



# **Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance**

## **Annex B: 2025-2026 Grant Program Requirements**

### **Appendix 1: General Assistance Grant Program**

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Supportive Services

Homeless Veterans Support

Skill-Based Training Support

Pro Bono Legal Services

Referral Services

Organizational Transportation Fleet

Veteran Small Business Support

**Fund for Veterans' Assistance**

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# General Assistance Grant Program

The General Assistance (GA) Grant Program includes service categories that collectively support veterans, dependents, and surviving spouses who live in Texas. Tangible services paid for by this grant program must be in Texas.

## 1. Financial Assistance

This service category is temporary and intended to provide limited emergency assistance and financial relief to clients who can demonstrate financial need.

- It is the Organization's responsibility to verify a client's need for financial assistance.
- Shelter nights and temporary housing are services included in Homeless Veterans Support grant and therefore not allowed in the financial assistance service category.

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Veterans, Dependents, Surviving Spouses; & can demonstrate financial need

- The client must be the person named on mortgage, rent, utility, loan, vehicle title, or other bill/invoice presented for financial assistance.

**Eligible Services:**

- Mortgage:** cost to provide mortgage payments (including escrow) and payments in arrears, not to exceed a 6-month period or \$6,000 per beneficiary household per grant period.
- Rent:** cost to provide rent payments including application fees, deposits, late fees, and payments in arrears, not to exceed a 6-month period or \$6,000 per beneficiary household per grant period.
- Utilities:** cost to provide electric, water, gas, garbage, internet, and beneficiary household's primary user's cell phone service (also includes connection & re-connection fees, late fees, and payments in arrears), not to exceed a 6-month period or \$3,000 per beneficiary household per grant period.
- Food (Grocery Store):** cost to provide perishable and non-perishable food in accordance with the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#) from a local grocery store to beneficiaries experiencing food insecurity, not to exceed a 6-month period per beneficiary household per grant period.
- Transportation Assistance (Rides):** cost to provide third-party transportation including daily, weekly, or monthly bus, train or metro rail passes, ride-share and cab fare in local area in support of basic needs, work, school, medical appointments, or other non-social events or activities.
- Transportation Assistance (Vehicle):** cost to provide fuel not to exceed 3 months, necessary repairs not to exceed \$4,000, insurance, and loan payments not to exceed a 3-month period or \$3,000 to beneficiaries' primary vehicle. These payments are per beneficiary household per grant period to allow safe travel in support of basic needs, work, school, medical appointments. General maintenance is not allowable.
- Drop-in Child/Adult Care:** cost to provide services at a licensed day care facility or business not to exceed 30 days or \$2,000 per household per grant period. Child/Adult care services are for emergency or last-minute need of care and not for long term care, after school, or summer programs.

- h) **Funeral:** cost to provide assistance with a veteran’s funeral and interment services (excluding costs for indigent veteran services, receptions, and celebrations of life) not to exceed \$6,000 to surviving family members who can demonstrate financial need.
- i) **Assistive Technology:** cost to provide products and equipment that increase, maintain, or improve the beneficiaries’ functional capabilities and promote independent living.
- j) **Restorative Dental-Care:** cost to provide necessary emergency procedures consisting of dental implants, dentures, fillings, crowns, and tooth extractions not to exceed \$2,500 per beneficiary, per grant period.

## 2. Supportive Services

This service category is for services identified through case management that provide support for low-income clients to enable stability and promote family integration with the community.

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Veterans, Dependents, Surviving Spouses; & Low Income: 80% and below the median family income for the county in which the beneficiary lives as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

- The client must be the named person on mortgage, rent, utility, loan, vehicle title, or other bill/invoice presented for financial assistance.

### Eligible Services:

- a) **Meal Delivery Services:** cost to provide home-delivered, prepared meals, providing a friendly visit, and conducting safety checks of the client and their home.
  - Hot meals delivered daily.
  - Frozen or pre-packaged meals delivered to beneficiaries living in an area where daily delivery is limited.
  - Certified service animal food is allowable. Domesticated pet food is unallowable.
- b) **Elder Care Services:** cost to support clients’ ability to age in place with dignity and live independently.
  - In-Home Care consists of personal hygiene and care tasks (bathing and dressing).
  - Home housekeeping consists of cleaning, cooking, and meal preparation.
  - Assistive Technologies to provide products and equipment that increase, maintain, or improve the beneficiaries’ functional capabilities and promote independent living.
  - Door-to-door transportation rides to medical appointments/medication retrieval with organization’s vehicle or third-party service.
- c) **Family Support Services:** cost to support clients in stabilizing relationships, reducing family stress, and promoting integration with their communities.
  - Post Deployment Family Reintegration Programs to assist and prepare families for reunion after deployment.
  - Dependent Activities consisting of After School Programs, Child Care, Summer Camps, Pre-School for Qualified Dependents, Programs for Dependents with Special Needs.
  - Workshop Programs consisting of Financial Planning, Family Communications, Anger/Behavioral Management, Family Safety, Adolescent and Teenage Parenting.

