



TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

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Press Release

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\$3 Million Awarded to Organizations Providing Direct Support to Texas Veterans

TEXAS – The Texas Veterans Commission highlights 25 organizations that received just over \$3 million in grants from the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance.

“These latest grantees are projected to serve an additional 3,755 Veterans, family members and surviving spouses between January 1, 2013, and December 31, 2013,” said Kathy Wood, Director of the Fund for Veterans' Assistance. “To date, the Commission has provided over \$26.9 million in 120 grants to 85 local government and non-profit organizations to help serve over 135,000 Veterans and their family members.”

The grants are awarded to help Texas Veterans and their families through programs and organizations at the community level. Services funded include counseling for Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS), housing assistance for homeless Veterans, short-term financial assistance, legal assistance, and family and child services.

The following 25 Texas organizations received \$3,019,674 million in grant funds.

Alamo Area Development Corporation - Awarded \$200,000

Housing4TexasHeroes Grant

Counties Served: Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Medina, Wilson

The Veterans Housing Assistance Program provides disabled and low-income Veterans with rental assistance and other assistance to ameliorate housing issues.

Big Brothers, Big Sisters Lone Star - Awarded \$50,000

Counties Served: Taylor, Wichita, Brown, Tarrant

The Military Mentoring Program provides one-to-one mentoring services to children of military Veterans. Veterans and family members will benefit from monthly caseworker support, the mentor relationship, and other organized activities.

El Paso County- Awarded \$75,000

Counties Served: El Paso

The El Paso County Veterans Court Program addresses the challenges facing active military service members and Veterans who suffer from mental health illnesses (PTSD or TBI) and substance abuse resulting from military service and have committed crimes by linking them to rehabilitative services including psychiatric evaluation, medication, group and individual counseling, educational needs, job placement, transportation, and housing.

Green Doors – Awarded \$100,000

Counties Served: Travis

The Veterans' Housing Stability Project III ensures that Veterans and their families are stably housed and moving toward self-sufficiency by providing rental assistance. The program also acquires rehabilitate apartments for disabled homeless Veterans and permanent supportive and affordable housing.

Hale County Meals on Wheels, Inc. – Awarded \$31, 356

Counties Served: Hale, Seth Ward

The program provides meal delivery to eligible disabled Veterans and Veterans over age 65 who do not otherwise qualify to receive home-delivered meals through the Texas Department of Aging and Disability, Superior Health Plan or Ameri-Group.

Hidalgo County Community Supervision & Corrections Department – Awarded \$62,851

Counties Served: Hidalgo

Hidalgo County Veterans Treatment Court Program (HCVTCP) is a hybrid of a Drug Court, Mental Health Court and Sanctions Court. The HCVTCP provides services that divert Veterans or their family members on probation in Hidalgo County from prison by providing mental health and substance abuse treatment.

Lubbock Regional Mental Health Center– Awarded \$200,000

Counties Served: Lubbock, Lamb, Hale, Floyd, Crosby, Garza, Lynn, Terry, Hockley, Cochran

Executed through the existing Veterans Resource Coordination Group (VRCG), the program provides emergency financial assistance and referral services for education, jobs and training for Veterans. In addition, Veterans will also receive preventative assistance with transition issues and mental health issues.

Mental Health America of Greater Dallas – Awarded \$100,000

Counties Served: Denton, Collin, Hunt, Delta, Hopkins, Dallas, Rockwall, Kaufman, Van Zandt, Ellis, Rains, Navarro, Bell, Coryell

Operation Healthy Reunions helps Veterans better manage their mental health and adjustment issues related to deployment and reintegration. The program serves Veterans and their family members with emergency assistance for utilities and food in addition to counseling.

Mental Health Mental Retardation of Tarrant County – Awarded \$250,000

Counties Served: Tarrant, Parker, Johnson, Hood, Denton

The program provides financial assistance, transportation services, family and/or individual counseling for PTSD and TBI; employment training, education and job placement assistance that supplements existing funding and services; housing assistance for homeless Veterans; family and child services; and legal services, excluding criminal defense.

National Alliance for Mental Illness-Texas (NAMI) – Awarded \$250,564

Counties Served: Travis, Williamson, Bexar, Tarrant, Dallas, Denton, Harris, Bell, Lubbock, Smith, Hidalgo, Cameron

The Operation Resilient Families (ORF) program offers evidence-based, peer-run education and support programs for Veterans and family members focused on education and skill development around common post-deployment and readjustment issues

Northwest Assistance Ministries – Awarded \$173,410

Counties Served: Harris, Montgomery, Waller, Ft. Bend

The Veteran's Assistance Program (VAP) serves Veterans and their families with rental, mortgage, deposit, and utility assistance as well as child care assistance. Additional services provided include short and long term counseling, legal services, and employment assistance.

Nueces County Community Supervision & Corrections Department – Awarded \$40,000

Counties Served: Nueces

The Veteran Court Program is a diversion program created to treat Veterans who are returning from combat zones with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), drug or alcohol addictions, and mental health issues. This program provides treatment and counseling to Veterans in Nueces County to help reduce recidivism with the use of evidence-based practices.

Operation Relief Center, Inc. – Awarded \$25,000

Counties Served: Dallas

The Veterans Permanent Supportive Housing (VPSH) program provides five one-bedroom units for Veterans ages 62 and over.

