

Each business line desired to understand the components of the overall customer experience. Each VBA business line wanted to engage their Veteran population with relevant questions regarding their experience. The following outlines how that is approached with each of the lines of business.

The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published at Vol. 81, No. 187 on September 27, 2016, at pages 66328–66329.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Compensation and Pension Programs

During 2014 J.D. Power fielded three survey instruments for the Compensation and Pension programs. Discussions with stakeholders from both programs indicated that one survey instrument could be used for both Compensation and Pension *Enrollment* category claimants. In FY2015, Compensation and Pension identified the need to separate the *Enrollment* survey to better serve the business needs of each program.

The *Compensation Enrollment* survey pool for the VOV Continuous Measurement Study includes individuals who have received a decision on a compensation benefit claim within 30 days prior to the fielding period. This includes those who were found eligible on a new or subsequent claim and those who have been denied and lack a current appeal of the decision. The *Pension Enrollment* survey pool includes individuals who have received a decision on a pension benefit claim within the past 30 days. The *Compensation Servicing* survey pool includes individuals who received a decision and are receiving benefit payments. The *Pension Servicing* survey pool includes individuals who established and completed a claim in the previous fiscal year.

Education Program

J.D. Power fielded two survey instruments for Education Service. The *Education Enrollment* survey pool includes individuals who received a decision on their education benefit application within 90 days (*i.e.*, the original end-product was cleared within the past 90 days) prior to the fielding period. The *Education Servicing* survey pool includes beneficiaries who are currently receiving benefits. The definition of those receiving benefits varies based on the educational program. Chapter 33 beneficiaries who have received at least 2 payments for

“tuition” in the past 9 months are included in the survey pool. Chapter 30, Chapter 1606, and Chapter 1607 beneficiaries who have received 5 monthly payments during the past 9 months are included.

Loan Guaranty and Specially Adapted Housing Programs

J.D. Power fielded two survey instruments for Loan Guaranty Service. The survey pool for the tracking study for the *LGY Enrollment* questionnaire includes individuals from a 30 day period who closed on a VA home loan in the 90 days prior to the fielding period. The sample is stratified as follows: (1) Those who closed on purchase loans, (2) those who received loans for interest rate reductions, and (3) those who obtained cash out or other refinancing. The survey pool for the tracking study for the *SAH Servicing* questionnaire includes individuals who are eligible for a specially adapted housing grant and in the past 12 months have: (1) Received an approval on their grant and are currently somewhere in post-approval, (2) have had all their funds dispersed and final accounting is not yet complete, and (3) have had all of their funds dispersed and final accounting is complete.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program

J.D. Power fielded three survey instruments for Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Service (VR&E). The *VR&E Enrollment* survey pool includes individuals who applied within the last 12 months, entered Evaluation and Planning and (1) entered any of the following case statuses: Extended Evaluation, Independent Living (IL), Rehabilitation to Employment (RTE), or Job Ready Status (JRS) (excludes re-applicants), or (2) were found not entitled. The *VR&E Servicing* survey pool includes individuals who in the last 30 days were in a plan of services for more than 60 days, all rehabilitated participants, and MRGs. Participants who interrupted their plan are excluded. The VR&E Non-Participant survey explores why eligible individuals chose not to pursue the benefit entitlement. The *VR&E Non-Participant* questionnaire survey pool includes individuals who dropped out of the program prior to completing a rehabilitation plan. The sample is stratified as follows: (1) Applicants who never attended the initial meeting with a counselor, (2) applicants who were entitled to the program but did not pursue a plan of service, and (3) applicants who started, but did not

complete a rehabilitation plan (*i.e.*, negative closures).

The complete survey methodology is available as a supplemental document to this information collection: Voice of the Veteran Methodology FY17.

The FY15 Non Response Bias Reports are also attached. The FY16 reporting and Non Response Bias Reports will be made available upon completion.

Estimated Annual Burden: 32,701 hours per year for the life of the collection.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 15 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Once Annually (Respondents will not be surveyed more than once in a given year).

Estimated Number of Respondents: 130,800

By direction of the Secretary.

Cynthia Harvey-Pryor,

Department of Veterans Affairs, Program Specialist (005R1B), Office of Privacy and Records Management, Office of Information Technology.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Notice that Certain VA Homeless Providers Grants Will Be Terminated

AGENCY: VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program, Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

ACTION: Notice that certain VA homeless providers grants will be terminated.

SUMMARY: VA is announcing that all per diem funding for grants awarded during fiscal year (FY) 1994 through FY 2016 under VA’s Homeless Providers GPD will be terminated, in accordance with the grant award agreements. This does not apply to special need grants and Transition in Place (TIP) grants.

Prior to September 30, 2017, VA will offer the opportunity to compete for new grants through a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to grantees whose transitional housing and service center grants will be terminated. This will allow the Department and grantees to refocus programs and resources to better serve the homeless Veteran population.

DATES: December 19, 2016.

