to exceed 10% of total grant budget.</i>
Audit	The cost of the required compiled financial statement (grants <\$40,000) or the required final audit (grants = \$40,000) performed by a Certified Public Accountant.
Construction	The costs incurred for building or maintenance necessary to complete the grant project. <i>With limitations (see Ineligible Program Expenses)</i>
Contracted Personnel	Costs paid to a third-party individual to perform services necessary for the grant project.
Contracted Services	Costs paid to a third-party to complete work or provide goods necessary to perform the grant project.
Direct Service	Costs to provide hands-on support to veterans. Can include costs of goods, as well as employee costs for direct services.
Emergency Aid	Money or goods provided to a veteran or veteran's family, or to a third-party to provide goods or services directly to a veteran or veteran's family, in response to emergency needs.
Equipment	Items that are used to perform the grant project. To be considered equipment, items should be durable and reusable for a year or more.
Facilities	Cost of using or maintaining physical spaces to conduct the grant project.
Marketing & Publications	Cost associated with creating and delivering information and communicating about the grant project.
Staff Training	The cost of essential or necessary training for employees/volunteers to perform services for the approved grant project.
Staff Travel	The cost of travel by employees, per Commonwealth Management Directive 230.10 as revised, Commonwealth Travel Policy and Commonwealth Travel Procedures Manual .
Supplies	Items that are used to perform the grant project. To be considered supplies, items should be consumable and single/limited use.
Other	Any expenses that do not fit into the above categories but are necessary and approved for the grant project.



INELIGIBLE PROGRAM EXPENSES

- Administrative personnel costs exceeding 10% of the requested dollar amount. Administrative personnel costs are expenses incurred by recipients or sub-recipients which support day-to-day operations. These overhead costs are not directly tied to a specific program purpose.
- New construction projects, with the exception of renovations or repairs to existing buildings
- The purchase of vehicle(s)

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Grantees will be expected to complete and submit quarterly reports. Reporting may include, but is not limited to:

- Budget expenditures
- Activities/services provided (outputs)
- Results or impact of activity/services provided (outcomes)
- Number of veterans and families served
- Progress toward programmatic goals and objectives
- Future planning

Grantees will be expected to track how their grant is used by reporting all expenditures with supporting documents. Supporting documents include, but are not limited to:

- Receipts
- Timesheets
- Bank statements

All reports must be submitted through [eGrants Partner Portal](#).

GRANT ACTIVITY PERIOD

The grant activity period begins July 1, 2026. The grant activity period ends June 30, 2027.

Applicants should base proposals on projects beginning July 1, 2026. Expenses incurred prior to this date are not payable or reimbursable with funds from this grant. Grant funding must be used by June 30, 2027, even if the project continues after the grant activity period ends. Unspent funds remaining after the grant activity period ends will be returned to the DMVA. VTF grants are not eligible for extensions or renewals.

APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS

Applications must be submitted via the [eGrants](#) portal no later than December 19, 2025. Late and incomplete submissions or applications submitted via any other delivery method will be rejected without review. [A user guide on how to register and use the eGrants system is available.](#)



NOTIFICATION AND RELEASE OF FUNDS

Applicants should be notified of award status in Spring 2026. A press release announcing all awards will be issued in late Spring/early Summer 2026. Funds are scheduled for disbursement upon full execution of the grant agreement, which all organizations are required to sign. This process may take up to two months to complete. Receipt of payment should occur approximately 15-30 days after that.



GUIDELINES FOR 501(C)(3) CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS AND 501(C)(19) VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(19) organizations serving Pennsylvania Service Members, Veterans, or their Families (SMVF) are eligible to apply for VTF funding. Applications should include documentation (i.e., mission statement, charter, bylaws) that establishes at least one of the organization's primary missions is serving Pennsylvania veterans or their families.

Organizations may be ineligible to receive a VTF grant if:

- All previously awarded VTF grant funds have not been expended by the end of the grant activity period.
- Any outstanding close-out process requirements exist for previous VTF grants (e.g., reports, financial statements, audits, return of unspent funds).
- The organization has a history of delinquent reports or audits or the inability to fully execute grant funds.

FUNDING

The maximum award for VTF grants for eligible 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(19) organizations is \$40,000. There is no minimum amount for applications or awards.

- An applicant may submit multiple applications if each application is for a distinctly separate project that can be awarded/implemented individually. Proposals for programs accomplishing the same objective should be submitted as one application.
- Regardless of the number of applications submitted, no more than \$40,000 will be awarded to one organization for this grant cycle.

DMVA reserves the right to award grants in an amount less than the applicants requested funding.

