

Fund for Veterans' Assistance

Addendum VII – Questions Received as of October 28, 2015 relating to:

- **General Assistance – Series 16B**
- **2016-17 Housing 4 Texas Heroes**
- **2016-2017 Veterans Mental Health**
- **2016-2017 Veterans Treatment Court Grant**

	Question Received	Answer
1	<p>Re: Veterans Court Grant The website listed, http://tvc.texas.gov/Apply-For-A-Grant.aspx, does not allow you to open in word or pdf the application.</p> <p>Is there another source for that information?</p>	<p>The Request for Applications (RFA) for the 2016-2017 Veterans Treatment Court Grant was posted to the website, http://tvc.texas.gov/Apply-For-A-Grant.aspx, on Tuesday, September 22, 2015. The Application documents are available in both Microsoft Word and PDF files.</p>
2	<p>Re: Texas Veterans Commission grant notice When will the RFA post for this grant?</p>	<p>The Request for Applications for the 2016-2017 Veterans Treatment Court Grant was posted to the website, http://tvc.texas.gov/Apply-For-A-Grant.aspx, on Tuesday, September 22, 2015. The Application documents are available in both Microsoft Word and PDF files.</p>
3	<p>We had a question regarding the deadline for the Veterans Treatment Court Grant Program. The Texas Register announcement says that applications will be due November 12, but on your website at http://www.tvc.texas.gov/Veterans-Treatment-Court-Grants.aspx (assuming we are correct that this is the same program) it says that the deadline will be October 29. We realize that the full materials for this program are soon to be posted, but we still wanted to double-check. Thanks very much for any information you can provide.</p>	<p>The deadline for the 2016-2017 Veterans Treatment Court Grant is Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 5 p.m.</p> <p>Page 20 of the RFA, under section IX, Application Submission, A. Application Deadline, states “The application period opens September 22, 2015 and will close November 12, 2015. Applications must be <u>received by 5:00 p.m. at the TVC office in Austin, Texas on November 12, 2015</u> to be considered for funding. TVC office is located in the Stephen F. Austin Building, 1700 N. Congress Avenue, Suite 800. Applicant shall be solely responsible for ensuring their application is <u>received by TVC</u> prior to the deadline outlined in this RFA. To meet the deadline, both paper and electronic applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on November 12, 2015.”</p>

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<p>4</p>	<p>I was curious if there are any plans in the future to have one deadline for the General Assistance Grants (instead of an A and a B deadline), or will there continue to be two separate grant periods? If so, will this deadline be in the fall or the summer?</p>	<p>At the August 6, 2015 public meeting of the Texas Veterans Commission, the Commission approved realigning and standardizing the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Grant program timelines. We anticipate that future FVA grants will be one-year grants with application deadlines in the fall and funding beginning the following summer. 2016 is expected to be the last General Assistance series with two application and funding periods.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>We have submitted an application for a General Assistance Grant – Series 16A. I know that we will not know if we are awarded this grant until November or December and that we cannot have both a 16A and 16B grant. If we were to apply for a 16B grant (just in case we don't get the 16A one), could this possibly negatively impact our chances of getting the 16A? Of course, our preference is for the 16A for continuity reasons. Also, will the panel deciding on the 16A awards know who submitted 16B applications?</p>	<p>Applying for both a 16A and a 16B grant will not negatively impact your chances of being awarded either grant.</p> <p>Due to unavoidable circumstances, the timelines for the 16A and 16B General Assistance grants overlap. Because of this, and in an effort to ensure that all interested applicants have the opportunity to compete, 16A applicants are encouraged to consider applying for the 16B series as well.</p> <p>FVA staff will ensure that any 16A applicants awarded funds that may have also applied for 16B funding will have their 16B application removed from consideration.</p> <p>The FVA Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet Thursday, October 15 to make funding recommendations to the Commission regarding 16A applications. This meeting is in advance of the 16B, Veterans Mental Health, Housing 4 Texas Heroes, and Veterans Treatment Court Grant program deadlines. The Commission is scheduled to meet Wednesday, November 4 to make funding awards regarding the 16A applications.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>We were recipients of GA Series XIVB and XVB grants and are preparing our XVIB application.</p>	<p>When preparing budget tables for Salaries and Wages and Fringe Benefits, applicants are asked to provide the names of employees whose time will be charged to the grant. It is not uncommon to not know the name of the employee who will be</p>