ADDRESSES: VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Field Office, 10770 North 46th Street Suite C–200, Tampa, Florida 33617

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Jeffery L. Quarles, Director, VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem

Program, Department of Veterans Affairs, 10770 North 46th Street Suite C-200, Tampa, Florida 33617; (toll-free) (877) 332-0334.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Notice announces that VA will terminate per diem payments to grantees for grants that were awarded under VA's Homeless Providers GPD Program from FY 1994 through FY 2016 in accordance with the grant award agreements (See End Date Adjustments). This does not apply to special need and TIP grants, as these grants were awarded with expiration dates. Additionally, VA will offer an opportunity to apply for new grants to these transitional housing and service center grantees under a new NOFA.

Rationale: Funding for the per diem component of the VA Homeless Providers Program is authorized by 38 U.S.C. 2013(7). Each FY the program's funding may be replenished up to a level authorized and appropriated by Congress. VHA must decide the level of funding to actually dedicate to this program from the available appropriated resources up to the 38 U.S.C. 2013(7) authorized amount. In the past, as funding was available, in order to facilitate a continued needed resource without possible interruption and encourage new applicants to serve homeless Veterans, VHA chose to authorize per diem for those operational grantees that met the requirements of 38 CFR 61.80 as verified by an annual inspection. Other benefits to VA and the community included defrayed costs and stability of housing resources by not subjecting the grantees to the GPD application process each fiscal year.

Many current grants were written when the homeless Veteran experience was far different than it is now (almost 20 years ago in some cases). These grants focused on services, length of stays, and end goals different from the current strategies in place to combat Veteran homelessness. Despite VA having allowed changes of scope to the grants, these changes were not able to keep pace with the rapidly changing homeless Veteran experience. VA now has at its disposal additional homeless programs that were not in existence previously and is working in conjunction with other Federal agencies to address homelessness among Veterans. While VA believes GPD will continue to have a significant presence in the cadre of homeless programs, the allocation of these grants needs to be updated to reflect the documented current need as well as to increase the flexibility to adapt to future needs.

Benefits of Termination: Through this termination and new application process, VA will be able to align awards and resources with the specific VA homeless goals, and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requirements in 2 CFR part 200. This also provides the opportunity for current grantees to align their services, treatment approach, and housing stock, while taking into account currently available resources and needs within their communities. By making the awards performance-based, VA will increase accountability and flexibility for both VA and grantees to adapt to changing environments.

Effects of Termination: All grantees must submit a close-out Federal Financial Report (SF425) within 90 calendar days after the end date of the period of performance, pursuant to 2 CFR 200.343. Any per diem over payments discovered will be recovered per VA financial policy.

OMB has, pursuant to its authority under 2 CFR 200.102, approved VA's request to grant a class exception to the real property provisions of 2 CFR 200.311(c) to recipients that would be subject to those requirements based on the planned restructuring of the VA Homeless Providers GPD Program.

The exception is limited to current capital grantees that choose to reapply under the separate FY 2017 NOFA and are unsuccessful, and those current capital grantees that are successful, but do not receive subsequent option year funding. These grantees will not be subject to the requirements of 38 CFR 61.67 or the real property disposition requirements of 2 CFR 200.311(c).

Current capital grantees that choose not to reapply in response to this NOFA, or who apply and do not meet the threshold requirements for scoring as outlined in the NOFA and regulation, will be subject to the recapture requirements of 38 CFR 61.67 and, if applicable, the real property disposition requirements of 2 CFR 200.311(c).

Proposed Termination Dates for Grantees: If an existing grantee does not apply for a GPD grant under the new NOFA, VA would like to terminate the applicable grant agreement on September 30, 2017. If an existing grantee does apply and is successful, VA would like to terminate the applicable grant agreement on September 30, 2017. If your agency applies and is not selected, in the interest of transitioning Veterans remaining in those non-selected programs, VA would like to terminate the grant payments no later than December 31, 2017.

Authority: 38 U.S.C. 2011, 2012, 2013, 2061, and in regulation at 2 CFR 200.311(c), 2 CFR 200.343, 38 CFR part 61.

Signing Authority

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or designee, approved this document and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Gina S. Farrisee, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs, approved this document on December 19, 2016, for publication.

Dated: December 19, 2016.

Jeffrey Martin,

Office Program Manager, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Office of the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Funding Availability: Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Health Administration (VHA), VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program.

ACTION: Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).

SUMMARY: VA is announcing the availability of per diem funds to currently operational GPD grantees which have their current transitional housing grants under VA's Homeless Providers GPD Program whose grants are scheduled to be terminated as discussed in an accompanying **Federal Register** notice. VA expects to fund 24 existing service centers and 12,000 beds with this NOFA for applicants who will operate service centers or use one or a combination of the following housing models: Bridge Housing, Low Demand, Respite Care, Clinical Treatment, and Service-Intensive Transitional Housing.

DATES: An original signed and dated application for assistance (plus two completed collated copies) for VA's Homeless Providers GPD Program and associated documents must be received by the GPD Program Office by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 (see application requirements below).

ADDRESSES: Grant applications must be submitted to the following address: VA Homeless Providers GPD Program Office, 10770 N. 46th Street, Suite C-200, Tampa, Florida 33617.