

Date: 24 Feb. 2023
To: Huerfano County Board of County Commissioners
From: Destry DeWolf, Veteran Service Officer
Cc: Carl Young, County Administrator
Re: CO Veterans Assistance Grant (VAG), Project Outreach and Sustainment
Attachments: Huerfano VAG application packet 2023, VAG Narrative, Huerfano Budget and narrative 2023, Huerfano Pre-Award Assessment, Vet office budget

Summary: Application for a VAG in the sum of \$20,200 for veteran infrastructure. Grant will cover transportation, emergencies, and outreach to veterans and their families.

Requested Action; I, Destry DeWolf/County VSO, request the following actions from the commissioners:

Approval to submit grant application packet to the State Veteran Assistance Grant Board. Chairman Galusha, Commissioner Andreatta, and Commissioner Sporleder; I am asking for your approval to submit this VAG application for the Huerfano Outreach and sustainment program. Final grant approval and disbursement is from the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for the amount of \$20,200 to be used for veteran; VA medical transportation, emergencies, and outreach. The grant funds will be used only for these means after authorization by a two-party system with one being the VSO.

Grant Program: The overarching goal of the Veterans Assistance Grant is to support organizations in meeting community defined needs of veterans, ultimately resulting in improved health and well-being for veterans in the State of Colorado. The Department is especially interested in receiving applications from programs focused on a behavioral health approach.

The expected outcomes include enhanced self-sufficiency and economic stability, increased access to health and behavioral healthcare, stable housing and supportive services, increased food security, enhanced relationships and overall well-being.

Our Project: The state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs offers grants to assist nonprofit and lower government bodies by giving financial assistance to Colorado veterans and their families via the CO Veterans Assistance Grant. The assistance, if granted, will be used to pay for transportation to and from VA authorized medical appointments for those veterans that cannot, or feel that they cannot drive to VA appointment(s). This will be completed by using the contract already in place between Huerfano and Alamosa counties, or by utilization and upkeep (per use) of the 'airport bus' that was purchased by the county for outdoor recreation programs and the Veteran Service office use.

Secondary use of the funds will be a county veteran or widow to be provided; potable water (max 600gl) and transportation to veteran occupied domicile's cistern, or liquid propane (LP) up to 100gl to veteran occupied domicile's LP tank, or any other unforeseen emergency verified by the VSO and one of the following county offices; DHS, BoCC, Sheriff.

Tertiary use of funds will be used for VSO outreach to veterans in Gardner, La Veta, and Walsenburg. Outreach will consist of group meetings to discuss; VA/federal benefits, state benefits, Q&A, mental and physical wellbeing, legislature updates (e.g., PACT Act, Agent Orange/Blue Water), cohort and camaraderie activities along with light refreshments (no alcohol).

The grant will be formulated by the state VAG board and may be granted in full, partial, or not at all. According to the state veteran grant office, the timeframe to submit the packet is March first,

and to announce award in the month of June, is to be expected. From award date to having the ability for disbursement of grant funds is unknown.

The funds, whether received in whole or part, will be available for one calendar year. If grant funds are depleted, no other county funds are to be used. The county Veteran Service Office will control requests and disbursement of authorized grant funds. The VSO will also maintain a detailed report of all funds distributed in whole and/or by request of county agency identified emergency.

Alignment with County Objectives: Initiation of this program hopes to provide assistance to our county's veteran population for their service and to help relieve the stress of their ailments from serving this great country. With the aging population of veterans in Huerfano County, this grant allows for the continuance of social change and respect for those that gave up their freedom to protect those of this country for their freedoms. The current norm in these United States is forgetting or not dedicating help to our elders, especially those that bequeathed their health and sanity for this county, country, and for the liberation to be free through the world. Veteran health, safety, and financial security is the mainstay of every Veteran Service Officer and their department.

Financial Considerations: This grant is written for a sum of \$20,200. The grant is paid out in advance and is checked by the BoCC quarterly and with the possibility of the state conducting an independent inquiry also.

Background: Often overlooked and forgotten, Huerfano county has had a history of shortfalls in supporting its inhabitants due to the lack of state and federal funding in support thereof. U.S. military veterans are the minority of consideration when it comes to the overall health of a societal environment because many vets tend to sit back and not complain or expel their grievances because of the ways of the military has taught them not to or are just tired of fighting. This grant and program will provide an "open door" that may unleash a thriving and loving community where veterans set the standard for others to follow because when we take care of our needy, the community as a whole succeeds.

