

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Grants for Transportation of Veterans in Highly Rural Areas – New Applicants

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)



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I. Basic Information

Federal Agency Name

Department of Veterans Affairs

Announcement Type

Initial

Funding Opportunity Title

Grants for Transportation of Veterans in
Highly Rural Areas

Funding Opportunity Number

VA-HRTG-NEW-2026

Assistance Listing Number

64.035, Veterans Transportation Program

Funding Details

Approximately \$7 million is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year (FY) 2026. The following requirements apply to grants awarded under this Notice:

- Applications for renewal grants will not be considered under this NOFO and must be submitted under Funding Opportunity Number *VA-HRTG-2026*.
- One grant may be awarded to each grantee for FY 2026 for each highly rural area in which the grantee provides transportation services.
- Transportation services may not be simultaneously provided by more than one grantee in any single highly rural area.
- No single grant will exceed \$50,000.00 USD per highly rural area.
- A Veteran who is provided with transportation services through a grantee's use of these grant monies will not be charged for such services.
- Grants awarded under this Notice will be for a one (1) year period.
- There is no guarantee of award from prior grantees in cases where the applicant no longer meets eligibility requirements.
- All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

Key Dates

Applications for grants must be received in www.grants.gov by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on May 5, 2026.

In the interest of fairness to all applicants, this deadline is firm as to date and time. VA will treat any application received after the deadline as ineligible. Applicants should submit materials early to avoid risk of ineligibility, unanticipated delays, computer service outages, or other submission-related problems.

On time submission requires an Entity Identification Number (EIN) from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) from the System for Award Management (SAM), and an active SAM registration. For details, see also the [Before You Begin](#) section.

Executive Summary

VA's Highly Rural Transportation Grant (HRTG) Program Office anticipates awarding grants to Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) and Veterans State Agencies to provide transportation to Veterans residing in an area of less than seven persons per square mile to their VA authorized healthcare. These grants support the President's commitment to increase the excellence of and options for care, benefits, and services for veterans, as well as improve the delivery and quality of the Department's healthcare services in a more efficient and effective manner to support veterans, as demonstrated in [Executive Order 14296 – Keeping Promises to Veterans and Establishing a National Center for Warrior Independence](#).

For full information, applicants may review the [Program Description](#) section and [Eligibility](#) section.

Agency Contact Information:

Questions may be sent to the National Program Coordinator for Highly Rural Transportation Grants at HRTG@va.gov.

Information on the HRTG and resources can be found at https://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/vtp/highly_rural_transportation_grants.asp.

II. Before You Begin (these steps may take several weeks)

Entity Identifiers

If you believe your organization is a good candidate for this funding opportunity, get your EIN, UEI, and active [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) registration now.

If your organization already is registered in [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov), make sure the registration is active and up to date.

EIN

Your organization must have an EIN from the IRS.

SAM.gov

Your organization must have a UEI from [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov).

Your organization must have an active registration with [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov).

Grants.gov

Your organization must be registered in Grants.gov prior to submission.

Customer Engagement Portal

A web version of the VA - FSC Vendor File Request Form (VA10091) must be submitted through the VA Customer Engagement Portal at

<https://www.cep.fsc.va.gov/> by the application deadline stated in this NOFO.

Ensure that the information provided on this form aligns with the information listed in SAM.gov. This form is required for all applicants. **Proof of registration should be included in application packet.**

Prepare these requirements immediately. They may take weeks to complete.

Do not wait until you are ready to submit your application to start these requirements.

Incomplete requirements may prevent you from submitting on time.

Applications submitted without an active UEI may be rejected at threshold, meaning the application would be considered ineligible.

For information about SAM, see also the [Key Dates](#), [Submission Requirements and Deadlines](#) sections.

Registering in the Online Application System

Applications will be submitted through Grants.gov. Grants.gov is a “one-stop storefront” that provides a unified process for all customers of federal awards to find funding opportunities and apply for funding. Complete instructions on how to register and submit a grant application can be found at www.grants.gov/quick-start-guide/applicants.

Applications must be consistent with this solicitation and follow the directions in Grants.gov. The applicant should receive an e-mail validation message from Grants.gov within 24-48 hours after submitting the electronic application. The validation message will state whether the grant application has been received and validated or rejected with an explanation.