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	<p>We are striving for program sustainability and are phasing out our AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer who currently handles our Veteran Employment Program. We plan to hire a regular employee to run this program, hopefully in the first quarter of 2016. We would like to budget about 25 percent of that future person’s personnel costs in our grant application but we do not have a name or resume yet since it is a future hire.</p> <p>How should we handle this? I will be the program coordinator in the interim. Is it appropriate to list me a placeholder and then update that and our principal participants if we are awarded the grant? Or can we leave the person’s name blank and would that negatively affect our application?</p>	<p>filling that position, and in that case, listing “TBD” or an interim employee name is satisfactory and will not negatively impact your application.</p> <p>It is important to review the Evaluation Rubric, though, to understand how providing résumés for Principal Participants and key personnel can impact your application.</p> <p>Page 3 of the Evaluation Rubric, under the Management section, #3 is “Do the identified principal participants have experience by position? ... do the résumés attached for all principal participants demonstrate experience for their respective current positions? To what degree is experience demonstrated – at least one year? Several years?”</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>The question I have is it allowable to do request under more than one category, i.e. General Assistance and Housing for Heroes?</p>	<p>Page 5 of the RFAs for General Assistance – Series 16B Grants under section II. Purpose of this Request for Applications, C. Number of FVA Grants states “Organizations will only be awarded one FVA General Assistance grant during this cycle. An organization may not have overlapping or concurrent FVA General Assistance grants.”</p> <p>Each RFA has similar language for that specific grant program. There is nothing that prohibits an eligible organization from applying for multiple grant programs for</p>

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		Proposed Projects that meet program requirements as outlined in each of the applicable RFAs.
8	We have a pending grant proposal for Series 16A. I want to be sure I understand the Series B announcement ——may we submit an application for Series 16B in case we do not get the Series A grant? If we get the Series A grant, then do we just withdraw the Series B grant request?	<p>Due to unavoidable circumstances, the timelines for the 16A and 16B General Assistance grants overlap. Because of this, and in an effort to ensure that all interested applicants have the opportunity to compete, 16A applicants are encouraged to consider applying for the 16B series as well.</p> <p>FVA staff will ensure that any 16A applicants awarded funds that may have also applied for 16B funding will have their 16B application removed from consideration.</p> <p>The FVA Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet Thursday, October 15 to make funding recommendations to the Commission regarding 16A applications. This meeting is in advance of the 16B, Veterans Mental Health, Housing 4 Texas Heroes, and Veterans Treatment Court Grant program deadlines. The Commission is scheduled to meet Wednesday, November 4 to make funding awards regarding the 16A applications.</p>
9	Can [applicant organization] apply for General Assistance 16B, Housing for Texas Heroes and the Mental Health grant? We have transitional housing, rapid re-housing, homelessness prevention and employment counseling and clinical services for Women Veterans. Or does one agency have to apply for one grant at a time?	<p>Yes, your organization may apply for more than one grant program</p> <p>Page 5 of the RFAs for General Assistance – Series 16B Grants under section II. Purpose of this Request for Applications, C. Number of FVA Grants states “Organizations will only be awarded one FVA General Assistance grant during this cycle. An organization may not have overlapping or concurrent FVA General Assistance grants.”</p> <p>Each RFA has similar language for that specific grant program. There is nothing that prohibits an eligible organization from applying for multiple grant programs for</p>

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		<p>Proposed Projects that meet program requirements as outlined in each of the applicable RFAs.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>On page 3 of the Mental Health Care Grant application, the Grant Project Service Category instructions indicate to choose one box that best describes the project. Is the overall proposed project allowed to include costs that would fit into two or more categories or does the overall proposed project need to be strictly related to one category?</p>	<p>On Page 13 of the 2016-17 Veterans Mental Health RFA, under V. Grant Application, Part 1: Proposed Project Information, applicants are instructed to “Check the one box that <i>best describes the nature of the Proposed Project.</i>”</p> <p>While the budget for your proposed project may include costs for a varied array of services, the Grant Project Service Category selected should reflect the overall nature of the proposed project.</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Our organization has applied for Grant 16 A. I see that you also have 16 B which I have a couple of questions about and I hope you will be able to answer them for me.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We have cycling, woodworking, and a program called “Automotivation” which teaches Veterans living in and around San Antonio how to restore and work on cars, teaching them numerous skills. We have case workers from Audie Murphy VA Hospital, here in San Antonio, who bring patients from the VA over to participate in all the programs I 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On page 13 of the Veterans Mental Health RFA, under Section V. Grant Application, Part 1: Proposed Project Information, Grant Service Category, Non-clinical Support Services are described as “Mental health services provided by a non-licensed mental health professional. Services may include, but are not limited to, therapeutic equine, canine, or other animal therapy, music, play, or dance therapy, and personal improvement workshops.” If your proposed project aligns with that description, the please select that Service Category. 2. Page 5 of the General Assistance – Series 16B RFA, under Section II. Purpose of this Request for Applications, C. Number of FVA Grants, states “An organization may not have overlapping or concurrent FVA General Assistance Grants.” If you submit both a 16A and 16B application, and you are awarded a 16A grant, you will not be eligible to receive the 16B grant.