Signature of the Chair

Approved Denied



**VETERANS ASSISTANCE GRANT
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Applications due: March 01, 2023

Submit to: grant.submission@dmva.state.co.us

**PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS-Application
instructions contain NEW INFORMATION**

Questions?

Please contact Lisa.Stamm@dmva.state.co.us

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Veterans Assistance Grant (VAG) was established by the State General Assembly to provide services that enhance the health and well-being of veterans who live in Colorado. Formerly known as the One Year Grant, the VAG is funded through appropriations by the General Assembly.

In 2014, the grant program was established in the Colorado Statute, Section 28-5-712, C.R.S. to provide ongoing funding for the Veterans Assistance Grant Program through annual appropriations. These funds are to be used for services that increase over-all well-being, such as mental health services, family counseling, job training, employment, housing for homeless veterans and other types of assistance. Nonprofit organizations and governmental entities that serve Colorado veterans are eligible to apply for funds. Nonprofits must be in good standing with the Colorado Secretary of State and be recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c) tax-exempt organization, other than a 501(c) 19 or 23. Nationally recognized veterans organizations should apply for the VTF grant.

The grant is administered by the Colorado Division of Veterans Affairs (Division) and the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs in consultation with the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs (Board). The Division develops guidelines and standards including the form of application, criteria for identifying qualified applicants, criteria for selecting appropriate grantees, the term and amounts of grants awarded, and standards for determining the effectiveness of veterans programs that receive a Veterans Assistance Grant. A Grant Review Committee comprised of Division staff and Board members review applications and make funding recommendations. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs approves and awards all grants.

The Division is responsible for administering the program within the statutory requirements and Department guidelines. Administration activities include processing applications, assisting with grant decisions, and providing management and oversight of all awarded grants.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The overarching goal of the Veterans Assistance Grant is to support organizations in meeting community defined needs of veterans, ultimately resulting in improved health and well-being for veterans in the State of Colorado. The Department is especially interested in receiving applications from programs focused on a behavioral health approach.

The expected outcomes include enhanced self-sufficiency and economic stability, increased access to health and behavioral healthcare, stable housing and supportive services, increased food security, enhanced relationships and overall well-being.

REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility

The Veterans Assistance Grant is available to both nonprofit and governmental entities. Nonprofits must be in good standing with the Colorado Secretary of State and be recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c) tax-exempt organization other than a 501(c) 19 or 23. Current (within 5 years) proof of non-profit status (determination or affirmation) must be included with the grant request.

Programs and projects

Eligibility includes programs and projects located in Colorado that provide direct assistance to meet the needs of veterans and their dependents living in Colorado. Veterans whose character of service is other than Dishonorable are eligible for services under this program.

Terms and limitations

An organization may apply for only one grant per funding cycle. An organization may not receive funding from both the VAG and Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) grant programs. Administrative costs including staff positions, overhead or indirect rates, construction or capital costs are not allowed. Memorials, club renovations, honor guards, and tributes to veterans are not included in the VAG grant program. Applicant organizations must directly provide services themselves; pass-through funding is not permitted. **The maximum allowable grant award will be \$100,000, THIS INCLUDES PROGRAM COSTS.** Grant funds cannot be used to supplant current funding of existing activities. "Supplanting" is defined as replacing existing funds of a program or project with funds from this grant program.

Applications

Only one application per organization will be considered. Original, signed applications (NOT electronic signatures) must be received by 3:00pm **March 1, 2023**. **ONLY electronic submissions will be accepted.** Applications MUST be submitted to: grant.submission@dmva.state.co.us Applications submitted via mail will **NOT** be accepted. **You are encouraged to set up receipt confirmation on your email.** All of the required elements must be included utilizing provided templates, formats, and parameters. Applications must be complete and in compliance at the time of submission. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Required elements are:

- Application Form
- Program Detail Narrative
- Total Agency Operating Budget
- Budget that includes a Budget Narrative
- Pre-Award Questionnaire
- Proof of current and valid Nonprofit Status (IRS designation or affirmation letter)
- Current certificate of Good Standing with Secretary of State
- Current IRS form W-9 (signed and dated)

Application materials should be submitted as two (2) attachments. Please see details for each attachment.