Important: Applicants are urged to submit their applications at least 72 hours prior to the due date of the application to allow time to receive the validation message and to correct any problems that may have caused a rejection notification.

Reminders: Applications are due by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the date stated in the [Key Dates](#) section. Keep this NOFO with you when completing the application. It includes supplementary guidance for completing the application.

III. Eligibility

Eligible Applicants

The only entities eligible to apply for and receive grants are VSOs recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under Section 5902 of Title 38, United States Code and State Veterans Service Agencies. Interested eligible entities must submit a complete grant application package to be considered.

Key Definitions: [38 CFR 17.701](#) contains definitions of terms used in the Grants for Transportation of Veterans in Highly Rural Areas program. Definitions of key terms are

also provided in Appendix A; however, [38 CFR 17.701](#) should be consulted for a complete list of definitions.

Additional Restrictions on Eligibility and Automatic Ineligibility

Additional grant application requirements are specified in the application materials on grants.gov. Submission of an incorrect or incomplete application package will result in the application being rejected during the threshold review, the initial review conducted by VA, to ensure the application package contains all required forms and certifications.

Complete packages will then be subject to the evaluation/scoring and selection process described in § 17.705(a) and (b), respectively. Applicants will be notified of any additional information needed to confirm or clarify information provided in the grant application and the deadline by which to submit such information.

Application Limits

Only one application per applicant will be accepted. If multiple submissions are received, the last (date and time stamp) submission will be reviewed.

Cost Sharing

This solicitation does not require grantees to provide matching funds as a condition of receiving such grants.

IV. Program Description

Purpose

Access to VA care for Veterans in highly rural areas continues to be an issue across the United States. VA has established this program to help address barriers to access to care. This program funds innovative approaches to transporting Veterans in highly rural areas who typically have longer commute times to VA-authorized health care appointments.

Funding Priorities

None.

Goals and Objective

This program furthers the Department's mission by offering grants to assist Veterans in highly rural areas through innovative transportation services to travel to VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) and to assist in providing transportation services in connection with the provision of VA medical care to these Veterans. VA's Veterans Transportation Program (VTP) offers Veterans many travel solutions to and from their VA-authorized health care appointments. To achieve this goal, this program offers services at no cost to eligible Veterans residing in highly rural areas.

Performance Metrics and Targets

HRTG measures grant performance through evaluation of required monthly, quarterly, annual, and final (at the end of the fiscal year) reports.

- Veteran data and trip details including name, address, date of birth, last 4 social security number (SSN) and/or Veteran identification number, & Veteran demographics;
- Record of time expended assisting with the provision of transportation services;
- Record of grant funds expended assisting with the provision of transportation services;
- Trips completed;
- Total distance covered;
- Veterans served;
- Locations which received transportation services; and
- Results of veteran satisfaction survey, as applicable.

Target measures will be based on timely reporting of the above performance metrics:

Reporting must be received within 30 days after the quarter ends and 120 days after the end of the grant cycle.

Grantees will also be evaluated for participation and attendance of quarterly conference calls with VTP Office. Participants must attend at least three of the four scheduled quarterly meetings (75%).

Guidance for the Use of Funds

All costs must be in compliance with [2 C.F.R. Part 200 Subpart E Cost Principles](#), all Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Regulations and Circulars, and the terms of the grant agreement entered into pursuant to 38 C.F.R. § 17.715.

Eligible Participants

The only entities eligible to apply for and receive grants are VSOs recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and State Veterans Agencies. Current Highly Rural Transportation participating grantees are ineligible to apply for a grant under this notice. Interested eligible entities must submit a complete grant application package to be considered for a grant. Awarded grantees may only transport Veterans who reside in an eligible highly rural area which is less than seven persons per square mile to VA-authorized health care appointments.

Program Authority

Section 307(a)(1) of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-163, required VA to “establish a grant program to provide innovative transportation options to veterans in highly rural areas.” VA implemented through regulations promulgated 38 C.F.R. §§17.700-730, Grants for Transportation of Veterans in Highly Rural Areas. Funds made available under this Notice are subject to the requirements of the regulations and other applicable laws and regulations.