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	<p>mentioned. Case workers say these programs have helped the Service Members and that they enjoy coming out and participating.</p> <p>16B Mental Health covers Non Clinical, which I interpret to be what we do. Does the TVC consider these programs non clinical?</p> <p>2. If we receive 16A would we be eligible to receive 16B since they are two different grants?</p>	
<p>12</p>	<p>Under the Housing 4 Texas Heroes application, as part of a homelessness prevention project, can utility payments be provided in addition to rent payments? Are utility payments considered a wrap-around service?</p>	<p>Wrap-around services are typically those services intended to address complex needs. In a project proposing to address complex and/or multiple issues facing Veterans and families at risk for homelessness, utility payments may be an allowable client service.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>We are planning to apply for an FVA Veteran Mental Health grant for the upcoming cycle. I see in the addendums that an organization may apply for a grant from more than one grant program, for instance, General Assistance and Mental Health. Could we potentially be awarded both of these grants concurrently? Would submitting applications to more than one</p>	<p>Organizations may be awarded grants under more than one program – General Assistance, Veterans Mental Health, Housing 4 Texas Heroes, and Veterans Treatment Courts. Organizations may not be awarded concurrent or overlapping grants within the same grant program. Submitting more than one will not adversely affect your chances of receiving one or more grants. However, applicants should make sure they are applying for a grant program that is appropriate for the Proposed Project and that the organization has the capacity to operate and administer grant funds requested.</p>

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	program adversely affect our chances of receiving even one grant?	
14	Do we need a copy of eligibility document in file? Previously we looked at the document and signed off that we had seen them.	<p>Grantees must maintain verification of beneficiaries' of eligibility and/or eligibility qualifications on file for review. Specific documents kept on file must comply with what you listed in your grant application to determine the eligibility of Veterans served by your program. Documents must be maintained and retained according to your organization's records retention policy.</p> <p>Specifically, if a military identification (ID) card is used as one of the eligibility documents, then you may keep on file an attestation statement that you have read and reviewed the beneficiaries' eligibility documentation. The attestation statement must be maintained in file. This is because it is illegal to copy a military ID card. However, you can copy DD-214s, Veterans Administration letters, disability letters, and other applicable records as screening documents to determine eligibility to participate and provide services to Veterans and families in the program.</p> <p>In general, the grantee <i>must</i> have some form of documentation of verification of eligibility maintained on file. Compliance Officers will review eligibility verification during the compliance visits conducted during grant funding periods.</p>
15	For the "project principal participants" section of the application, do we need to include all department staff resumes? I'm speaking mostly about the Housing 4 Texas Heroes grant and all of our staff members in this smaller department may have some role (large or small) in assisting TVC funded clients. Do we need to	<p>Page 7 of the H4TXH RFA, under Section III. Definitions of Key Terms, defines Principal Participants as "Project Coordinator and Financial Coordinator, and Executive Director, or any other <i>key stakeholders</i> in the Proposed Project." Page 15 of the RFA, under Section V. Grant Application, Part I: Proposed Project Information states that "Resumes are to be included for each Principal Participant and should describe applicable experience by position."</p>

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	include resumes for all our department members or just those whose salaries are funded by the TVC proposal?	With regard to your question, if your department members are the Project or Financial Coordinators (as identified on the Applicant Information page of the Application) or key stakeholders in the Proposed Project then their resumes should be included.
16	<p>“Other Grants and TVC Contracts 1. List all grants and TVC contracts your organization received within the last two (2) years. Do not include FVA grants listed above. Do not list in-kind donations. Use additional pages if needed.”</p> <p>Is this in reference to grants and contracts pertaining to the program we are applying for or all grants/funding for the organization as a whole?</p>	Page 15 of the VMH RFA, under Section V. Grant Application, Part II – Organizational Background, asks applicants to “List all grants and TVC contracts received <i>by your organization</i> for the past two years.” This information is related to your organization, not the Proposed Project.
17	<p>1. Can individuals who have been dishonorably discharged be defined as a veteran through the General Assistance or Mental Health grants?</p> <p>2. We are applying for the General Assistance grant and fall into the Family Service category. Part of the program we offer is also one time financial assistance to families in need. Is this allowed?</p>	<p>1. There is no rule or regulation referenced or listed in the RFA that would prevent an applicant from including dishonorably discharged Veterans in a definition of a Veteran beneficiary.</p> <p>2. Page 12 of the GA – 16B RFA, under Section V. Grant Application, Part I – Proposed Project, Grant Project Service Category, instructs applicants to “Check the one box that best describes the nature of the Proposed Project.” Your proposed project may include several client services that possibly fall under different Service Categories; but you are required to select one Service Category that best describes the overall nature of your project.</p>
18	Other than the exemption of the 10% admin cap, please provide some clarification or examples of “other”	Page 18 of the GA RFA, under Section V. Grant Application, Part 3 – Budget and Budget Narratives, Indirect Costs, states “Indirect charges are those items that are often considered ‘overhead,’ and can be classified as those costs associated with