Questions may be referred to the Grant Administrator by phone at 720-628-1480 or by emailing lisa.stamm@dmva.state.co.us.

John Galusha, Chairman
Arica Andreatta, Commissioner
Karl Sporleder, Commissioner



HUERFANO COUNTY GOVERNMENT GRANT APPROVAL MEMORANDUM

APPLICATION

Only complete applications received by the deadline of **March 1, 2023** will be considered. The required forms for 2023-2024 VAG Grant are attached. Where forms are not required follow the format specifications.

Email to: grant.submission@dmva.state.co.us

Mail delivery or Hand deliveries are not possible at this time and will not be accepted. Ensuring that applications are received by the grants office by the deadline is the responsibility of the applicant.

- I. 2023-2024 VAG Grant Application Form (*form attached*)
 - a. Submit original copy of the entire grant application
 - b. Must include an original signature of the authorized representative

- II. Program Narrative (*guidelines attached*)
 - a. Use attached guidelines
 - b. Complete on a separate sheet
 - c. Keep statements **brief** while fully addressing each criterion
 - d. Lines must be double spaced
 - e. Use Times Roman 12-point font
 - f. Use one-inch margins
 - g. Use boldface type and/or all caps only for captions and headings
 - h. Use the provided headings and subcategories as outlined under the narrative guidelines

- III. **Program Costs**
 - a. An applicant may ask for up to 10% of the project budget for program costs. Programmatic costs are directly tied to the delivery of the project, service, or activity undertaken by a grantee to achieve an outcome intended by the funding program. These expenses are directly related to the provision of program activities. Staffing expenses that are necessary to implement a project supported with the grant award, can be included. Allowable costs consist of the following:
 1. **Project Materials:** Must be defined and requires invoices/receipts for payment
 2. **Program/staff salaries:** Must submit all other funding and amounts to ensure there is no supplanting. Please describe how position was previously funded.
 3. **Equipment,** under \$5,000.00

4. **Supplies:** Must be defined and requires invoices/receipts for payment
5. **Travel:** Must follow state travel rule- mileage rate and per diem- requires mileage/travel forms
6. **Outreach:** Must be clearly defined

Submit all items in I and II as one attachment labeled Attachment 1

- IV. Appendix Documents
- a. Proof of current (within the last 5 years) Nonprofit Status (designation or affirmation letter from IRS)
 - b. Copy of certificate of good standing with the Colorado Secretary of State
 - c. Completed current IRS W9 Form with EIN number
 - d. Pre-Award Assessment Form (*form attached*)

Submit all Appendix documents as one attachment labeled Attachment 2

Do not submit any other documents

EVALUATION

Initial screening of each application is performed by the Division's grant administrator to assess both eligibility and completeness. Ineligible and incomplete applications will be returned. Those that are eligible and complete will progress to evaluation.

Applications are evaluated by a committee comprised of the Division Director, Grant Administrator, and members of the Board. Participating Board members are appointed by the Board chairman. This group determines funding recommendations utilizing an objective scoring tool and considering both the monies available to allocate and geographic distribution factors. Scoring considerations are as follows:

- Need – considers the extent to which the applicant establishes the need for the specific services to be delivered through a discussion of:
 - the estimated numbers of veterans in the specified target area with the data source clearly identified,
 - existing service gaps which present a compelling need for services to be delivered,
 - estimated number of veterans in need of the services to be delivered (20 points)
- Local partnerships – considers the extent to which the applicant demonstrates partnerships or collaborative approaches, establishing linkages for a variety of services and eliminating duplication of efforts (10 Points)
- Number of veterans – considers the identified number of veterans (unduplicated) to be served as supported by the number of veterans in the target area, the level of services to be delivered, and the program budget (10 Points)
- Outcomes and effectiveness – considers the applicant's clearly identified expected outcomes (expected changes) as a result of the project and measurable objectives including outputs (number to be served) (15 Points)
- Historical information on program effectiveness - considers quantitative information such as the number of veterans previously served by the organization as a whole and/or via the program or services identified in the application as well as qualitative information regarding the program's effectiveness in achieving identified outcomes. (15 Points)
- Previous administrative performance – for existing grantees considers administrative performance including timeliness and compliance; for new grantees considers capability and history of services offered to veterans (10 Points)
- Budget appropriateness – considers whether the budget request is reasonable and appropriate for the services to be delivered, the outcomes expected and the number of veterans to be served (10 Points)
- Geographic distribution – considers applicants and veterans population served by mapping to ensure the broadest possible coverage of the state and to identify duplicate services in a given area or region (10 Points)
- Available funds – considers total funds available, total funds requested, the number of applications, the geographic distribution of applicants, and the number and types of programs in region

