

Fund for Veterans' Assistance
General Assistance Grant – Series XV-B
Addendum V – Questions Received as January 2, 2014

	Question Received	Answer
1.	<p>Meals on Wheels and More is looking ahead to the January 8th grant deadline for General Assistance grants. We have a quick question on which we need clarification, regarding the “prohibited use of funds” section.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Prohibited Uses of Funds</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Duplication of Services</u> Grant funds are not to be used to conduct activities or to provide services that are the same as those currently provided by the Texas Veterans Commission. Services provided by the Texas Veterans Commission include Claims Representation and Counseling, Education, Employment, as well as the Women Veterans and Veteran Entrepreneur Programs. More Request for Applications Page 10 Series XV-A – General Assistance Grant information about the programs can be found on the website, http://www.tvc.texas.gov/Home.aspx <p>Where on your website are the services provided by TVC? There were multiple sections on the website and I was unsure which of these services we need to pay close attention to make sure we do not duplicate.</p>	<p>The major programs of the Texas Veterans Commission may be found at: http://www.tvc.texas.gov/Home.aspx.</p> <p>The program areas are listed across the top of the page. The program areas are: Claims, Education, Employment, Fund for Veterans’ Assistance, and Other Services. Please drill-down on these headers for complete program information and the services offered.</p>
2.	<p>Can we use the grant to provide a USB that has more than 4000+ available resources to Veterans to access them? The USB is accessed without the Internet and also they can be updated at least two times a year?</p>	<p>Section I. Purpose and Overview on Page 3 of the RFA states:</p> <p>The Texas Veterans Commission is authorized to use funds appropriated to the FVA to administer the Fund and make reimbursement grants to address the needs of Veterans and their families. <i>Such needs include, but are not limited to, the following:</i></p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited emergency assistance for Veterans and their families • Housing assistance for homeless Veterans • Family and child services • Transportation services • Veterans courts • Legal services, excluding criminal defense • Development of professional services networks • Employment training, education, and job placement assistance <p>Additionally, on Page 12 of the RFA, the Service Categories are explained in detail. Also, please ensure that all costs to be included in the grant request are in line with grant management standards and OMB federal grant guidelines as instructed in the RFA.</p>
3.	<p>Since we happily are recipients of the 2015 TVC General Assistance grant, do I understand correctly that we cannot apply for another Veterans grant?</p>	<p>Section IV. Program Guidelines, E. Grant Funding Period on Page 8 of the RFA states:</p> <p><i>Organizations may only be awarded one FVA grant at a time.</i></p> <p>Organizations may have an FVA grant and an H4TXH grant concurrently. Additionally, departments within units of local government may apply under separate applications for more than one grant. An organization may not have an overlapping or concurrent FVA General Assistance grant and a Veterans Mental Health Grant.</p>
4.	<p>Is there somewhere I can research or call, without having to call all Texas counties, to see if the county charges a participation fee for veterans court?</p>	<p>There are several state and national resources for information regarding Veterans Courts. Justice for Vets is a national organization and has a dedicated resources page on their website. The Criminal Justice Division of the Office of the Governor currently oversees Specialty Courts and would be a statewide resource. However, for specifics regarding individual programs, those courts should be contacted directly.</p>
5.	<p>I see in the RFP that the FVA Advisory Committee will recommend fully funding grants, whenever possible. Does that mean that TVC does not partially funds grant requests?</p>	<p>Page 3 of the RFA states that “Texas Veterans Commission established the following priorities to provide guidance to the FVA Advisory Committee in developing funding recommendations to present to the Commission.” One of the priorities is “fully funding grant requests, <i>whenever possible.</i>”</p>

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6.	<p>I don't see anything about letters of support in the RFA. We will be holding support groups at 3 partner locations. Are we required to get letters of support? May we include letters of support even if it's not a requirement?</p>	<p>Letters of Support are not included as part of the Application Package as described on Page 19 under VIII. Application Package of the RFA. Letters of support are not required and are not evaluated as part of the Application as described in Section VI. Application Review and Award Processing on page 18 of the RFA.</p>
7.	<p>Grant Project Service Category (RFA page 11-12)</p> <p>The Financial Assistance category states emergency financial assistance that is <u>short-term and temporary</u> in nature, such as, a one-time utility payment, one-time rental payment...</p> <p>Is short-term and temporary in nature limited to one month of financial assistance or can it be temporarily provided for an additional amount of time, i.e., two months or three months, if it is defined in the program description?</p>	<p>Page 12 of the RFA lists examples of short-term and temporary financial assistance programs – it is not prescriptive nor exhaustive. The Applicant should describe the components of the Proposed Project in the applicable parts of Appendix I – The Application.</p>
8.	<p>Grant Project Service Category (RFA page 11-12)</p> <p>The Homeless/Housing category includes homeless support programs...at-risk homeless prevention and rapid re-housing programs.</p> <p>Would eligible expenses in this category include a salary for a Housing Specialist and short-term rental assistance payments, i.e., 1-2 months, to participants meeting program eligibility requirements?</p>	<p>Page 15 of the RFA lists that the Salaries and Wages of “each employee directly associated with the Proposed Project” should be entered into Table A of the Budget.</p> <p>Page 12 of the RFA outlines the different Project Service Categories. Financial Assistance includes “emergency financial assistance that is short-term and temporary in nature, <i>such as</i>, one-time utility payment, one-time rental payment ...” It goes on to list that Homeless/Housing project include “homeless support programs, shelter, transitional living/temporary housing, at-risk homeless prevention and rapid re-housing programs. The applicant should include the appropriate client services costs in Table F of Appendix I – The Application.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the applicant to review 2 CFR Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards to verify allowable costs.</p>

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<p>9.</p>	<p>Regarding the “resumes” item on the General Assistance Grant check list (definition below from RFA):</p> <p><u>Project Principal Participants</u> List the principal participants in the organization. Indicate which principal(s), if any, are Veterans. Refer to the RFA Section III. Definitions of Key Terms for who is considered a Principal Participant. Résumés are to be included for each Principal Participant and should describe applicable experience by Position</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For each Principal Participant listed in the table, describe their role(s) and responsibilities that they will have as related to the Proposed Project. <p>Is TVC looking for actual resumes to be included as an attachment at the end of the document or does this refer to the description of the Principal Participants?</p>	<p>Applicants are to both list the roles and responsibilities that Principal Participants will have as related to the Proposed Project in the Application as noted on Page 13 of the RFA, <i>as well as</i> attach resumes. Please refer to page 19 of the RFA, under VIII. Application Package - #3 states that the Application Package should include “Resumes of the principal participants in the organization”</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Referring to the <u>Definition of Key Terms, Partnerships</u> p. 13, would you please define “affiliation” with regards to partner agencies?</p>	<p>Page 13 of the RFA, under Partnerships, states:</p> <p>“List agencies and/or organizations that will assist your organization in serving Beneficiaries as part of the Proposed Project. Do not list partner agencies that are not affiliated with the Proposed Project.”</p> <p>Applicants should list partner agencies/organizations that may help in serving Veterans and family members as part of the Proposed Project; but should not list partner agencies/organizations that are just generally affiliated with the applicant organization.</p> <p>For example, to assist your organization in providing the services of your Proposed Project, you partner with Agency A. You organization also partners with several other agencies, like Agency B; however Agency B will not be assisting you specifically on your Proposed Project. You would not list Agency B in your application.</p>

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11.	Has the FVA set a dollar cap on the amount of emergency one-time financial assistance that may be provided to a beneficiary?	No, the FVA has not set a dollar cap on the amount of emergency financial assistance.
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