

collated copies) for assistance under the VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program must be received in Mental Health Strategic Healthcare Group, Washington, DC, by 5 pm Eastern Time on May 15, 1997. Applications may not be sent by facsimile (FAX). In the interest of fairness to all competing applicants, this deadline is firm as to date and hour, and VA will treat as ineligible for consideration any application that is received after the deadline. Applicants should take this practice into account and make early submission of their material to avoid any risk of loss of eligibility brought about by unanticipated delays or other delivery-related problems.

**FOR A COPY OF THE APPLICATION PACKAGE, CONTACT:** Veterans Industries, 10770 N. 46th Street (A 400), Tampa, FL, 33617-3465; (813) 228-2871 (this is not a toll-free call). For a document relating to the VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program, see the final rule codified at 38 CFR 17.700.

**SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION:** An original completed and collated grant application (plus three copies) must be submitted to the following address: Mental Health Strategic Healthcare Group (116), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Applications must be received in the Mental Health Strategic Healthcare Group by the application deadline.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Roger Casey, Theresa Hayes, or Victor Harris, VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program, Mental Health Strategic Healthcare Group (116), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420; (202) 273-8442/8445/8443 (these are not toll-free numbers).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This Notice announces the availability of funds for assistance under VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program. This program is authorized by Pub. L. 102-590, the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Service Programs Act of 1992. Funding applied for under this Notice may be used for: (1) Remodeling or alteration of existing buildings; (2) acquisition of buildings, acquisition and rehabilitation of buildings; (3) new construction. Applicants may apply for more than one type of assistance.

Although a separate notice will be published announcing fund availability for the Per Diem Component of the program, grant applicants seeking such assistance should indicate this request on the application submitted for a grant. The applicants who are awarded grants

will not be required to complete a separate application for per diem assistance. VA will review those portions of the grant application that pertain to per diem.

Grant applicants may not receive assistance to replace funds provided by any state or local government to assist homeless persons. For existing projects, VA will fund only the portion of the project that will house the new program or new component of an existing program. A proposal for an existing project that seeks to shift its focus by changing the population to be served or the precise mix of services to be offered is not eligible for consideration. No more than 25 percent of services available in projects funded through this grant program may be provided to clients who are not receiving those services as veterans.

**Authority.** VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program is authorized by Sections 3 and 4 of Pub. L. 102-590, the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Service Programs Act of 1992 (38 USC 7721 note) and has been extended through fiscal year 1997 by Public Law 104-110. The program is implemented by the final rule codified at 38 CFR Part 17.700. The final rule was published in the **Federal Register** on June 1, 1994 and February 25, 1995. Funds made available under this Notice are subject to the requirements of those regulations.

**Allocation.** Approximately \$3.3 million is available for the grant component of this program.

**Application Requirements.** The specific grant application requirements will be specified in the application package. The package includes all required forms and certifications. Conditional selections will be made based on criteria described in the application. Applicants who are conditionally selected will be notified of the additional information needed to confirm or clarify information provided in the application. Applicants will then have one month to submit such information. If an applicant is unable to meet any conditions for grant award within the specified time frame, VA reserves the right to not award funds and to use the funds available for other components of the Grant and Per Diem Program.

Dated: March 24, 1997.

**Jesse Brown,**

*Secretary of Veterans Affairs.*

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### **Advisory Committee on the Future of VA Long-Term Care**

The Department of Veterans Affairs gives notice that a meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Future of VA Long-Term Care will be held on April 29-30, 1997, at the Department of Veterans Affairs, in Room 230, located at 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. The purpose of the Committee is to provide professional advice on the present scope and structure of VA's long-term care services, and about changes necessary to ensure that services are available and effective in a future healthcare setting. The Committee will begin at 8:30 a.m. (EDT) until 5:00 p.m. (EDT) on April 29 and will begin at 8:30 a.m. (EDT) until 12:00 noon (EDT) on April 30.

The agenda for April 29 will begin with a review of the charge to the Committee and an overview of VA healthcare activities.

On April 30 the Committee will review information on utilization of VA long-term care services and address the issue of access to care and equity in A long-term care services.

The meeting will be open to the public. Those wishing to attend should contact Jacqueline Holmes, Program Assistant, Geriatrics and Extended Care Strategic Healthcare Group at 202-273-8539 not later than April 25, 1997.

Dated: March 27, 1997.

By Direction of the Secretary.

**Heyward Bannister,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

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### **VA Innovations in Nursing Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting**

As required by Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hereby gives notice that the third meeting of the VA Innovations in Nursing Advisory Committee will be held April 8-9, 1997, at VA Headquarters, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC. The April 8, 1997, session will be held in room 230 and convene at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 5:00 p.m. The April 9, 1997, session will be held in room 830 and convene at 8:00 a.m. and adjourn at 3:00 p.m.

The purpose of the Committee is to present recommendations to the Under Secretary for Health on how VA can generally promote and support health care innovations in which nurses play key leadership and clinical roles and which promote VA's reengineering efforts.