V. Application Contents and Format

The application can be found at Grants.gov utilizing the “search by Assistance Listing number” function and entering in that search field the number 64.035. Questions should be referred to the Veterans Transportation Program (VTP) Office by e-mail at

HRTG@va.gov. For further information on Grants for Transportation of Veterans in Highly Rural Areas Program requirements, see the Final Rule published in the Federal Register ([78 FR 19586](#)) on April 2, 2013, which is codified in 38 C.F.R. §§ 17.700-17.730.

Pre-Application Materials

Not Applicable.

Application Components

The application includes the following required components:

- Program Narrative
- Timelines
- Budget Narrative
- Budget detail worksheet
- Information to complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF424): The SF424 is a standard form required for use as a cover sheet for submission of pre-applications, applications, and related information. Grants.gov takes information from the applicant's profile to populate the fields on this form.
- Program Narrative: Provide a detailed narrative of your program scope and specifically discuss the innovative modes and methods of transportation services to be provided. If the provision of transportation services will necessitate procurement or use of specific equipment, such equipment must be specifically listed.

Note on project evaluations: Applicants that propose to use funds awarded through this solicitation to conduct project evaluations should be aware certain project evaluations (such as systematic investigations designed to develop or contribute to knowledge) may constitute research. However, project evaluations intended only to generate internal improvements to a program or service or are conducted only to meet VA's performance measure data reporting requirements, likely do not constitute research. Research, for

the purposes of VA-funded programs, is defined as, “a systematic investigation, including research, development, testing, and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.” 38 C.F.R. § 16.102(l). In addition, research involving human subjects is subject to certain added protections, as set forth in 38 C.F.R. Part 16. Applicants should provide sufficient information for VA to determine whether certain project activities they propose would either intentionally or unintentionally collect and/or use information in such a way that it meets VA’s regulatory definition of research and thereby invoke the requirements and procedures set forth in 38 C.F.R. Part 16.

Indirect Cost Rates

Applicants may include indirect costs as part of their proposed budget. Applicants that have a previously negotiated indirect cost rate with a cognizant agency may utilize this rate when preparing and submitting a proposed budget. Those applicants that do not have a previously negotiated indirect cost rate may elect to apply for a de minimis rate of fifteen percent indirect costs. Applicants that do not have a previously negotiated rate but wish to establish a negotiated indirect cost rate should submit alongside their proposal an Indirect Cost Rate Proposal justifying and evidencing the applicant’s proposed indirect cost rate.

Formatting Requirements

Budget Detail Worksheet: A sample SF424A Budget Detail Worksheet can be found at Grants.gov. Please submit a budget and label it as “SF424A Budget Detail Worksheet.” The budget categories listed in the sample budget worksheet must be included if the budget is submitted in a different format.

Budget Narrative: The Budget Narrative should thoroughly and clearly describe every category of expense listed in the Budget Detail Worksheet. The narrative should be mathematically sound and correspond with the information and figures provided in the Budget Detail Worksheet. The narrative should explain how all costs are estimated and calculated and how they are relevant to the completion of the proposed project. The narrative may include tables for clarification purposes but need not be in a spreadsheet

format. As with the Budget Detail Worksheet, the Budget Narrative must be broken down.

Budget Brief (example):

1. Our organization requests _____ for the acquisition of _____ ADA-compliant van(s).
2. The total cost of the ADA-compliant van(s) is _____. This is the amount requested from VA.
3. Our organization will utilize _____ for innovative approaches for transporting Veterans. This is the amount requested from VA for a maximum of \$50,000.00.

Number of Copies Required: No paper submission will be accepted.

Signature Requirements: Signature of authorized representative will be required on electronic submissions certifying all statements are true, complete, and accurate to the best of their knowledge. Any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may be subject to criminal, civil or administrative penalties (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001).