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	<p>expenses that may be considered indirect costs. We would like to be sure which of our expenses we can include in this grant proposal.</p>	<p>accounting, human resources, and other administrative and facility-related costs ... Typical examples of indirect costs for many nonprofit organization may include depreciation on buildings and equipment, the costs of operating and maintaining facilities, and general administration, such as the salaries and expenses of executive officers, personnel administration, and accounting.”</p> <p>The other RFAs have the same language regarding indirect costs. Specific examples will vary by organization and the organization’s fiscal policies and procedures.</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>We have a few questions regarding the Housing for Heroes grant for the Indirect Cost section near the end of the application, (letter J) part 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since this may include about 50+ lines of information, may we attach it as a separate document in excel? • Do we need to put the amounts and/or percent allocated for each line item description? Or is only the description adequate? 	<p>Page 19 of the H4TXH RFA, under Section V. Grant Application, Part 3 – Budget and Budget Narratives, Indirect Costs, instruct the applicant to “1. Enter the total Direct Costs into table J. to calculate the allowable Indirect Recovery. 2. If you organization is not submitting a federally negotiated indirect cost agreement, provide a basic line item description for each indirect cost (ex. Executive Director, IT, Facilities). No further explanation is required.”</p> <p>Applicants may attach additional documents should they feel it necessary, however in this situation, the information that is being asked for in the narrative is a basic description, such as “Indirect costs include the salary and fringe benefits of the Executive Director, costs for IT, facility usage ...”</p> <p>No additional information – including “amounts or percents allocated for each line item” – is required. You will not be adding any additional lines to Table J. Based on your total direct costs, Table J will tell you what you may claim in Indirect Costs, and the basic description in your narrative (if you do not have a federally negotiated indirect cost plan) will provide information on what types of costs will be covered by this amount.</p>

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<p>20</p>	<p>Can you tell me if I can apply for both the General Assistance Grant and the Mental Health Grant at the same time?</p> <p>We do Equine Therapy. The General Grant will be for physical therapy (amputees, and other physical disabilities) while the Mental Health Grant will be for the mental health therapy for post dramatic stress disorder, suicide prevention, depression, etc.</p> <p>Since our General Grant application will be for the physical aspects of Equine Therapy and our Mental Health application will be for the mental health aspects of Equine Therapy, can I apply for both during this Grant period - both due 10/29/2015?</p>	<p>Yes, applicants may apply for and be awarded grants under more than one program – General Assistance, Veterans Mental Health, Housing 4 Texas Heroes, <u>and</u> Veterans Treatment Courts.</p> <p>Applicants are encourage to apply under the grant program(s) whose purpose and allowable service categories align with the applicant’s Proposed Project.</p>
<p>21</p>	<p>We are contemplating a proposal that would include both clinical counseling and peer-to-peer supports, in an effort to increase opportunities for veterans and their families to access behavioral health services with which they feel most comfortable and most appropriate.</p> <p>In reading the grant materials, the text indicates we can only check one box as</p>	<p>On Page 13 of the 2016-17 Veterans Mental Health RFA, under V. Grant Application, Part 1: Proposed Project Information, applicants are instructed to “Check the one box that <i>best describes the nature of the Proposed Project.</i>”</p> <p>While the budget and scope of your proposed project may include a varied array of services, the Grant Project Service Category selected should reflect the overall nature of the proposed project.</p>