- Applicants accepting a reduced award must submit a revised budget and narrative for the new dollar amount, which may be offset by reducing the programs or services provided.

Cash matching funds or in-kind assistance is encouraged but not required.

PROJECT PRIORITIES

DMVA's funding priorities for this grant cycle are:

1. Mental Health and Behavioral Health: Programs or services aimed at providing interventions to support SMVF with psychological, emotional, or behavioral challenges.
2. Transportation: Programs or services addressing/providing safe and reliable transportation to veterans to or from VA healthcare facilities and authorized non-VA healthcare appointments.



3. Employment: Initiatives that support veterans to prepare for, secure, and maintain employment, OR initiatives that utilize business connections, career pathways, and best practices to support veteran placement in long term careers.

Applicants must select at least one priority area on the application cover page and provide details to justify their selection.



GUIDELINES FOR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (CDVA)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

CDVAs may apply in the following ways:

- A CDVA may apply on behalf of the county that employs the director.
- A group of CDVAs may apply on behalf of their counties.
- The PA Association of County Directors of Veterans Affairs (“Association”) may apply.

Counties may be ineligible to receive a VTF grant if:

- All previously awarded VTF grant funds have not been expended by the end of the grant activity period.
- Any outstanding close-out process requirements exist for previous VTF grants (e.g., reports, financial statements, audits, return of unspent funds).

FUNDING

The maximum award to a county is \$15,000. Two or more counties submitting joint applications are limited to the maximum award of \$15,000 each.

- Joint applications must clearly identify one primary county to serve in a fiduciary capacity. This county must submit the application; use their SAP vendor number, federal EIN, and address; sign the grant agreement; and accept full responsibility for the proper accounting and execution of funds, program implementation, reporting, and audit requirements.

The Association may request funding up to the maximum available amount during the grant cycle.

- If a county receives a benefit from the Association’s award, the value of the benefit will count toward the \$15,000 maximum award for that individual county.

DMVA reserves the right to award grants in an amount less than the applicants requested funding.

- Applicants accepting a reduced award must submit a revised budget and narrative for the new dollar amount, which may be offset by reducing the programs or services provided.

PROJECT PRIORITIES

DMVA’s funding priorities for this grant cycle are Veteran Outreach Initiatives that:

1. Implement or improve veteran outreach within Pennsylvania at the community, county, regional, or commonwealth level.
2. Enhance veteran service officer and advocate capabilities within a county, or across a region or the commonwealth.
3. Address emerging needs within the county or region (e.g., transportation, food insecurities, suicide prevention, legal assistance).



Outreach is defined as an activity of providing services to populations who may not otherwise have access to various services. A key component of outreach is a mobile method of meeting veterans in need where they are located. An educational component is connected to providing outreach involving raising awareness of existing services.

Proposals must be new, innovative, and/or expanded outreach activities or programs increasing awareness or improving service delivery to veterans at the county, regional, or commonwealth level.



APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCESS AND DEADLINES (ALL APPLICANTS)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Applications must be submitted no later than 2 p.m. on December 19, 2025.

Applications must be submitted via eGrants, accessible at <https://grants.pa.gov>.

Incomplete applications, paper applications, or emailed applications will not be accepted and may be administratively rejected without review.

REQUIRED APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applicants should be prepared to provide contact information, organizational information, and narrative descriptions of the proposed project. Enough detail should be provided for evaluators to determine the organization's experience and ability to successfully carry out the grant's purpose, if awarded funding.

Required information includes, but is not limited to:

- Primary point of contact name, email, and phone number
- Top signing official name, email, and phone number
- Federal employer identification number (EIN)
- Pennsylvania vendor number
- Proposed budget

Note: The applying organization's name, address, federal EIN, and Pennsylvania SAP vendor account must match that which is listed on the application. Discrepancies between any of these documents will delay the disbursement of funds and may result in administrative rejection without competitive review.

REQUIRED NARRATIVE RESPONSES

Applicants will need to describe their organization, project, and budget through narrative summaries.

Required information includes, but is not limited to:

- **Organizational History:** Describe your organization. Include its history, year of inception, purpose, mission, organizational structure, and oversight (e.g., leadership, Board of Directors, advisory council).
- **Veteran Engagement:** Describe your organization's engagement with veterans. Include key veteran leadership and staff/personnel, partnerships with other military or veterans' organizations and how those partnerships are leveraged, current programs that support veterans, and estimates of veterans served annually and over the organization's lifetime.
- **Project Planning:** Explain how your organization plans to use the requested VTF grant funding, if awarded. Include program objectives, performance measures, anticipated outcomes, documented success with similar programs (conducted by other organizations or your own), and a timeline.