Third-Party Requirements: If an application identifies a subrecipient that is either (1) a tribe or tribal organization or (2) a third party proposing to provide direct services or assistance to residents on tribal lands, then a current authorizing resolution of the governing body of the tribal entity or other enactment of the tribal council or comparable governing body authorizing the inclusion of the tribe or tribal organization and its membership must be included with the application. In those instances when an organization or consortium of tribes proposes to apply for a grant on behalf of a tribe or multiple specific tribes, then the application must include a resolution from all tribes that will be included as a part of the services/assistance provided under the grant. A consortium of tribes for which existing consortium bylaws allow action without support from all tribes in the consortium (i.e., without authorizing resolution or other enactment of each tribal governing body) may submit a copy of its consortium bylaws with the application to satisfy this requirement.

Additionally, if a grantee's submission identified a subrecipient/third party, such subrecipient/third party must operate the program in accordance with the provisions of the award.

VI. Submission Requirements and Deadlines:

Address to Request Application Package

Applications are submitted on Grants.gov and must be submitted as a complete package by the application deadline. Applications may not be sent by facsimile. Materials arriving separately will not be included in the application package for consideration and may result in the application being rejected. All applicable forms cited in the application description must be included.

UEI and SAM

Registration at SAM.gov and Grants.gov are required prior to submission. Applicants must have an EIN from the IRS, a UEI from SAM, and an active registration in SAM to be eligible. Entities must maintain active status in SAM throughout the application period. VA may not award a grant to an applicant if the applicant has not complied with the EIN, UEI, and SAM requirements.

For more information, see 2 C.F.R. parts 200 and 25 as well as [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov). Certain requirements also apply to subrecipients and contractors.

If an applicant is not compliant with the EIN, UEI, or SAM requirements at the time VA is ready to make an award, VA may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and may use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant or for making a different funding decision.

If awarded a grant, applicants must maintain compliance with EIN, UEI, and SAM requirements for the duration of the grant as a continuing condition of eligibility.

Information also is available in the [Before You Begin](#) section.

Submission Instructions

Applications will be submitted through Grants.gov. Complete instructions on how to register and submit a grant application can be found at www.grants.gov/quick-start-guide/applicants.

VA strongly encourages registering with Grants.gov several weeks before the deadline for application submission. Please visit the Grants.gov website and perform a search using the identifying information below to locate the funding opportunity. The Assistance Listing Number for this solicitation is 64.035, titled "Veterans Transportation Program" and the funding opportunity number is VA-HRTG-NEW-2026.

Applications must be consistent with this solicitation by following the directions in Grants.gov. The applicant should receive an e-mail validation message from Grants.gov within 24-48 hours after submitting the electronic application. The validation message will state whether the grant application has been received and validated or rejected with an explanation. **Important:** Applicants are urged to submit their applications at least 72 hours prior to the due date of the application to allow time to receive the validation message and to correct any problems that may have caused a rejection notification.

Applicants should anticipate failure to submit an application that contains all specified elements will result in the rejection of their application at the threshold review stage. Moreover, applicants should anticipate if applications are not adequately responsive to the scope of the solicitation, such as failure to include a program narrative, budget detail worksheet including a budget narrative, tribal resolution (if applicable), eligibly entity designation, or a list of the highly rural county or counties to be served, they will be rejected and receive no further consideration.

Submission Dates and Times

Grant applications under the Grants for Transportation of Veterans in Highly Rural Areas Program must be submitted to Grants.gov by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on May 5, 2026. In the interest of fairness to all competing applicants, this deadline is firm as to date and hour and with the single exception described below regarding unforeseen technical problems beyond the control of the applicant with the Grants.gov website, VA will treat any application submitted after the deadline that does not meet

the unforeseen technical problems exception as ineligible for consideration. Applicants should take this into account and submit their materials early to avoid any risk of loss of eligibility brought about by unanticipated delays, computer service outages or other delivery-related problems.

To ensure a fair competition for limited discretionary funds, the following conditions are not valid reasons to permit late submissions: (1) failure to begin the registration process in sufficient time; (2) failure to follow Grants.gov instructions on how to register and apply as posted on its website; (3) failure to follow all of the instructions in the VA solicitation; and (4) technical issues experienced with the applicant's computer or information technology (IT) environment. Notifications regarding known technical problems with Grants.gov, if any, are posted on the Grants.gov website.

Point of Contact for Technical Difficulties with Submission: If the applicant experiences technical difficulties at any point during this process, please call Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except Federal holidays.