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	<p>our primary activity. Given that we want to offer a more broad array of services, how would you suggest that we respond to this question?</p>	
<p>22</p>	<p>My question has to do with the organizational audit. Our organization is extremely small and 85% of our funding comes from Charitable Bingo. The State Auditors conducted our financial audit last year with their final report. Is this sufficient enough to submit as our Audit document?</p>	<p>Page 9 of the 16B RFA, under Section IV. Program Guidelines, H. Funding Amounts and Financial Documentation, states: “An Eligible Applicant must provide the minimum required financial documentation listed below for the range in which their requested grant amount falls. The amount of funding requested by an Eligible Applicant will determine the financial documents the Eligible Applicant must provide.”</p> <p>Page 5 of the 16B RFA, under Section III. Definitions of Key Terms defines “Audited Financial Statements” as a “consulting service provided by a third-party Certified Public Accountant (CPA) that reviews accounting processes and procedures. The CPA will review financial statements using standards promulgated by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.”</p> <p>Each of the different grant programs have similar language in their RFAs.</p> <p>If your organization is unable to provide audited financial statements that meet the definition listed, your request amount should be revised to be within the range supported by a Compilation of Financial Statements or your organization’s most recent IRS Form 990.</p> <p>If your organization is unable to provide a Compilation of Financial Statements or your most recent IRS Form 990, then your application may be found ineligible for consideration.</p>

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<p>23</p>	<p>I am interested in submitting an application for the Veterans Mental Health Grant RFA. Could you please clarify the items below, both regarding eligibility for applicants:</p> <p>1) The RFA states that "units of federal or state government" are not eligible to apply. Could you please define what is meant by "units"?</p> <p>2) If submitting through a non-profit organization (i.e., the research foundation, which is responsible for all financial and grants management), but the award activities would take place on the VA's premises, is it correct that we are eligible to apply?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Page 9 of the Veterans Mental Health RFA, under Section IV. Program Guidelines, G. Not Eligible to Apply, lists “units of federal and state government, including state agencies, colleges, and universities.” This would also include federal agencies, departments, and commissions. 2. There is nothing in the RFA that would prohibit a project’s services from being provided on a federal agency’s premises. However, costs included in the budget to support a federal agency, its employees, and its direct services may be unallowable.
<p>24</p>	<p>[Our organization] is planning on applying for the Housing 4 Texas Heroes Grant. We have just been preliminary awarded the General Assistance Grant 16A through the Application Presentation and Funding Recommendation Meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2015 through recommendation. We also understand that the grant award will not be until November 4th 2015 at the next Texas Veterans Committee Meeting.</p>	<p>The Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee met in a public meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2015 to make a funding recommendation for the General Assistance – Series 16A grants to the Texas Veterans Commission. The Texas Veterans Commission will consider the Advisory Committee’s recommendation and will approve grant awards at its November 4, 2015 public meeting. For clarification, no awards have been made – preliminary or otherwise. Only the Texas Veterans Commission can approve grant awards.</p> <p>While there is nothing in the H4TXH RFA that states applicants are required to disclose applications submitted for pending FVA grants, it is a good idea to provide sufficient, complete, and relevant information regarding your proposed project.</p>

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	<p>Our question is: Should we show that we will be receiving this grant in our Housing 4 Texas Heroes application? The two grants will complement each other but not duplicate services and there is a great need to show this funding in the application as to completely explain to the Texas Veterans Commission the differentiation and compatibility.</p> <p>Such as: One time rental assistance will be paid through General Assistance Grant and ongoing rental assistance will be paid through Housing 4 Texas Heroes Grant. One time utility assistance will be paid through General Assistance Grant and ongoing utility assistance will be paid through Housing 4 Texas Heroes Grant. [Our organization] feels the need to state the funding for the General Assistance Grant for a true picture of the complete program.</p>	<p>Applicants are however, required to list previously awarded FVA grants, as well as grants received by other organizations and any contracts awarded by TVC, as instructed on page 16 of the H4TXH RFA, under Section V. Grant Application, Part II – Organizational Information.</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>We recently applied for a grant under the Fund for Veterans Assistance Title 16A and just received notice that this grant was not awarded.</p>	<p>General Assistance – Series 16A grants are on the Texas Veterans Commission’s November 4, 2015 public meeting agenda. The Commissioners are expected to discuss and select GA-16A applications for award at that time. For clarification, no awards have been made or denied for GA-16A – preliminary or otherwise. Only the Texas Veterans Commission can approve grant awards.</p>