- Financial Assistance, if financial need is identified through case management. Financial assistance services are listed in Section 1. Financial Assistance.
- Family Counseling to assist with family issues and difficulties.
  - Mental health treatment provided to clients must be essential and provided by or under a Texas Licensed Mental Health Professional (LMHP) applying Evidence-Based Practice(s) (EBP) who has received adequate training in the applied EBP.

### 3. Homeless Veterans Support

This service category is for clients who are homeless or have transitioned out of a homeless status and are identified in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Services are identified through case management to address acute and chronic conditions underlying the homeless status.

Services provided to clients under this service category must be documented in the HMIS database that covers the county in which the service was provided. This documented service is required for reimbursement. Organizations providing services to homeless veterans and families must have software licenses or access the HMIS databases that cover the counties they serve.

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Veterans, Dependents, Surviving Spouses; Homeless Individuals who have lost their primary nighttime residence or are living in a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter, in transitional housing, have transitioned out of a homeless status, or are exiting an institution where they temporarily resided.

- The client must be the named person on rent or temporary housing agreement, utility, loan, vehicle title, or other bill/invoice presented for financial assistance and tangible services paid for by this grant program must be in Texas.

**Eligible Services:**

- a) **Shelter Programs:** cost to support programs that provide nightly, temporary, or short-term facilities for the homeless to sleep.
- b) **Temporary Housing Facilities or Motels:** cost to provide payments at facilities where clients can be housed temporarily or short-term until longer or long-term adequate housing can be found not to exceed 3 months.
- c) **Transitional Housing Rent:** cost to provide rent payments at HUD/VASH facilities or apartments that are for long-term lodging including application fees, deposits, and arrears.
- d) **Transitional Housing Utilities:** cost to provide electric, water, gas, garbage, internet, and beneficiary household's primary user's cell phone service (also includes connection & re-connection fees, late fees, and payments in arrears) living in transitional housing.
- e) **Household Goods:** cost to provide basic and reasonable furniture, cookware, and other items to establish long-term housing.
- f) **Transportation Assistance (Rides):** cost to provide third-party transportation including daily, weekly, monthly bus passes, train or metro rail passes, ride-share, and cab fare in local area in support of basic needs, work, school, medical appointments, or other non-social events or activities.
- g) **Assistive Technology:** cost to provide products and equipment that increase, maintain, or improve the beneficiaries' functional capabilities and promote independent living.

- h) **Restorative Dental-Care:** cost to provide necessary emergency procedures consisting of dental implants, dentures, fillings, crowns, and tooth extractions not to exceed \$2,500 per beneficiary, per grant period.
- i) **Beneficiary Identification Documents:** cost to obtain a government-issued photo ID, such as an identification card, driver's license, or Social Security card.
- j) **Skill-Based Training Support:** cost to provide resources to prepare for, secure, and maintain employment as stated in Section 4: Skill-based Training Support.
- k) **Food (Grocery Store):** cost to provide perishable and non-perishable food in accordance with the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#) from a local grocery store to beneficiaries capable of storing perishable and non-perishable food.
- l) **Food & Hygiene (Pantry):** cost to provide food and hygiene products for beneficiaries without housing or in shelters with limited capability to store food from an established food pantry site.
- m) **Meal Services (Organization):** cost to prepare hot nutritious meals served at facilities that feed those experiencing homelessness. Certified service animal food is allowable. Meal services are reimbursed at cost per meal (unit cost).
- n) **Meal Services (Home):** cost to provide prepared meals consisting of hot, frozen or pre-packaged meals. Certified service animal food is allowable. Meal services are reimbursed at a cost per meal (unit cost).
- o) **Mental Health Treatment:** must be essential and provided by or under a Texas Licensed Mental Health Professional (LMHP) applying Evidence-Based Practice(s) (EBP) who has received adequate training in the applied EBP.

#### 4. Skill-Based Training Support

This service category is for resources that support clients to prepare, secure, and maintain employment. Applicants are to review current programs offered by TVC to ensure proposed projects described in their applications do not duplicate services currently provided by TVC.