Applications scoring fewer than 60 points will not be considered. Funding recommendations and accompanying applications are forwarded to the Director of Veterans Affairs or their designee, a CBVA Board member or their designee, and the DMVA Grants Administrator for evaluation. Recommendations are forwarded to the Adjutant General for approval. The decision of the Adjutant General is final.

GRANT AWARDS

Applications may be funded in full or part. Funding thresholds may be established based upon the following factors: Risk assessment, Previous Compliance or Utilization of Grant Funds, track record or Capacity for New grantees, and availability of funds. A Letter of Intent and grant agreements will specify any limitations placed on partial funding.

When an award has been granted the grantee organization will receive a letter of instruction (LOI) and terms and conditions of the agreement. These documents will be emailed to the authorized representative identified in the application. The grant agreement is a unilateral agreement. By signing and submitting an application, the applicant agrees to accept the terms and conditions if awarded. The grant Agreement document finalizes that agreement with specific terms. Expenses are not eligible for reimbursement prior to the date that the agreement is fully executed or 01 July, whichever is later.

The grantee will also receive a grant handbook that contains an explanation of VAG grant processes and procedures. The authorized representative, program contact and other involved individuals will be required to attend a grantee webinar training at the beginning of the grant period. Attendance is MANDATORY and funds will be frozen if the webinar training is not attended. Grantees must notify the Grant Administrator, in writing via an official letter any changes to the named individuals responsible for the grant.

Funds will be reimbursed when grantees have expended organizational funds for grant purposes. In most cases the grantee will utilize organizational funds and request reimbursement of those funds from the department after providing acceptable proof of expenditures. Grantees must submit back-up documentation for expenditures such as a copy of the check and corresponding invoice, bill or receipt. Reimbursements lacking proper back-up documentation will be denied.

In the event the organization does not have sufficient organizational funds, an advance of funds may be requested. The authorized representative must submit a written request that clearly justifies the need for advance payment. Advance funds must be fully accounted for within 90 days.

Performance Progress Report Forms will be included in the grant agreement package. Regardless of the date the grant is awarded and funds dispersed, quarterly reports are due to the Department on October 15; January 15; April 15, and a close out report July 15. Reports must include number of veterans served, number of unduplicated veterans served, the number of instances of services, average instances per individual, services provided, how they were served, measures of effectiveness, satisfaction survey data, accomplishments and successes, and a summary of all expenditures made during the reporting period. Any final requests for reimbursement of expenses must be received by the Department by June 20 of the grant agreement period.



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
Division of Veterans Affairs

2023-2024 VAG Grant Application Form

Legal Name of Organization:

Huerfano County Veteran Service Officer

DBA (if applicable)

Mailing Address (include physical address if different):

401 Main Street Ste. 303

Walsenburg, CO. 81089

Website: 719-738-3000 xVET

719-738-3996

<https://huerfano.us/departments/veterans-services/>

Organization Email Address:

ddewolf@huerfano.us

Name of Authorized Representative:

Destry DeWolf

Title of Authorized Representative:

County Veteran Service Officer

Phone:

719-738-3000 xVET

ddewolf@huerfano.us

Program Contact (person responsible for the day to day operation of program or services to be funded):

Destry DeWolf

Contact Title:

Veteran Service Officer

Phone:

719-738-3000 xVET

ddewolf@huerfano.us

Email:

Amount of Request

\$20,200

Organization Information

Mission Statement:

The VSO helps active and retired veterans with obtaining their benefits. This includes personal military records, military proof-of-service, help and filing VA claim and pension applications, grave marker and burial benefits, G.I. Bill/Post 911 Bill education applications and employment, adaptive housing applications, and survivor benefits.

