

The American Legion, Department of New York Request for Proposal (RFP) Veteran Suicide and Homelessness Prevention

GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Purpose. The American Legion, Department of New York has established a separate and new grant program to encourage New York State non-profits, public corporations, charitable organizations, and municipalities bringing tangible aid, assistance, and research to our at-risk veteran population in New York State, to re-imagine their work through collaboration, partnerships and even merger and acquisition with other not-for-profit organizations. This grant program will award funding to support programs directed at Veterans suicide and homelessness prevention.

1. Veteran Suicide Prevention. Given the troubling rise in the active military and veteran suicide rate in the past decades, suicide prevention research remains an urgent priority.
 - 1) Projects aimed at identifying individuals most at risk for suicide
 - 2) Understanding the causes of suicide risk
 - 3) Developing suicide prevention interventions
 - 4) Develop and improve effective treatments
 - 5) How to best implement suicide prevention and intervention programs in different settings, including health care, community, and the justice system
2. Veteran Homelessness Prevention. Collaborative community efforts are needed to address the many causes of homelessness and other challenges that lead to housing instability. Community-based allies can leverage their own assets—to expand Veterans’ access to affordable housing, meaningful employment, household items, transportation resources and other services. Together, we can end and prevent homelessness among Veterans.
 - 1) Conducting coordinated outreach to proactively seek out Veterans in need of assistance.

- 2) Connecting homeless and at-risk Veterans with housing solutions, health care, community employment services and other required supports.
 - 3) Collaborating with federal, state, and local agencies; employers; housing providers, faith-based and community nonprofits; and others to expand employment and affordable housing options for Veterans exiting homelessness.
- B. Description of Entity. The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans' organization devoted to mutual helpfulness and committed to mentoring youth and sponsoring wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and the continued devotion to our fellow servicemembers and veterans. The American Legion membership eligibility is composed of veterans of the United States armed forces who served since December 7, 1941, and honorably discharged or still serving today. This entity submitting this RFP is the New York State division of The American Legion. The Department's programs include Veterans' Services, Sons of the American Legion Detachment of New York (the "S.A.L."), youth and other programs.
- C. This RFP is not a contract or commitment of any kind by the Department of New York and does not commit the Department of New York to award an exclusive option or to pay any costs incurred in the submission of a response. The Department of New York at its sole discretion, reserves the right to accept or reject in whole or in part, any or all proposals received in response to this request and the right to waive any informalities in a proposal.
1. Instructions on Grant Submission. Grant submission date. This RFP is effective October 1, 2021, and will close when all funding has been committed.
 2. Grant submissions shall include at a minimum:
 - 1) Executive Summary
 - 2) Organization description and history
 - 3) Need statement
 - 4) Project objectives
 - 5) Project description
 - 6) Evaluation section
 - 7) Other funding and sustainability
 - 8) Project budget
 3. Grant submissions shall be submitted to James Casey, Department Adjutant, via email at, jim@nylegion.org.

4. Inquiries and questions concerning the RFP should be directed via email to Department Adjutant Jim Casey.
5. Notification of decision. It is expected that a decision selecting a successful Respondent will be made no later than 45 days after receipt of a Grant application. Communication will be sent to all Respondents.

D. Evaluation.

1. An evaluation of each proposal will be conducted by the Department Adjutant and Department Veterans Services Team.
2. Final approval and funding will be conducted by the Department Finance Committee and the Department Executive Committee.
3. The Department will review and evaluate each proposal and, at its discretion, may request meetings with certain Grantors.
4. Grant funds cannot be used for capital expenses for equipment or facility renovations.
5. The Department reserves the right to negotiate a best and final offer with applicants selected.
6. All information received by The Department during this process should be considered confidential and shall be protected to the utmost ability of all parties.