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	<p>Will this grant application be considered for the Veterans Treatment Court grant?</p> <p>When was this grant Title 16A changed to exclude Veterans Treatment Courts?</p>	<p>The 2016-2017 Veteran Treatment Court Grant is a new and distinct grant program with a funding period of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. Grant applications are specific for each grant program and are not considered across multiple grant programs. Eligible applicants are encouraged to review the RFAs and submit an application for each grant program that may apply to their proposed project.</p> <p>Page 12 of the General Assistance – Series 16A RFA, under Part 1, Grant Project Service Category lists the service categories for this grant and includes, “Veterans Treatment Court: Services related to this "specialty court" which is charged with handling offenses involving Veterans as defined in the Texas Government Code, Chapter 124. It is NOT for criminal defense. Veterans Treatment Court programs MAY include Mental Health components as part of the overall Veterans Court program.”</p> <p>Veterans Treatment Court is a valid service category for the GA-16A grant.</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>1. The grant application requires copies of licenses. Is there a requirement to be licensed in Texas?</p> <p>2. Are copies of professional liability required? Some of the clinicians who will be assisting with our study are covered by their hospital employer, and need to know if they need to purchase outside coverage.</p>	<p>1. Applicant organizations are required to ensure that they are following all applicable laws, statutes, rules and regulations. The applicant organization would need to ensure it is authorized to utilize licensed mental health professionals not licensed by the State of Texas to provide services to Texas Veterans, and that those licensed mental health professionals are authorized to do business within the State of Texas.</p> <p>2. Page 21 of the VMH RFA, under Section VIII. Application Package, lists the items that are required to be submitted as part of the Application Package. This list includes “9. A copy of current professional liability insurance and/or malpractice insurance policy, if applicable.”</p>

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<p>27</p>	<p>1. For the Veterans Mental Health Grant, are incentives in the form of check or gift card permitted for veterans?</p> <p>2. Additionally, if our organization has a federally negotiated indirect cost agreement, may we use this rate if it is greater than 10%? We would provide sufficient documentation for this negotiated rate.</p>	<p>1. No, checks or gift cards are prohibited uses of grant funds and are unallowable. Page 11 of the VMH RFA, under Section IV. Program Guidelines, J. Prohibited Uses of Funds, states: “Cash or Cash Equivalents – per Texas Administrative Code, Title 40, Part 15, Section 460.10(3), <i>distribution of cash or a cash equivalent to veterans and/or their families is prohibited.</i> Cash equivalents can include gift cards and gas cards.”</p> <p>2. If your organization has a federally negotiated indirect rate, you should use this rate, your approved cost base, and methodology. However, as stated on page 18 of the VMH RFA, under Section V. Grant Application, Part III – Budget and Budget Narratives, Indirect Costs, the maximum allowable indirect cost recovery for FVA grants is 10% of total direct costs for all applicants.</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>How are the Form 990 Part X. Balance Sheets used? Is this simply to determine that the organization is fiscally accountable to the IRS by supply of these forms, or are they used to determine self-funding capability and on-hand reserves? If the latter, is a certain level of reserve required for funding; is proof of a line of credit for self-funding sufficient, or is there need to prove self-funding capability at all?</p>	<p>Applicants are to submit an Application Package as instructed by the RFA, which includes submitting the documents identified as Minimum Required Financial Documents for the range in which their requested grant amount falls.</p> <p>On page 21 of the GA-16B RFA, under Section VIII. Application Package, there is a list of the required items that comprise the Application Package. This includes “5. Financial Documentation (per Section IV, H. above.)”</p> <p>On page 9, Section IV. Program Guidelines, H. Funding Amounts and Financial Documentation, the RFA states “an Eligible <i>Applicant must provide the minimum required financial documentation listed below for the range in which their requested grant amount falls.</i>”</p> <p>Page 19, under sections VI. Application Review and Award Process notes that “applications received will be reviewed for eligibility and deemed Ineligible if one</p>

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		<p>or more of the following applies: ... Minimum Financial Documentation is not provided.”</p> <p>Financial documentation is reviewed in order to determine financial stability of an applicant organization. The Texas Administrative Code § 460.7 (b) states “a grant application submitted with insufficient financial data to make a determination of financial stability, <i>as specified in the grant applications instructions</i>, shall not be considered for funding.”</p> <p>With regard to the question of “self-funding,” applicants are reminded that all FVA grants are reimbursement grants. Applicants are required to finance their projects and later seek reimbursement with adequate support documentation.</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>The question I have is regarding the consolidation of two grant periods into one as voted on in the August Commission meeting.</p> <p>Specifically, last year we had until Jan 8, 2015 to submit our grant application for July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016 grant period. This year it looks like the application deadline for July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017 grants is Oct. 29, 2015.</p> <p>Yet, when you open the grant application pdf it says it is for the Jan. 1, 2016 - Dec. 31, 2016 grant period. Can you please clarify? Are grant application due Oct. 29 for Jan 1, 2016 or July 1, 2016? Or are you</p>	<p>General Assistance – Series 16A grants, whose application deadline was August 17 and whose grants will be awarded by the Commission on November 4, will have a grant funding period of January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.</p> <p>General Assistance – Series 16B grants are due October 29 and will be awarded by the Commission in May 2016. They will have a grant funding period of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.</p> <p>Additionally, the 2016-2017 Housing for Texas Heroes, 2016-17 Veterans Mental Health, and 2016-17 Veterans Treatment Court grants will have grant funding periods of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.</p> <p>After the GA- 16B, 2016-17 H4TXH, 2016-17 VMH, and 2016-17 VTC grants, it is anticipated that the next FVA funding opportunities would be available late Summer/early Fall 2016 for grant funding periods of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.</p>