- **Fit and Alignment:** Explain how your organization is equipped to implement your proposed grant project. Include relevant staff, skills, knowledge, training, prior relevant experience and/or projects, and program oversight. Note: if your grant program proposes to provide mental health services, credentials for mental health care providers must be detailed here and copies of credentials must be uploaded to the Addenda section.
- **Budget Narrative:** Explain the proposed budget and how line items are needed for the proposed project. Provide a clear and detailed explanation for the cost of each line item included in the Budget Spreadsheet. Be specific with budget requirements and cost calculations. Include estimates when available and appropriate. Ensure your budget is accurate and adheres to stated VTF guidelines. Note: documentation for costs, proposals, etc., should be uploaded to the Addenda section.

REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

In addition to completing the application, applicants must supply additional documentation to demonstrate eligibility for grant funding.

- All applications submitted by charitable organizations must include an IRS letter verifying 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) status under the Internal Revenue Code. The organization's name and federal Employer Identification Number (EIN) on the application must match that shown on the IRS letter.
- Charitable organizations must submit documents to establish that serving SMVF is one of the primary objectives and that their programs/services benefit this population. Examples include mission statements, charters, bylaws, and past project descriptions.
- Charitable organizations permitted by law to evaluate and provide mental healthcare to patients must provide credentials verifying approval of such services. Failing to include credentials in the Addenda section may result in administrative rejection without competitive review.
- Organizations applying for VTF grants that assist veterans with housing/homeless programs must explain in the application narrative how they will engage with their local Continuums of Care (CoC) serving their location of operation. Applications must explain how the organization participates in the local Coordinated Entry Process and the Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS).

Letters of support, commitment, or participation from partnering agencies and/or organizations may be included in the application but are not required. Address these letters: To Whom It May Concern.

SIGNATURES

Grant applications must contain the signature, name, rank, and title of the most senior authorized official representing the organization (e.g., the Adjutant, President, Board Chairperson).

CONTACT INFORMATION

Applications must include telephone numbers and email addresses for the senior authorized official signing the grant application as well as the day-to-day points of contact for program and financial administration.



EVALUATION PROCESS (ALL APPLICANTS)

COMPETITIVE SUBMISSIONS

The application must contain sufficient detail for evaluators to determine the organization's experience and ability to successfully carry out the grant's purpose, if awarded funding.

To be competitive, applications must include all required documentation. Applications submitted without all information may be administratively rejected without competitive review.

GRANT REVIEWS

Proposals will be reviewed and scored by a committee appointed by The Adjutant General. Committee members may include, but are not limited to, the Chairman of the State Veterans Commission, the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs, the Deputy for Administration, the Executive Deputy Secretary, or their designees.

No officer, director, or designee of an organization or county shall participate in the review or scoring of a grant application for any grant in which that organization or county is an applicant.

An organization/county's ability to execute funding and comply with grant requirements, as demonstrated during prior VTF grant awards, may be considered when evaluating applications. Less favorable consideration may be given due to history of evidence of the following:

- Delinquent reporting or audit submissions
- Inadequate planning or coordination
- Requests for multiple project period extensions or major budget revisions
- Lack of administrative oversight resulting in the failure to return unspent funds

SCORING

Grant proposals will be evaluated on the following five components:

- Organization History, including history, purpose, mission, organizational structure, and organizational oversight
- Veteran Engagement, including key leadership & personnel, partnerships with other military or veterans' organizations, and veterans served annually and since inception
- Project Planning, including program objectives, performance measures, anticipated outcomes, and project timeline
- Fit and Alignment, including relevant staff; skills, knowledge, and training; prior relevant experience; and project oversight
- Budget, including explanation of proposed budget, detailed line item figures, cost calculations, budget accuracy, and adherence to grant guidelines



Grant proposals that address the following may be given preference:

- Projects reflecting a DMVA-selected priority area
- Experience with veterans' programming
- Inclusion of quotes and estimates to justify budget requests



GRANT AWARD ADMINISTRATION

AWARD SIZE

Grants awarded to eligible charitable organizations may not exceed \$40,000.

Grants awarded to county directors of Veterans Affairs/Pennsylvania Association of County Directors of Veterans Affairs may not exceed \$15,000.

DMVA reserves the right to award grants in an amount less than the amount requested.

GRANT ACTIVITY PERIOD

The grant activity period will begin on July 1, 2026, and may run for a period of 12 months, ending on June 30, 2027.

AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

The anticipated announcement of grant awards should occur in Spring 2026. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, through the Governor's Office or DMVA, may announce awards by issuing a press release prior to recipient notification of award.