If applicant experiences unforeseen Grants.gov technical issues beyond the applicant's control that prevents submission of its application by the deadline, the applicant **must** contact the VTP Office staff no later than 24 hours after the deadline and request approval to submit its application. At that time, VTP Office staff will instruct the applicant to submit specific information detailing the technical difficulties. The applicant must e-mail: a description of the technical difficulties; a timeline of submission efforts; the complete grant application; the applicant's Unique Entity Identifier number; and Grants.gov Help Desk tracking number(s) received. After the VTP Office reviews all the information submitted and contacts the Grants.gov Help Desk to validate the technical issues reported, VA will contact the applicant to either approve or deny the request to submit a late application. The application will be rejected as untimely if the technical issues reported cannot be validated.

Intergovernmental Review

Executive Order (E.O.) 12372 *Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs* was issued to foster intergovernmental partnership and strengthen federalism by relying on state and local processes for the coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance and direct Federal development. Some states require that applicants contact their State's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to comply with the state's process for fulfilling E.O. 12372. Generally, HRTG is not subject to EO 12372. To learn about a specific state's process, see the [single point of contact list](#).

Funded grantees are also required to comply with all applicable EOs.

VII. Application Review Information

Threshold Review

VA is committed to ensuring a fair and open process for awarding these grants. The VTP Office will review the grant application to make sure the information presented is reasonable, understandable, measurable, and achievable, as well as consistent with solicitation. Peer reviewers will conduct a threshold review of all applications submitted under this solicitation to ensure they meet all the critical elements, and all other minimum requirements as identified herein. The VTP Office may use either internal peer reviewers, external peer reviewers, or a combination to review the applications under this solicitation. An external peer reviewer is an expert in the field of the subject matter of a given solicitation who is NOT a current VA employee. An internal reviewer is a current VA employee who is well-versed or has expertise in the subject matter of this solicitation. Eligible applications will then be evaluated, scored, and rated by a peer review panel. Peer reviewers' ratings and any resulting recommendations are advisory only.

Review Criteria

VTP conducts a financial review of applications for potential discretionary awards to evaluate the fiscal integrity and financial capability of applicants; examines proposed costs to determine if the Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative accurately

explain project costs; and determines whether costs are reasonable, necessary, and allowable under applicable federal cost principles and agency regulations.

Absent explicit statutory authorization or written delegation of authority to the contrary, the Veterans Health Administration, through the VTP Office, will forward the reviewers' recommendations for award to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or designee, who will then review and approve each award decision. Such determinations by the Secretary or designee will be final. VA may also consider factors including but not limited to underserved populations; geographic diversity; strategic priorities; and available funding when making awards. Full review criteria are outlined below and available at [38 CFR 17.705\(a\)](#).

Scoring Criteria:

Selection of Grants for Transportation of Veterans in Highly Rural Areas is very competitive. Listed below are the scoring and selection criteria:

- A. VA will award up to 40 points (an applicant must score a minimum of 20 points) based on the program's plan for successful implementation, as demonstrated by the following:
 - a. Program scope is defined, and applicant has specifically indicated the mode(s) or method(s) of transportation services to be provided.
 - b. Program budget is defined, and applicants have indicated that grant funds will be sufficient to completely implement the program.
 - c. Program staffing plan is defined, and applicant has indicated that there will be adequate staffing for delivery of transportation services according to program scope.
 - d. Program timeframe for implementation is defined, and applicant has indicated that the delivery of transportation services will be timely.
- B. VA will award up to 30 points (an applicant must score a minimum of 15 points) based on the program's evaluation plan, as demonstrated by the following:
 - a. Measurable goals for determining the success of delivery of transportation services.

- b. Ongoing assessment of B(a), with a means of adjusting the program if required.
- C. VA will award up to 20 points (an applicant must score a minimum of 10 points) based on the applicant’s community relationships in the areas to be serviced, as demonstrated by the following:
- a. Applicant has existing relationships with state or local agencies or private entities, or will develop such relationships, and has shown these relationships will enhance the program’s effectiveness.
 - b. Applicant has established past working relationships with state or local agencies or private entities which have provided services like those offered by the program.
- D. VA will award up to 10 points (an applicant must score a minimum of 5 points) based on the innovative aspects of the program, as demonstrated by the following:
- a. How the program will identify and serve Veterans who otherwise would be unable to obtain care.
 - b. How the program will utilize or integrate existing public resources (VA, state, or other).