Geographic Area Served (specific to this proposal):

Huerfano County, Colorado and surrounding counties.

County owned airport-type minibus that is half-used to supply transit to VA medical appointments for veterans up the Front Range VA offices and back to station. Costs will cover fuel, maintenance, and volunteer driver subsidy for VSO authorized use of vehicle only. Secondary use of funds will be for emergency assistance to qualified local veterans for various emergent needs, e.g., food, short-term temporary shelter, fuel, trucked in water for household cisterns, and various family emergencies that will be confirmed through the Board of County Commissioners, Fire Dept., or Sherriff Dept . Tertiary uses will be for the initiation and sustainment for a group meet once a month for Huerfano Veterans to share stories, do hobbies, and provide light refreshments during said meeting.

Typed Name of Authorized Representative/Title

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
Division of Veterans Affairs



2023-2024 VAG GRANT APPLICATION NARRATIVE GUIDELINES

- I. **Organization description**
 - a. Identify the type of organization
 - b. Identify the veteran services provided

II. Statement of need (20 Points)

- a. Identify the specific need for this program or project as evidenced by the estimated number of veterans in the specific target area. Provide the data source (census data, VA estimates, previous utilization of services, Point in Time surveys or other data sources utilized to arrive at the number) and clearly identify the target area (city, county, region, statewide, etc.)
- b. Identify existing service gaps, previous utilization of services, address any duplication of services by other providers, and any other data or information that establishes a compelling need

III. Number of Veterans to Be Served (10 Points)

- a. Identify the number of unduplicated veterans to be served as supported by the number of veterans in the target area, the level of services to be delivered, and the program budget.

IV. Local Partnerships (10 Points) - describe collaborative approaches and partnerships with County Veterans Services and other veteran service organizations to address the identified need without duplication of efforts

V. Project Description/Program Effectiveness (15 Points)

- a. Explain the program or project including the issues and/or opportunity to be addressed
- b. Explain the activities and/or services to be delivered
- c. Identify the unduplicated number of veterans expected to be served
- d. Provide historical data on the number of veterans previously served

VI. Evaluation and outcomes (15 Points)

- a. Describe the impact/outcomes of the services, including measurable projections
- b. Identify the outputs/total number to be served
- c. Include a statement of willingness to participate in Division evaluation requirements
- d. **If you are a current grantee, include cumulative survey data.**

VII. Budget (10 Points)

- a. Include a Line Item Budget and Budget Narrative that clearly identifies estimated expenses, estimated numbers and purpose for funds.
- b. Identify any other sources of funding to be utilized for program (NARRATIVE)
- c. Provide overall agency budget (NARRATIVE)
- d. Describe how the budget request is appropriate for the services to be delivered, the outcomes expected and the number of veterans to be served. (NARRATIVE)

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Division of Veterans Affairs
6848 S. Revere Parkway
Centennial, Colorado 80112
Phone (720) 628-1480



2023-2024 VAG GRANT BUDGET AND BUDGET NARRATIVE EXAMPLE

	TOTAL
Rent/Housing Assistance 20 Veterans @ \$1,000/each	\$20,000
Assistance to veterans to remain housed and prevent homelessness	
Each veteran is capped at a maximum of \$500	
Second requests results in referral to Financial/Budgeting Program	
Utility Assistance 30 Veterans @ \$100/each	\$ 3,000
Assistance to veterans to pay arrears for gas and electric services, or purchase of propane or firewood. Assistance is capped at \$100	
Second request results in referral to Financial/Budgeting Program	
Food/Gas cards 50 Veterans @ \$50/each	\$ 2,500
Purchase of food or gas cards for emergency assistance	
Second requests result in referrals to Financial/Budgeting Program	
Emergency Assistance 30 Veterans @ \$150/each	\$ 4,500
Provide assistance for needs that are unanticipated	
Program Costs	
10% of program budget	\$4,000.00
Office Assistant to assist veteran needs – please refer to budget narrative	
Mental Health Therapy 25 Veterans @ \$100/session x 4 sessions	<u>\$10,000</u>
For mental health therapy not available through the VA	
Total Request	\$44,000

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
Division of Veterans Affairs



2023-2024 VAG APPLICATION ATTACHMENTS

Include each attachment and provide in the order listed

ATTACHMENT 1

1. Program Narrative

Include all items listed I – VII as identified in this application

2. Line item budget with budget narrative

Include items listed in VII as identified in this application including all expenses estimated for the program or project. Cost estimates must include the method of calculation. Explain the requested line items, including the specific purpose. If a request is for a vehicle, or piece of equipment which exceeds \$5,000 then an approved bid sheet must accompany the grant request. ***You may request up to 10% of your project budget for program costs. Programmatic costs are directly tied to the delivery of the project, service, or activity undertaken by a grantee to achieve an outcome intended by the funding program.**

3. Identify other sources of funding

Include all other revenue that will support this program or project and identify the funding source.