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	eliminating the Jan. 1, 2016 grant period and taking only applications for the grant period starting July 1, 2016?	
30	Since the Treatment Courts RFP does not include peer-mentoring services, can the Mental Health Services application be to provide peer-mentoring services to justice-involved veterans? Please advise and thank you for your guidance.	On page 3 of the Veterans Treatment Court RFA, under Section I. Purpose and Overview, Veteran Treatment Courts are defined, as in Texas Government Code § 124.001, as having “the following essential characteristics: ... Access to a continuum of alcohol, controlled substances, mental health, and other related treatment and rehabilitative services.” As such, peer-mentoring services could be an allowable service provided to Veterans as part of a Veterans Treatment Court program proposed by an Eligible Applicant.
31	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In Part II- organizational background-previous FVA Grant Awards, the chart includes a section on previous funding for the proposed project under the application. We are looking at an expansion with a similar scope but change in service area. As the project is not exactly the same, is the correct response yes or no? 2. In Part II- organization background-other grants and TVC contract, it notes not to include FVA awards if listed above, but question 2 asks for a brief narrative for each TVC grant listed above. We have a grant we are listing in the FVA grant award section, but it was through TVC. As it is not in the 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In a situation where the proposed project is an expansion of a previously funded FVA grant, the applicant may elect to enter “No” or “Yes, but proposed project is an expansion.” 2. Under Part II – Organization Background of the H4TXH Application, applicants are instructed first to list Previous FVA Grant Awards. In the next table, applicants are instructed to list Other Grants and TVC Contracts. As you note in your question, instructions for this table note “do not include FVA grants listed above.” Following the table for Other Grants and TVC Contracts, applicants are instructed to provide a brief narrative for each TVC Contract listed in the table. <p><i>For the purposes of these tables, TVC Contracts and FVA grants are not the same thing. Previously awarded FVA grants would be listed under the “Previous FVA Grant Awards” table. Any other contract your organization may have with TVC should be listed and described under “Other Grants and TVC Contracts.”</i></p>

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	table immediately prior to the question, but rather another subsection, do we need to include the narrative on it or not?	
32	Who should we put down as the person serving this role? Should it be the person completing the grant application, our CFO or the person who will be completing the financial reports each month?	<p>Page 12 of the VMH RFA, under Section V. Grant Application, Applicant Information, states:</p> <p>“Applicant Contact – Project Coordinator and Financial Coordinator. Provide the names, titles, phones, and emails for those organization employees who will be overseeing the grant project and <i>overseeing the grant expenditures and finances</i>. These organization employees are considered Principal Participants.”</p>
33	I am reviewing a potential grant submission for a Veterans Treatment Court in [my] County. I work for [an organization] which provides counseling treatment to Veterans from the VTC. The RFA webinar states that the VTC Grant can only be applied for by Units of Local Government. I am confused because our organization works off of grants and we are a non-profit 501 (C) agency. Are we considered a local workforce development board? How would I go about finding the answer? Your quick response would be greatly appreciated due to the 12 November submission deadline.	<p>If your organization is a nonprofit 501 (c) designated organization, you are ineligible to apply for the 2016-17 Veterans Treatment Court grant. The county may apply for the Veterans Treatment Court grant and include the mental health services as a client service under the grant, and then they may contract with your organization to provide those services as part of their project.</p> <p>Page 9 of the Veterans Mental Health RFA, under Section IV. Program Guidelines, F. Eligible Applicants, lists the following as eligible applicants:</p> <p>“Eligible Applicants</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Units of local government; 2. IRS Code § 501(c)(19) Posts or organizations of past or present members of the Armed Forces; 3. IRS Code § 501(c)(3) private nonprofit organizations authorized to do business in Texas; 4. Texas chapters of IRS Code § 501(c)(4) Veterans service organizations; or