Criterion	Points (maximum)
1. Program Plan for Successful Implementation	40
2. Program Evaluation Plan	30
3. Community Relationships in Service Area	20
4. Innovative Aspects of the Program	10
TOTAL	100

Applicants must receive a minimum of 50 total points and points per category to be considered.

Review and Selection Process

VA will use the following process to award initial grants:

1. VA will rank those applications who receive at least the minimum number of total points (50) and points per category set forth in this Notice. The applications will be ranked in order from highest to lowest scores.
2. VA will use the applicant's ranking as the basis for selection for funding. VA will fund the highest ranked grantees for which funding is available.

Absent explicit statutory authorization or written delegation of authority to the contrary, the Veterans Health Administration, through the VTP Office, will forward the reviewers' recommendations for award to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or designee, who will then review and approve each award decision. Such determinations by the Secretary or designee will be final.

NOTE: There is a separate NOFO for renewal applications.

Risk Review

Prior to making an award, and at any time post-award, VA will conduct a business risk assessment in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.206. VA may ask applicants or grant recipients to submit additional information regarding their ability to manage Federal funds. The risk assessment may consider results of the applicant's eligibility (threshold review) or the quality of its application (merit review). If VA decides to make an award, VA may add specific conditions to the award corresponding to the degree of risk.

VA will review any available information, including its own records and any Office of Management and Budget-designated repository of Governmentwide eligibility or financial integrity information, such as [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov).

VA will comply with the requirements of 2 C.F.R. Parts 180 and 801.

Applicants may review and comment on any information in [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) about their organization. If the applicant comments on any [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) records, VA will consider the comment as part of the risk review.

VIII. Award Notices

After an applicant is selected for a grant in accordance with 38 C.F.R. § 17.705(a), VA will draft a grant agreement with the grantee. Upon execution of the grant agreement, VA will obligate the approved amount. The grant agreement will provide:

1. The grantee must operate the program in accordance with the provisions of this section and the grant application.
2. If a grantee's application identified a subrecipient, such subrecipient must operate the program in accordance with the provisions of this section and the grant application; and
3. If a grantee's application identified funds will be used to procure or operate vehicles to directly provide transportation services, the following requirements must be met:
 - a. Title to the vehicles must vest solely in the grantee or in the identified subrecipient or with leased vehicles in an identified lender.
 - b. The grantee or identified subrecipient must, at a minimum, provide motor vehicle liability insurance for the vehicles to the same extent they would ensure vehicles procured with their own funds;
 - c. All vehicle operators must be licensed in a U.S. State or Territory to operate such vehicles;
 - d. Vehicles must be safe and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations; and
 - e. Vehicles must be operated in accordance with applicable Department of Transportation regulations concerning transit requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Successful applicants will receive a grant agreement signed and dated by the VTP Program Office that will set forth the amount of the award and other pertinent information. The grant agreement is the legal document/instrument issued to notify the awardee that an award has been made and funds may be requested. It will also include

standard Terms and Conditions related to participation in the Program. The grant agreement will be electronically sent to the awardee organization as listed on its SF424. Note that any communication between the VTP Office and awardees prior to the issuance of the grant agreement is not authorization to begin performance on the project.

Successful applicants selected for awards must agree to comply with additional applicable legal requirements upon acceptance of an award. (VA strongly encourages applicants to review the information pertaining to these additional requirements prior to submitting a application). As to those additional requirements, please note that while the original grants were subject to additional legal requirements as set forth in 38 C.F.R. parts 43 and 49, those regulatory provisions have since been superseded by the Common Rule governing all Federal Grant Programs. The Common Rule is codified at 2 C.F.R. Part 200. Thus, grantees and identified subrecipients awarded grants under the Program must agree as part of their grant agreement to comply with all requirements of the Common Rule, as applicable.

By accepting the agreement, the recipient, and its executives, as defined in 2 C.F.R. § 170.300, certify that the recipient's policies are in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's guidance located at 2 C.F.R. Part 200, all applicable Federal laws, and Executive Orders.

