



TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

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Press Release

For Immediate Release: December 12, 2014

Release No. 20141212-01

Texas Veterans Commission Launches Veteran Entrepreneur Academy

AUSTIN – The Texas Veterans Commission announced today that it is accepting applications for the inaugural Veteran Entrepreneur Academy. The Veteran Entrepreneur Academy is a 120-day program followed by a two-year mentorship with the Texas Veterans Commission designed to provide Veteran Entrepreneurs with a strong foundation in small business basics.

“The Academy is the next step for the Veteran Entrepreneur Program and builds on the incredible success of the program to date,” said Thomas Palladino, Texas Veterans Commission Executive Director. “By virtue of their unique military experience, Veterans have already demonstrated that with the right training, they can overcome any obstacle. The Veteran Entrepreneur Academy is structured to provide a higher level of training for business.”

To facilitate the launch of these Veteran-owned enterprises, the Texas Veterans Commission has partnered with PeopleFund, an Austin based nonprofit business lender, to provide start-up or growth capital to graduates. Active duty and honorably discharged Veterans or their spouses who complete the training will receive a Certificate of Completion and are eligible for up to a \$35,000 loan at a fixed interest rate of five percent, though some restrictions apply. PeopleFund is passionately committed to the success of Texas Veteran-owned businesses.

“We are very enthusiastic to advance our relationship with the Texas Veterans Commission’s Veteran Entrepreneur Program and this new initiative,” says Gary Lindner an Air Force Veteran and President of PeopleFund. “Our partnership with the Veteran Entrepreneur Program over the past 24 months has been superb. Veterans who complete the Veteran Entrepreneur Academy program elevates the relationship to a new level of excellence.”

Applications to the first class of the Veteran Entrepreneur Academy are currently being accepted through Jan. 26, 2015. Classes begin in Austin on Feb. 28, 2015, and end May 9, 2015. Only complete applications will be considered and applicants must attend all onsite and online classes to be certified and qualify for the \$35,000 loan. To learn more about the Veteran Entrepreneur Program or to apply for the Military Veteran Entrepreneur Academy, please visit the Texas Veterans Commission’s Veteran Entrepreneur webpage at <http://www.tvc.texas.gov/Entrepreneur-Program.aspx>.

About the 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 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 the benefits to which they are entitled.

About PeopleFund

PeopleFund is an Austin Texas based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that serves the entire state. Established in 1994, it is a U.S. Treasury certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and SBA certified lender. PeopleFund provides business loans up to \$250,000 to Texas businesses that lack access to traditional financing, along with relevant business education and training. Its target market encompasses minority, women, and veteran business owners and those residing in low to moderate income census tracts.. Through access to capital and education, PeopleFund creates economic opportunity and financial stability to build healthy businesses.

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