All applicants will receive written notice of their application status following the awards announcement.

GRANT AGREEMENT

Written grant agreements will be issued for signature and approval by the Commonwealth and grantee. Grant agreements for counties will be executed between DMVA and County Commissioners. All agreements shall include the Commonwealth's standard terms and conditions.

A grant agreement will be fully executed when both parties and all required Commonwealth signatories have signed the document. The effective date of the grant agreement will be the date the last signature is affixed by the Commonwealth.

The grant agreement will contain information regarding the use of the VTF logo on grant-funded media, publications, or materials.

The grant agreement will provide directions for returning any unspent funds to the VTF at the end of the grant activity period.



Costs incurred by the grantee after the grant activity period begins on July 1, 2026 but before the full execution of the grant agreement are incurred at the sole risk of the grantee in the event the grant agreement is not fully executed.

ELECTRONIC FUNDS DISBURSEMENT

The Commonwealth requires payees to participate in the Pennsylvania Electronic Payment Program. Banking information must be entered into the secure vendor portal to issue payments via electronic funds transfer. This expedites payments disbursed in full upon completion of a fully executed grant agreement.

Grantees must keep VTF funding in a separate, interest-bearing account in a bank or other insured financial institution.

As a prerequisite to funding/payment approval, organizations or counties must register and obtain a free Vendor Number from the Commonwealth. Applicants are encouraged to obtain this prior to the award announcement by registering here: <https://pasupplierportal.state.pa.us/irj/portal/anonymous>.

REPORTING

The grant agreement will include provisions for quarterly reporting on financial obligations and expenditures.

The grant agreement will include provisions for quarterly reporting on performance.

At its discretion, DMVA may require interim or more frequent reporting, conduct on-site visits, and/or review documentation of grant-funded programs, purchases, events, or other activities.

CLOSE-OUT PROCESS

If a grant award is less than \$40,000, the grantee must return all unspent grant funds and earned interest. The grantee must also submit a complied financial statement no later than three months after the date of expiration/termination of the grant agreement.

If a grant award is \$40,000, the grantee must return all unspent grant funds and earned interest. The grantee must also submit a final audit. The final audit must be:

- A financial audit conducted in accordance with the provisions of the U.S. General Accounting Office's Government Auditing Standards, current revision,
- Performed by a Certified Public Accountant, and
- Completed no later than six months after the date of expiration/termination of the grant agreement.

Audits performed under the Single Audit Act of 1984 will not be accepted in lieu of a project audit.



The cost of obtaining a compiled financial statement or conducting a project audit is an allowable expense to be paid with grant funds.

Interim or post-award audits may be conducted by DMVA, the Office of State Inspector General, the Auditor General, or the Attorney General of Pennsylvania. Any audits by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, its agencies, or assigns, will be conducted at no cost to the grantee.

STATE LABOR LAW AND WORKFORCE SAFETY LAW COMPLIANCE

The grantee must comply, and maintain compliance, with all applicable Pennsylvania state labor and workforce safety laws and execute a corresponding certification. The laws include, but are not limited to:

- Construction Workplace Misclassification Act
- Employment of Minors Child Labor Act
- Minimum Wage Act
- Prevailing Wage Act
- Equal Pay Law
- Employer to Pay Employment Medical Examination Fee Act
- Seasonal Farm Labor Act
- Wage Payment and Collection Law
- Industrial Homework Law
- Construction Industry Employee Verification Act



CONTACT INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions about VTF, email RA-MVVetTrustFund@pa.gov.

DMVA staff are only able to answer general questions and clarify the funding announcement. Staff are not able to provide advice or assist in completing or submitting the application.

For technical assistance with eGrants, contact the Enterprise eGrants Customer Service Center.

Representatives are available Monday through Friday, from 7:00 AM until 6:00 PM, at 833-448-0647.

Email inquiries can also be sent to egrantshelp@pa.gov.

eGrants staff are only able to help with technical and system-related questions. Staff are not able to provide advice or assist in completing or submitting the application.

To report suspected fraud, waste, and/or abuse, contact the Office of the State Inspector General online at <https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/osig/report-fraud-or-misconduct.html>.

RESOURCES

- [Department of Military and Veterans Affairs](#) – Learn more about DMVA.
- [Veterans' Trust Fund](#) – Learn more about VTF.
- [eGrants](#) – Complete your grant application.
- [DMVA VTF Program Applicant Instructions](#) – Review step-by-step directions for completing your application in eGrants.
- [Pennsylvania Supplier Portal](#) – Obtain a free Vendor Number, required for funding disbursement.