Recipients will use the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Payment Management System for grant drawdowns. Instructions for submitting requests for payment may be found at <https://pms.psc.gov>.

Notice to Unsuccessful Applicants: Unsuccessful applicants will be notified of their status electronically to the applicant organization as listed on its SF424.

IX. Post-Award Requirements and Administration

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

After receiving funding, grant recipients must follow specific rules and regulations. This includes federal laws, program regulations, program requirements, Executive Orders, requirements outlined in this NOFO, and the terms and conditions outlined in the award

agreement. By submitting an application and signing the SF-424, applicants confirm that their entity will adhere to these requirements.

Reporting

All grantees will be required to submit progress reports throughout the period of performance detailing progress toward meeting grant objectives stated in the originally submitted proposal and in the Federal Grant Award Notification documents. Reporting and monitoring cadence and rigor are determined by a grantee's level of risk. A sample reporting schedule may include submission of bi-weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, or annual reports. Report submission may also require the use of designated software by the VTP Program Office.

Awardees must agree to cooperate with any VA evaluation of the program and provide required monthly, quarterly, annual, and final (at the end of the fiscal year) reports in a form prescribed by VTP. A final report consists of a summation of grant activities which include progress toward goals, financial administration of grant funds, and grant administration issues and barriers. Reports are to be submitted electronically. These reports must outline how grant funds were used, describe program progress and barriers, changes in personnel, other relevant grant activities, and progress toward measurable outcomes.

At a minimum, reports must include the following information:

- Veteran data and trip details;
- Record of time expended assisting with the provision of transportation services;
- Record of grant funds expended assisting with the provision of transportation services;
- Trips completed;
- Total distance covered;
- Veterans served;
- Locations which received transportation services; and
- Results of veteran satisfaction survey, as applicable.

Target measures will be based on timely reporting of the above performance metrics: Reporting must be received within 30 days after the quarter ends and 120 days after the end of the grant cycle.

Grantees will also be evaluated for participation and attendance of quarterly conference calls with VTP Office. Participants must attend at least three of the four scheduled quarterly meetings (75%).

Additional Post Award Reporting: VA may request additional reporting requirements allow VA to fully assess program effectiveness. Applicants should anticipate all recipients (excluding an individual recipient of Federal assistance) of awards of \$25,000.00 or more under this solicitation, consistent with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA), Pub. L. 109-282 (Sept. 26, 2006) will be required to report award information on the subaward reporting system of any first-tier subawards totaling \$25,000.00 or more, and, in certain cases, to report information on the names and total compensation of the five most highly compensated executives of the recipient and first-tier sub-recipients. Each applicant entity must ensure it has the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the reporting requirements should it receive funding.

It is expected that reports regarding subawards will be made through the FFATA Subaward Reporting System (FSRS) found at <https://www.fsrs.gov>. The FFATA Subaward Reporting System is the reporting tool Federal prime awardees (i.e., prime contractors and prime grants recipients) use to capture and report subaward and executive compensation data regarding their first-tier subawards to meet the FFATA reporting requirements. Prime contract awardees will report against sub-contracts awarded and prime grant awardees will report against sub-grants awarded. Prime contractors awarded a federal contract or order subject to Federal Acquisition Regulation clause 52.204-10 (Reporting Executive Compensation and First-Tier Subcontract Awards) are required to file a FFATA subaward report by the end of the

month following the month in which the prime contractor awards any subcontract greater than \$25,000.00.

Please also note applicants should anticipate no subaward of an award made under this solicitation may be made to a subrecipient subject to the terms of FFATA unless the potential sub-recipient acquires and provides a Unique Entity Identifier number.

Federal Financial Report (FFR): Awardees are required to submit the FFR SF425 on an annual basis. The FFR SF425 is available at www.grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/post-award-reporting-forms.

Audit Requirements: Awardees must comply with the audit requirements of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Uniform Guidance 2 C.F.R. Part 200 Subpart F. Information on the scope, frequency, and other aspects of the audits can be found on the internet at [2 C.F.R. Part 200 Subpart F](http://2.C.F.R.Part.200.Subpart.F).

