



TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

Contact Information

Cheri Smith
P.O. Box 12277
Austin, Texas 78711
512-463-4828/Fax 512-475-2395
Cheri.smith@tvc.texas.gov

Press Release

For Immediate Release: June 27, 2012

Release No. 20120627-01

\$2.3 Million Awarded to Organizations Providing Direct Support to Texas Veterans

AUSTIN – The Texas Veterans Commission recently awarded 11 organizations just under \$2.3 million in grants from the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance.

“Eleven new grantees are projected to serve an additional 23,915 veterans, dependents and surviving spouses between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2013,” said Sarah Tillman, Interim Director of the Fund for Veterans' Assistance. “To date, the Commission has provided over \$23.5 million in grants to 94 local government and non-profit organizations to help serve over 92,000 veterans and their family members.”

The grants are awarded to help Texas veterans and their families as they adjust to civilian life. Services funded include transportation to medical facilities, counseling for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), housing assistance for homeless veterans, short-term financial assistance, legal assistance and family and child services.

The following 11 Texas organizations received \$2,291,981 million in grant funds.

Alamo Area Mutual Housing Association - Awarded \$269,547

Counties Served: Bexar

The Alamo Area Mutual Housing Association's Veterans Assistance Program will provide permanent housing, supportive services, temporary financial assistance and direct case management to homeless veteran families or those at-risk for homelessness. Temporary financial assistance will be provided for families with little or no income.

Andrews Center - Awarded \$204,728

Counties Served: Anderson, Angelina, Bowie, Camp, Cass, Cherokee, Delta, Franklin, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Hopkins, Houston, Jasper, Lamar, Marion, Morris, Nacogdoches, Newton, Panola, Polk, Rains, Red River, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Smith, Titus, Trinity, Tyler, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood.

Andrews Center will provide counseling to veterans, spouses, and their families. Licensed counselors will provide services within clients' counties of residence.

Child Crisis Center of El Paso - Awarded \$223,754

Counties Served: El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio, and Reeves
Child Crisis Center of El Paso will provide children of veterans who are at-risk of abuse or neglect with food, clothing, individual beds, medical attention, recreation and transportation to/from school. Case management and support will be provided to eliminate or alleviate the cause of the emergency situation. Additionally, parent education classes and supportive services will be provided through an extensive referral and resource system and case management.

Communities In Schools of Greater Central Texas, Inc. - Awarded \$295,928

Counties Served: Bell

Communities In Schools will monitor academics, behaviors and attendance of children of both active duty and veteran families through on-campus supportive services. They will promote students staying in school and graduating by providing academic, behavioral, and social service support that addresses issues faced by military children and their families.

Family Service Center of Houston & Harris County - Awarded \$208,759

Counties Served: Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery, and Waller

The Returning Home Project will provide case management services and financial assistance to returning veterans and their families to help them transition into civilian life. Services will range from brief information and referral services to more intensive case management that targets major improvements in family, occupational, social or physical health.

Neighborhood Centers, Inc. - Awarded \$400,000

Counties Served: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton

Neighborhood Centers, Inc., will provide a centralized access point for financial assistance for veterans, dependents, and survivors in 13 counties across Southeast Texas to address the following needs: emergency financial assistance, short-term rental and mortgage assistance, utility payment assistance, emergency food and transportation assistance, and temporary child care assistance.

Ride On Center for Kids (R.O.C.K.) - Awarded \$157,880

Counties Served: Bastrop, Bell, Burnet, Coryell, Lee, Lampasas, Milam, Travis, and Williamson

R.O.C.K. will provide equine therapy to individuals through Horses for Heroes (H4H) which is geared specifically for veterans and their families. The H4H project offers equine assisted therapies and services to active military, veterans and their families, free of charge. The H4H program components include individual and family counseling, physical therapy, therapeutic riding, recreational therapy, and fellowship.

SPAN, Incorporated - Awarded \$24,171

Counties Served: Denton

SPAN will provide weekday transportation for Denton County veterans to the Dallas VA Medical Center and the Fort Worth VA Outpatient Clinic from centralized locations or door-to-door service for veterans with disabilities.

Texas Legal Services Center - Awarded \$189,800

Statewide

The Veterans' Legal Assistance Project (VLAP) of the Texas Legal Services Center will provide no-cost legal assistance to low-income Texas veterans and their families. VLAP will assist with matters of family law, federal and state public benefits, employment, housing, consumer protection, bankruptcy, tax, estate planning, probate, expungement and military discharge upgrades.

Tropical Texas Behavioral Health - Awarded \$183,775

Counties Served: Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy

Tropical Texas Behavioral Health (TTBH) will address the needs of veterans and their families by offering services including counseling for individuals with symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and cognitive behavioral therapy for individuals with a diagnosis of depression. TTBH will also provide co-occurring psychiatric and substance abuse disorder services, case management, and support groups for veterans and family members.

United Way of Greater Houston - Awarded \$133,639

Counties Served: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Waller, Walker, and Wharton

United Way of Greater Houston/ 211 HELPLINE program will provide enhanced information and referral (I&R) services and build on the existing service provision to veterans, active military members, and their families through assistance provided by Veteran I&R Specialists.

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 ticket, *Veterans Cash*. Since its introduction in November 2009, sales of the lottery ticket have provided over \$19.8 million to the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance.

Individuals can also support the Fund for Veterans' Assistance by making an online donation through www.tvc.texas.gov or on their vehicle registration form by specifying an amount at the bottom right corner of the form. 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 upcoming grant cycle beginning July 2012, please visit <http://www.tvc.texas.gov/Fund-for-Veterans-Assistance.aspx>

-- ### --