*****Include overall agency budget.**

ATTACHMENT 2

4. Current proof of federal tax-exempt status

Also called a Letter of Determination or Affirmation Letter from the IRS. This letter must be dated within the last five years.

5. Certificate of Good Standing with Secretary of State

Include current certificate

6. Current IRS W-9 form

Also called Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification. Must be dated and signed.

7. Pre-Award assessment form

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
Division of Veterans Affairs



2023-2024 VAG APPLICATION CHECKLIST Please do not include in your application submission

The Veterans Assistance Grant application consists of the following components, which should be submitted in the order listed below. This checklist is provided to help ensure a complete proposal. This checklist does not need to be submitted with the proposal, it is for your use only.

- 2023-2024 VTF Grant Application Form
- Narrative: Use the parameters and guidelines in the instructions
- Budget: Line item budget and narrative-
- Other sources of funding that support the program or project- **INCLUDE OVERALL AGENCY BUDGET**
- Proof of IRS federal tax-exempt status dated within the last five years
- Current Certificate of Good Standing with Secretary of State
- Current W-9
- Pre-Award Questionnaire

APPLICATION TRAINING

**Please check our website for application training dates
and webinar link.**

[Home | Department of Military and Veterans Affairs \(colorado.gov\)](#)

****Please plan to attend at least one training session. We will highlight all new information this year during our application training! Examples will be provided.*

**For 1:1 application technical assistance, please contact
Lisa Stamm for an appointment at:**

Lisa.Stamm@dmva.state.co.us

2023-2024 VAG GRANT APPLICATION

I. **Organization description**

- a. Huerfano County Veteran Services Office's direct veteran assistance program.
- b. This office services the veterans of Huerfano County and the State of Colorado with direction and guidance of benefit advisory, help obtaining mental and physical health opportunities, financial assistance and home loans, compensation and pension, educational and career rehabilitation, and other benefits the federal Veterans Administration offers. The office also distributes information and help with obtaining state benefits like State Park memberships for veterans, Disabled Veteran vehicle registration plates, and state veteran cemetery burials.

II. **Statement of need**

- a. Huerfano County is in dire need for assistance to veterans for the county has very limited income as one of the poorest counties in Colorado. The local veteran population are mostly aged (55+) and are in need of transportation to and from VA appointed medical visits. With a veteran population of the county is 790 (+/- 3%), taken from the 2022 U.S. Census, and the average clientele according to the County Veteran Service Officer (VSO). Approximately 1/3 of the county veteran population live alone by way of being widowed or otherwise without family nearby for assistance.
- b. County low-income veterans are occasionally in need of financial support during winter months or during a financial crisis. During these times, county veterans often plead for assistance from the county VSO. With limited tax-appropriated income for the county, there are no additional funds to help with their veteran constituents. Grant funds are the

- only way to get help to these veterans without traveling to or awaiting a lengthy approval from nonprofit agencies during emergencies. The local sheriff department, state department of Human Services (DHS), or Board of County Commissioners can immediately approve appropriately approved financial assistance from the county VSO (as a secondary official) for disbursement of funds and accounting for how many times the veteran uses the service, as not to be abused.
- c. Finally, some funds used by the county VSO will be for outreach to county veterans in the form of group meetings with the veterans in three primary locations within the county (Walsenburg, La Veta, and Gardner). Every outreach will include; benefit review and explanation, question and answer sessions, official benefit pamphlets or handouts, and veteran camaraderie activities, e.g., light refreshments, audio/visual presentations, and various activity supplies.
 - d. With no current local or external help, the county has very limited assistance for their veteran population. County veterans had help with some transportation needs two years ago, but is lacking funds by grants originating from Alamosa County and is currently in-contract with Alamosa County for funded-as-needed rides on their limited schedule. The local state DHS office has the ability to help veterans on the same level as other county residents on the same approval or denial process. The same emergent priority facilitation used with all residents in need from DHS is regulated regardless of veteran or civilian status. Having grant funds readily available to the county, the stress of waiting for approval will be significantly reduced and thus relieving mental stress of veterans because many veterans have anxiety/PTSD sustained from military service.

