



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

**2025-2026
Request for Applications**

**General Assistance
Housing for Texas Heroes
Veterans Mental Health
Veterans Treatment Court
Veteran County Service Offices**

Application Portal Opens: September 12, 2024 @ 5:00 PM CST

Application Deadline: November 12, 2024 @ 5:00 PM CST

Fund for Veterans' Assistance
www.tvc.texas.gov/grants

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1. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA) grant program awards reimbursement grants to eligible charitable organizations, local government agencies, and veterans service organizations that provide direct services to Texas veterans and their dependents. The TVC oversees all policies and rules governing the awarding of grants from the FVA to address the needs of veterans and their dependents, as determined through veteran needs assessment studies. The veteran needs assessment is required in Texas Government Code §434.017 and the results are published on the TVC website. All grant awards will be made through a competitive grant selection process.

1.1. Purpose: The purpose of this Request for Applications (RFA) is to:

- 1.1.1. Provide an overview of FVA Grant Programs.
- 1.1.2. Solicit grant applications from eligible applicants for the 2025-2026 grant period.
- 1.1.3. Provide application instructions and specific information on grant eligibility.
- 1.1.4. Provide information about the FVA grant application and award processes.

1.2. Funding Goals: The goals of the Fund for Veterans' Assistance are to:

- 1.2.1. Provide support, services, and resources to veterans, dependents, and surviving spouses where they live to improve their quality of life and strengthen their connections and integration with their communities.
- 1.2.2. Responsively serve eligible beneficiaries to meet acute and chronic needs.
- 1.2.3. Provide grant-funded services and resources that have measurable, positive outcomes.
- 1.2.4. Ensure grant-funded projects are available to veterans, dependents, and surviving spouses across the state.
- 1.2.5. Ensure a diversity of grant-funded services are available within geographic regions.
- 1.2.6. Fund grant projects that support the needs identified in the [Needs Assessment](#) and specific program goals approved by the Commission.

2. GRANT PROGRAMS: This RFA announces funding opportunities for four (4) different grant programs: General Assistance, Housing for Texas Heroes, Veterans Mental Health, and Veterans Treatment Court. Each grant program includes service categories that are defined and explained below. Per Texas Administration Code §460.17, this RFA announces grant funding opportunities for Veteran County Service Offices for General Assistance, Housing for Texas Heroes, and Veterans Mental Health grant programs. Information on allowable services and requirements for each grant program and service category is located in the appropriate appendices of Annex B - Grant Program Requirements. The grant programs and opportunities announced in this RFA are reimbursement grants, and grants are awarded based on a competitive application and award process.

2.1. General Assistance: The General Assistance (GA) Grant Program includes service categories that collectively support veterans, dependents, and surviving spouses who live in Texas.

- 2.1.1. **Financial Assistance:** This service category is temporary and intended to provide limited emergency assistance and financial relief to clients who can demonstrate financial need.
- 2.1.2. **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. Service areas include:

- 2.1.2.1. **Meal Services:** prepared and delivered meals, conduct safety and wellness checks of the client and their home.
 - 2.1.2.2. **Elder Care Services:** supports the clients' ability to age in place with dignity and live independently.
 - 2.1.2.3. **Family Support Services:** supports clients in stabilizing relationships, reducing family stress, and promoting integration with their communities.
 - 2.1.3. **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.
 - 2.1.4. **Skill-based Training Support:** This service category is for skill-based resources that support clients to prepare, secure, and maintain employment. Soft skills training is provided by the Texas Veterans' Commission's Veteran Employment Services Department, therefore is unallowable.
 - 2.1.5. **Pro Bono Legal Services:** This service category is for civil legal services.
 - 2.1.6. **Referral Services:** This service category includes programs that provide contact information of organization(s) that provide services needed by the client.
 - 2.1.7. **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.
 - 2.1.8. **Veteran Small Business Support:** This service category is for stabilizing or growing 100% veteran-owned businesses for the purpose of maintaining self-employment.
- 2.2. Housing for Texas Heroes:** The Housing for Texas Heroes (H4TXH) Grant Program provides necessary home modifications, repair, and weatherization for low-income veterans and surviving spouses who live in Texas.
- 2.3. Veterans Mental Health:** The Veterans Mental Health (VMH) Grant Program includes three service categories that collectively provide counseling and support to veterans, dependents, and surviving spouses who live in Texas to improve their quality of life, relationships, outlook, and successful integration with their communities.
- 2.3.1. **Clinical Counseling Services:** This service category includes services and treatment that include Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) for diagnosed conditions or co-occurring conditions provided by a Texas Licensed Mental Health Professional (LMHP).
 - 2.3.2. **Peer Support Services:** This service category is for services provided by a Certified Peer Support Specialist that contribute to the client's rehabilitation and recovery. Peer Support Services are provided in a non-clinical environment consisting of retreats, field trips, off-sites, seminars, and/or similar gatherings.
 - 2.3.3. **Service Dog Pilot Program:** This pilot program is for organizations accredited by the Assistance Dogs International (ADI) to provide trained service dogs to veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, or military sexual trauma.