Additionally, awardees must notify VA if they fall within the requirements of the Financial Management Risk Reduction Act enacted on December 23, 2024, in Pub. L 118-207.

Program Variations: Any changes in a grantee's program activities which result in deviations from the grant agreement must be reported to VA.

Monitoring

VTP is responsible for program monitoring of all selected awardees. All awardees will be required to cooperate in providing the necessary data elements to VTP. The goal of program monitoring is to ensure program requirements are met; this will be accomplished by tracking performance and identifying quality and compliance problems through early detection. Methods of program monitoring may include monitoring the performance of a grantee or subrecipient's personnel, procurements, and/or use of grant-funded property; collecting, analyzing data, and assessing program implementation and effectiveness; assessing costs and utilization; and providing technical assistance when needed. Site visit monitoring will include the above-mentioned activities, in addition to the conduct of safety assessments and, if applicable, verification of both current driver's licenses and vehicle insurance coverage.

X. Other Information

Pursuant to 38 C.F.R. § 17.730(a), VA may recover from the grantee any funds not used in accordance with a grant agreement. VA will issue to the grantee a notice of intent to recover grant funds, if VA decides to recover funds, and the grantee will then have 30 days to submit documentation demonstrating why the grant funds should not be recovered. VA will determine whether action will be taken to recover the grant funds after review of all submitted documentation. The grantee is then prohibited under 38 C.F.R. § 17.730(b) from receipt of any further grant funds when VA determines action will be taken to recover grant funds from the grantee.

Additionally, VA is required to ensure compliance with all applicable statutes, regulations, and Executive Orders when evaluating and awarding grants. In accordance with [Executive Order 14332, Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking](#), aside from the evaluation criteria published in this announcement, VA has discretion to remove from consideration any applicant VA deems does not demonstrably advance the President's or VA's priorities. VA will not fund activities that use racial preference for eligibility criteria or promote gender ideology. VA will not fund activities that promote or facilitate violations of immigration laws or are sources of waste, fraud, or abuse. VA will not tolerate activity or conduct by grant recipients that constitute acts of moral turpitude, are scandalous, or bring the recipient, the project funded by this grant, or VA into public disrepute, contempt, or ridicule.

Signing Authority

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs has delegated authority to the Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer to approve this document and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

RICHARD
TOPPING

 Digitally signed by RICHARD
TOPPING
Date: 2026.03.25 12:38:59 -04'00'

Richard F. Topping
*Assistant Secretary for Management/Chief Financial Officer
Department of Veterans Affairs*

XI. Appendices

Appendix A: Definitions

The regulations for the Highly Rural Transportation Grant Program, found in 38 C.F.R §§ 17.700-730, as well as the uniform guidance for grants (2 C.F.R. Part 200) contain all definitions, authorities, and requirements pertaining to this program. Selected and additional definitions are highlighted here for purposes of this NOFO:

- *Applicant* is an eligible entity that applies for a grant announced in a Notice of Funding Opportunity.
- *Eligible entity* is either a Veterans Service Organization or a State Veterans Service Agency.
- *Grantee* is an applicant that is awarded a grant under this NOFO.
- *Highly rural area* is an area consisting of a county or counties having a population of less than seven persons per square mile.
- *Participant* is a Veteran in a highly rural area who is receiving transportation services from a grantee.
- *Provision of VA medical care* means the provision of hospital or medical services as authorized under 38 U.S.C. §§ 1710, 1703, and 8153.
- *State Veterans Service Agency* means the element of a State government that has responsibility for programs and activities of that government relating to Veterans benefits.
- *Subrecipient* is an entity that receives grant funds from a grantee to perform work for the grantee in the administration of all or part of the grantee's program.
- *Transportation services* mean the direct provision of transportation, or assistance with transportation, to travel to VA medical centers and other VA or non-VA facilities in connection with the provision of VA medical care.
- *Veteran* is a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released there from conditions other than dishonorable.
- *Veterans Service Organization* is an organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the representation of Veterans under 38 U.S.C. § 5902.

Appendix B Relevant Resources

1. [Grants.gov](#)
2. [HHS website](#)
3. [SAM.gov](#)
4. [Uniform Guidance for Grants](#)
5. [Highly Rural Transportation Grant Website](#)