Presbyterian Night Shelter – Awarded \$123,703

Counties Served: Tarrant, Ellis, Johnson, Parker, Wise

The Veteran's Voice program provides shelter, meals, clothing, showers, toiletries, and case management to homeless Veterans. Additionally this project helps to transition homeless Veterans and their families to permanent housing with rapid re-housing opportunities and up to three months of follow-up case management to help them acclimate to their new environments.

Project MEND – Awarded \$140,000

Counties Served: Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Carnal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Medina, Wilson

The program assists Veterans and their families by providing refurbished medical equipment, specialized assistive technology devices, and vehicle modifications critical to maintain independence and full participation in family and community activities.

Rocky Top Therapy Center – Awarded \$150,000

Counties Served: Tarrant, Johnson, Parker, Wise, Hood, Denton, Dallas

The Horses for Heroes program provides direct services to Veterans and family members including Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (individual, group, and/or family), therapeutic riding, therapeutic horsemanship, and physical therapy (Hippotherapy).

Salvation Army-Waco, Texas – Awarded \$50,000

Counties Served: McLennan

The Veterans and Veterans Family Shelter and Housing Stability Program provides extended stay shelter, case management, and direct services to enable Veterans and their families in establishing housing stability as well as personal and professional stability.

Samaritan Center for Counseling & Pastoral Care – Awarded \$300,000

Counties Served: Travis, Williamson, Hays, Caldwell, Bastrop, Burnet, Bell

The Hope for Heroes program provides mental health treatment, integrative medicine and other supportive services such as peer support, case management, health education, and community cultural competency training to meet the needs of Veterans and their family members in Central Texas.

Skillpoint Alliance – Awarded \$100,000

Counties Served: Bastrop, Caldwell, Comal, Guadalupe, Hays, Travis, Williamson

The Gateway Program increased the number of seats available in Gateway adult workforce training programs to serve Veterans and their family members. The program provides the materials for trainees in the Gateway Construction Tech programs to repair Veterans' homes as an applied learning project.

Texas Association of Vietnam Veterans – Awarded \$45,260

Counties Served: Travis, Williamson, Hays

The Homeless Veterans Outreach Project provides homeless Veterans with the items necessary to live including beds, sofas, dishes, pots, pans, linens, and other items to turn a house or apartment into a home. Additionally, items to help a Veteran return to the workforce are provided including a phone, a means of transportation, and adequate clothing as well as other items necessary to find a job, make and keep appointments, and get to and from work.

Texas National Guard Family Support Foundation – Awarded \$200,000

Counties Served: Statewide

The Operation Family Care program provides soldiers and airmen of the Texas National Guard and their family members with emergency financial assistance, medical financial assistance with premiums and co-pays, and financial counseling. Assistance is aimed primarily to those whose income levels are below 150% of poverty, but assistance is also available to others who demonstrate exceptional and emergency needs.

United States Veterans Initiative (U.S. Vets-Houston) – Awarded \$102,628

Counties Served: Harris

The Housing First for Homeless Veterans program serves homeless and at-risk Veterans and their families living in the City of Houston and Harris County. Case

management-based supportive services including employment reintegration services are provided to each Veteran entering the program.

University of Texas - Pan American (UTPA) Foundation – Awarded \$70,000

Counties Served: Statewide

The Veterans Entrepreneurship program provides training and business counseling services to Veterans throughout the State of Texas. Participants are provided training, mentorship, and advising, leading to business starts, expansions, job creation, and job retention.

Worklife Ministry, Inc. – Awarded \$129,902

Counties Served: Harris, Montgomery, Liberty, Chambers, Galveston, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Waller

Through referrals from TVC, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), United Way and others, the program provides Veterans and their families with personal transition, trauma and family counseling; career transition counseling; legal and financial advisement; workshops for career and family life; peer to peer support groups; special services focusing on female Veterans' and survivors' needs; outreach benefits events; and partnering referrals for emergency financial and housing assistance.

YWCA El Paso Norte Region – Awarded \$50,000

Counties Served: El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio

The program provides emergency financial assistance and crisis financial counseling to Texas Veterans, their family, and surviving spouses. Assistance includes financial counseling to address financial crisis situations.

Veterans, family members and caregivers who may require assistance or services should contact the service provider directly.

“There are 1.7 million Veterans residing in Texas who deserve superior services and assistance that may be best coordinated at the community level,” says Thomas Palladino, Executive Director of the Texas Veterans Commission. “The organizations receiving these grants offer programs that focus on helping Veterans achieve a higher quality of life.”

The primary source of funds for the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance is the \$2 scratch-off lottery game, *Veterans Cash*, and the newest game is in stores now. Since its introduction in November 2009, sales of the lottery game have provided over \$21 million to the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance.

Individuals can also support the Fund for Veterans' Assistance by donating on their vehicle registration form at the bottom right corner of the form or by making an online donation through www.tvc.texas.gov. Donations to the Fund for Veterans' Assistance are tax deductible under the provisions of Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Texas Veterans Commission

The mission of the Texas Veterans Commission is to advocate for and provide superior service to Veterans and their families in the areas of disability claims assistance, employment services, education benefits and grant funding. Over 200 skilled counselors

in 75 cities provide one-on-one guidance to Veterans and their families to ensure they receive all of the benefits to which they are entitled.

For more information about the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance and information about the grant cycle, please visit <http://www.tvc.texas.gov/Fund-for-Veterans-Assistance.aspx>

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