III. Number of Veterans to Be Served

- a. Out the estimated 790 county veterans, 103 unduplicated veterans sought out the county VSO for help with benefits or emergency financial assistance. More county veterans can be more served starting with advertising and outreach. Veterans sparsely inhabit the county and word of mouth is not good enough. VA medical transportation alone is constantly asked for by veterans and cannot be provided. If the grant funded county veteran support is successful, it is likely that more funds will be needed next year.

IV. Local Partnerships

- a. The local American Legion is the only veteran association in the county. Although it is noted that the post has internal issues within, the post and the VSO work together for the benefit of the local veterans in a limited capacity. There is a state veteran home in Huerfano County, but it is managed by a private entity and does not like to apply themselves to external proceedings. In state nonprofit veteran assistance, not within 80 miles of the county, have been tried without many successes.

V. Project Description/Program Effectiveness

- a. With a lack of funding and rural support for the county's veterans, the veteran population and county VSO have requested additional support. Transportation seems to be the number one issue that veterans need in the area. Suppling transport will significantly reduce emergency and immediate care of the county's aging veteran residents, thus relieving the service of common ailments that could be treated by the VA The program, if

funded, will be used to relieve these burdens on the veterans. In 2022, there were approximately 11 veterans asking for transportation to and from a VA medical service. From an inquiry to Alamosa County regarding how many veterans used transportation from there when Huerfano County was included in the transportation grant, there were 26 veterans (only categorized by location to and from) that used the service in 2021.

- b. The secondary use of the funds will be for emergencies originated by county emergency offices. The VSO has been asked for help in a few emergency conditions by veterans needing a liquid propane fill during heavy winter months or by fill their cistern with potable water during hot summer months, all between VA compensation pay dates. Before, water has been donated by a local business, but that business owner is retiring and will not be able to help any longer. With three other water delivery businesses in the area, the county could provide water delivery to veteran recipients in need. Calendar year of 2022, the VSO received three calls for assistance with liquid propane, water delivery, and emergency/short-term housing for veterans and their families due to an unforeseen emergency.
- c. Thirdly, grant funds from the program will be reserved for outreach to veterans in the small towns of Gardner and La Veta, along with the county seat of Walsenburg. Advertising is very expensive locally through the World Journal newspaper and public radio station KSPK. Some of the outreach funds will go towards the advertising of veteran services. Public service announcements of updated VA Acts (i.e., PACT, Blue Water) and dates of veteran informational meetings will be used to meet veteran needs for support and remote veteran services. Currently, the towns of Gardner and LaVeta

have medial veteran populations with no method of getting these veterans to the county seat for veteran services.

There are no taxis, Ubers, or other public transportation in the area with the exception of a company that provides Medicare rides to medical appointments. The VSO has gotten seven contacts in 2022 from veterans that needed the veteran benefit services provided, but could not get into town. Bringing the VSO to their location will provide these requested services to the towns' Community Center without intruding on the veteran's home or safety of either party.

- d. No additional support to veterans was provided from the previous county VSO. This new program is the first time that support in this manner, through the county VSO office, to offer transport originating from the county, emergency support, and outreach.

VI. **Evaluation and outcomes**

- a. The program is directed towards those veterans that have limited support. The impact to these veterans getting service will significantly support the economic and social standings of the county, its people, and honor. Veterans are the sole supporters of our way of life, old and new, and when they are forgotten, we relieve and forget who we are as a nation.
- b. The foreseeable number of veterans serviced through all three avenues of the program range from 60 to 200. The true number cannot be evaluated due to this program being a new approach in support to veterans. The most vital approach to this program is advertising because word-of-mouth has been attempted and does not provide the outcomes that are to be expected from the 790 identified county veterans.
- c. Whatever the state requests from a Division evaluation to be completed, the program office will participate with hesitation to any and all aspects of the assessment.