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Veterans, Dependents, Surviving Spouses

**Eligible Services:**

- a) Skill-based training and education programs not to exceed 6 months in duration per beneficiary per grant period. Examples of skill-based training include computer programming, welding, electrical work, data analysis, graphic design, and automotive repair. Excludes tuition, books, or fees for veteran students taking classes with institutions of higher learning. Must have exhausted "GI Bill" benefits.
- b) Interview attire
- c) Tools and uniforms required to perform job tasks assigned by the employer. Excludes tools and uniforms that are provided by the employer, or not required within the first 90 days of employment.
- d) Soft skill training, interview preparation, and job search are not allowable. These services are provided by TVC's [Veterans Employment Services \(VES\)](#) Department.
- e) **Transportation Assistance (Rides):** cost to provide third-party transportation including daily, weekly, or monthly bus, train or metro rail passes, ride-share and cab fare in local area in support of basic needs, work, school, medical appointments, or other non-social events or activities.
- f) **Transportation Assistance (Vehicle):** cost to provide fuel not to exceed 3 months, necessary repairs not to exceed \$4,000, insurance, and loan payments not to exceed a 3-month period or \$3,000 to beneficiaries' primary vehicle. These payments are per beneficiary household per grant period to

allow safe travel in support of basic needs, work, school, medical appointments. General maintenance is not allowable.

## 5. Pro Bono Legal Services

This service category is for civil legal services and does not include criminal defense or Veterans Courts as defined in the Texas Government Code, Chapter 124, or costs associated with legal clinics where no legal consultation or services are provided.

### **Eligible Beneficiaries:** Veterans

- Per Texas Government Code 434.017(c)(2), this grant serves Veterans, Active-Duty Members of the United States Armed Forces, and Members of the State Military Forces.

### **Eligible Services:**

- a) Elder Law
- b) Business Law
- c) Estate Planning
- d) Consumer Financial Protection Issues
- e) Family Law
- f) Real Estate Law
- g) Notary Services
- h) Debt Collection and Bankruptcy
- i) Discharge Status linked to PTSD or MST incurred while in military service
- j) Landlord/Tenant Disputes (including but not limited to eviction and foreclosure proceedings)

### **Unallowed Services:**

- a) Services provided to upgrade characterization of service (discharge status) are not allowed unless the discharge is the result of behaviors, decisions, misconduct linked to PTSD or MST incurred while in military service.
- b) Disability claims processing, filing, appeals processing, or any other activity associated with claims such as 2nd opinions. Claims services and support are provided by a separate TVC Department.
- c) Services provided to bring civil suit against any government entity (local, state, or federal)
- d) Any service where the government is a real or potential adversarial party (e.g., debt when the government is the lender, government foreclosures of property, adverse federal or state tax decisions etc.).
- e) Legal clinics where a representative passes information about the types of services provided and may answer general questions.

## 6. Referral Services

This service category includes programs that provide contact information of organization(s) that provide services needed by the client.

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Veterans, Dependents, Surviving Spouses

- a) Beneficiaries should be referred to organizations that can provide the services needed and are not required to be TVC grant funded organizations.
- b) Beneficiaries requesting or needing mental health services must be referred to organizations that are staffed with Texas Licensed Mental Health Professionals (LMHP).
- c) Organization should assess the beneficiaries to determine other needs to provide a complete referral.
- d) Organization must verify client is eligible to receive services, document what services were requested, and what organization(s) they were referred to.
- e) Organizations must conduct, at a minimum, a phone call follow-up with the beneficiaries to determine if need was met by the referred organization.

## 7. Organizational Transportation Fleet

This service category is to provide a transportation service to clients in the local area, county, or region with the use of the organization's fleet. Transportation services are in support of basic needs, work, school, medical appointments, or other non-social events or activities.

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Veterans, Dependents, Surviving Spouses

### **Allowable Costs of Organizational Vehicle(s):**

- a) Maintenance consisting of new tires, oil changes, tire rotation, wind shield repair, and minor repairs. Limited to \$2,000 per vehicle, per grant period.
- b) Registration
- c) Insurance
- d) Fuel consisting of gasoline, diesel, and electric vehicle charging.
- e) Drivers transporting clients.
- f) Caregiver for a veteran or surviving spouse may qualify for transportation assistance when accompanying client.

## 8. Veteran Small Business Support

This service category is for stabilizing or growing 100% veteran-owned businesses for the purpose of maintaining self-employment. Applicants are to review current programs offered by TVC's [Veteran Entrepreneur Program \(VEP\)](#) Department to ensure proposed projects described in their applications do not duplicate services currently provided by TVC.

Lender referral services are provided by TVC's Veteran Entrepreneur Program (VEP) Department.

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Veterans; & must be in business, partnership or incorporated as a 100% veteran-owned business certified by the TVC.



- The client must obtain a [Veteran Verification Letter \(VVL\)](#) issued by TVC's Veteran Entrepreneur Program (VEP) Department prior to receiving grant-funded services.

**Eligible Services:**

- a) Entrepreneurship and small-business training programs not to exceed 5 months in duration per beneficiary per grant period.
- b) Tools, Equipment, Software, or other related business products not to exceed \$2,000 per beneficiary per grant period.
- c) Other small-business related services that are not considered financial assistance.