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		<p>5. Non-profit organizations authorized to do business in Texas with experience providing services to Veterans.”</p> <p>Your organization may consider applying for a VMH grant to provide counseling services.</p>
34	<p>Are we allowed to include other attachments, other than the required attachments listed in the RFP, in support of points made in the narrative about program operations?</p>	<p>There is nothing in the RFAs that prohibit an applicant from providing documents in addition to those required as part of the Application Package.</p> <p>All eligible applications will be scored utilizing the Evaluation Rubric, and applicants are encouraged to provide information in their application that addresses those items in the Rubric.</p>
35	<p>If our response to whether or not our organization has "An A-133 Single Audit has been performed in the past 2 years." is "N/A," but there is no "N/A" option, how should we respond to this question?</p>	<p>If your organization has not had an A-133 Single Audit in the past two years, please answer “No.”</p>
36	<p>The application asks to list any other funding received ...while we have not been the direct recipient of grants we are a subcontractor for the Harris Center through TVC funding. Do we need to list that funding?</p> <p>Also, our VCAMP training participants received sponsorship for their training fees from TVC. The RFP is clear about grants</p>	<p>If your organization has not been awarded FVA funding through a grant agreement or Notice of Grant Award, do not list that funding under “Previous FVA Grant Awards.”</p> <p>On page 15, the Veterans Mental Health RFA, under Section V. Grant Application, Part II – Organization Background, Other Grants and TVC Contracts, instructs applicants to “list all grants and TVC contracts received by your organization for the past 2 years. Provide a brief description of each (TVC) contract including the goods and services provided under each contract.”</p>

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	but we want to know if we have to list that funding in this application.	If the sponsorship you refer to was not coordinated via a contract or a Memo of Understanding, you may consider including the information in an attempt to disclose any applicable information.
37	We partner with the local treatment courts. Can they include in their application a contract with us (a nonprofit organization) to provide support services to veterans in their program?	Yes, an eligible applicant may include contracted services in the budget for a proposed project. Applicants should ensure that they are not sub-granting funds, as that is a prohibited use of funds, as noted on page 10 of the Veteran Treatment Court RFA, under Section IV. Program Guidelines, J. Prohibited Uses of Funds.
38	Is there a page limit or word counts we need to follow with either of the upcoming grant deadlines (General Assistance Grant or Housing for Texas Heroes)?	While there is no page limit or word counts for any of the applications, applicants are encouraged to be <i>sufficient, thorough, clear, and concise</i> in narratives and descriptions, providing <i>relevant and necessary</i> information.
39	On the title Projected Principal Participants (approximate page 10) we are asked to list the principal participants in the organization. On the table included, there is a question “# of years of experience in position”. Does that question refer to the number of years in the current named position (i.e. Executive Director) or number of years of experience in the profession?	When completing the table “Project Principal Participants” under Part I – Proposed Project Information, applicants are to enter the “# of years of experience in <i>position.</i> ”
40	We are submitting a grant application for clinical counseling services delivered through equine assisted therapy. Do horse supplies – for example: feed, hay, hoof	In general, horse supplies are an allowable cost. Under Table E. Supplies, applicants are instructed to “enter a description, unit cost and quantity for each item of supplies” and then “provide a description for each

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	care, veterinary care, supplements, etc. need to go in the budget under supplies or equipment?	<p>item of supply listed in the Table above and explain why each supply item is necessary to accomplish the Proposed Project. Narrative must also include a calculation to demonstrate how the cost was determined.”</p> <p>Table H. Other Direct Costs provides similar instruction: “List any direct costs not included in the above tables. Direct costs that appear indirect in nature need to be fully explained, supported, be reasonable and treated in a consistent manner across your organization. The FVA may ask the applicant to re-classify costs as indirect if the support provided does not meet the above criteria ... Provide a description for each item of other direct costs listed in the Table above and explain why each cost is necessary to accomplish the Proposed Project. If costs are allocated an approximate percentage to be charged to this grant is to be included. Narrative must also include a calculation to demonstrate how the cost was determined.”</p>
41	Is there a page limit for the application or character limits for each section in the application?	While there is no page limit or word counts for any of the applications, applicants are encouraged to be <i>sufficient, thorough, clear, and concise</i> in narratives and descriptions, providing <i>relevant and necessary</i> information.
42	May I remove all TVC provided instructions for each numbered question and simply provide the answer/requested information or is it your desire that all TVC provided instructions are left within our application?	Applicants must follow the instructions as published in the RFA. Applicants should not modify the FVA application.