Cooperation from the three agencies within the county (DHS, Sheriff, County Commissioners, and VSO) coincide with each other without relief due to being a small and concentrated county.

VII. Budget

- a. Please see the “**2023 VAG GRANT BUDGET AND BUDGET NARRATIVE**” attached to this packet.
- b. Please see the “**Vet office budget**” attached to this packet.
- c. Please see the “**Huerfano VAG application packet 2023**” attached to this packet.

Huerfano County Veteran Service Officer
401 Main Street Suite 303
Walsenburg, CO. 81089



2023 VAG GRANT BUDGET AND BUDGET NARRATIVE

Veteran Transportation 12 Veterans at \$100/each **TOTAL \$1,200**

Transportation to and from VA medical appointments in Pueblo and Denver along with per diem for a volunteer driver of county owned bus including maintenance and fuel for county-owned minibus.

Emergency Human Needs 20 Veterans at \$250/each **TOTAL \$5000**

Short-term temporary shelter for two days maximum. Food and/or gas cards for verified emergencies. The supplying of and hauling potable water (max 600gl) or liquid propane gas (max 100gl @ \$2.50gl) delivered for county approved outlying homes.

Emergency Assistance 25 Veterans at \$200/each **TOTAL \$5,000**

Providing emergency assistance to veterans for confirmed unforeseen emergencies.

Mental Health Outreach 75 Veterans at \$5/each **TOTAL \$4,500**

Providing a supply of water and soft drinks for a monthly meeting of Huerfano Veterans to communicate health information, cohort assistance to each other, and Create outreach to veterans that have no awareness of state and federal benefits.

Program Costs **TOTAL \$4,500**

Advertising on local radio and newspaper for several weeks disseminating information and contact for these new programs.

TOTAL REQUEST

\$20,200

Pre-Award Assessment Questionnaire

This information is a requirement of the Federal and State Uniform Grant Guidance Regulations. We must capture this information to comply. Please answer accurately. Note that your responses will not qualify or disqualify your organization for consideration of grant funding.

Organization name: Huerfano County VSO
Contact Name: Destry DeWolf
Contact Phone Number: 719.738-3000 Ext.VET
Contact Email: ddewolf@huerfano.us
Date Completed: 3 February, 2023

1. For the purposes of this grant, what type of accounting system will be utilized?

Manual or Spreadsheet

2. How will grants funds be maintained separately from other sources of funding?

Manually through spreadsheets

3. Who approves expenditures?

Grant manager with Secondary approval from another individual

4. How often are accounts reconciled?

Monthly

5. How often are financials reviewed by the Board or governing body of the Organization?

Quarterly

6. When was the last independent financial audit conducted?

Within the last year

7. Has your organization been found out of compliance by any governing entity?

Yes

If so, have corrective actions been implemented within specified timelines?

Yes

8. Have there been, or do you anticipate key leadership changes that may impact the grant program?

No

9. Do you have written policies and procedures specific to the grant program?

Yes

10. Do you have a written Conflict of Interest policy?

Yes

11. If you have or will purchase a vehicle through grant funds, do you have policies and procedures to protect assets?

N/A

12. How many years of experience does your organization have with grants?

5+ Years

VETERANS 46700					
001-46700-51110 - SALARIES (EMP)	\$15,909	\$16,640	\$11,692	_____	\$16,289
001-46700-51161 - OASI (EMP)	\$986	\$1,032	\$725	_____	\$1,010
001-46700-51162 - MEDICARE (EMP)	\$231	\$241	\$170	_____	\$236
001-46700-51210 - OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$356	\$100	\$80	_____	\$100
001-46700-51321 - TELEPHONE	\$0	\$0	\$0	_____	\$0
001-46700-51330 - TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION	\$0	\$975	\$46	_____	\$975
001-46700-51420 - DUES & MEETINGS	\$0	\$305	\$0	_____	\$305
001-46700-51457 - CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE	\$613	\$634	\$411	_____	\$634
001-46700-51601 - VETERANS TRANSPORTATION	\$0	\$400	\$0	_____	\$400
001-46700-52000 - CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$0	\$0	\$0	_____	\$0

Total VETERANS 46700	\$18,095	\$20,327	\$13,123	_____	\$19,949