- 2.4. **Veterans Treatment Court:** The Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) Grant Program supports eligible units of local government in providing services through Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) programs established under Texas Government Code §124.001-.006. Grant funding is intended to support rehabilitation for justice involved veterans who live in Texas to best prepare them for reintegration with their communities.
- 2.5. **Veteran County Service Office Funding Opportunity:** The Veteran County Service Office (VCSO) funding opportunity includes all the service categories listed in the General Assistance, Housing for Texas Heroes, and Veterans Mental Health Grant Program. Veteran County Service Officers are eligible to submit one application per grant program and be awarded up to 3 grants per grant period. The Veteran County Service Officer must serve as the Project Manager for the grants awarded. The Texas Government Code §434.017(c-3) directs TVC to set aside at least 5% of FVA funding to be available only to VCSOs who apply for FVA grants. Therefore, County Governments may have 4 grants awarded, including a VTC grant.

3. GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

- 3.1. **Texas Government and Administrative Code:** All applicants should review and be familiar with TVC's [Government Code](#) and [Administrative rules](#) governing the FVA Program.
- 3.2. **Grant Management Standards:** All grants awarded by TVC must follow the [Texas Grant Management Standards \(TxGMS\)](#).
- 3.3. **Competitive Grant:** FVA grants are awarded through a competitive selection process that includes eligibility screening, evaluation, review, and receiving a recommendation from the FVA Advisory Committee. The Commission makes the final determination for awarding grants and considers all attributes of the applications, specifically how they will serve veteran needs, prior to awarding. Per Texas Administrative Code §460.11(c), decisions by the Commission regarding funding are not appealable.
- 3.4. **Cost Reimbursement Grant:** Under the cost reimbursement method of grant funding, the Grantee is required to finance its operations with its own working capital and then requests cash reimbursement from the FVA. Verifiable expenditure support documentation is required for all cost reimbursement requests.
- 3.5. **Awarded Grant Documents:** Upon Commission approval of the grant awards, the parties will be bound by the following:
 - 3.5.1. State Regulations (TxGMS).
 - 3.5.2. Request for Applications (RFA).
 - 3.5.3. Annex A - Terms & Conditions.
 - 3.5.4. Annex B - Grant Program Requirements and Appropriate Appendices.
 - 3.5.5. The approved Grant Application and all items submitted by the grant applicant to the Commission in response to this RFA.
 - 3.5.6. The Notice of Grant Award (NOGA).

- 3.6. Eligibility of Beneficiaries:** The Grantee must ensure that beneficiaries served using FVA grant funds are eligible to receive services prior to providing services. Eligibility documentation must be maintained by the Grantee in the beneficiaries' records.
- 3.7. Document Retention:** The Grantee must retain all records pertaining to the grant per TxGMS guidance (3 years) or by the origination's policy requirements, whichever is longer. All records will always be kept in a secure location, either in a locked file cabinet or secure electronic means.
- 3.8. Grant Funding Period:** All funding awarded under this grant must be expended within the grant funding period of July 1st to August 31st (14 months). No pre-award spending (before July 1st) is allowed.
- 3.9. Grant Renewal:** The Commission may, in its sole discretion, exercise the option to renew the grant for an additional one (1) year period. FVA will notify the Commission during the 3rd Quarter Regular Commission meeting of all grants that have met the renewal criteria.
- 3.9.1 Grants that were awarded through the application process for the 2024-2025 grant year are eligible for renewal for the same grant program, service category and funding amount, if renewal criteria are met.
- 3.9.2 Grants may only be renewed one time.
- 3.9.3 Grants in the renewal track that submit an amendment to extend the grant period are self-withdrawing from the renewal track and are not eligible for the grant renewal.
- 3.9.4 Grants that are renewed must comply with the published Governing Documents and Program Requirements for the grant period it will cover.
- 3.9.5 Grants that are renewed are awarded new funding and the previous grant year's funding will not carry forward. The organization must close out the previous year's grant at the end of the grant period.
- 3.9.6 Grants that are renewed are allowed to revise the scope and budget but must remain almost identical to the original awarded grant.

Renewal Criteria

- 3.9.7 Grant performance will be taken at the end of the 9th month (March).
- 3.9.8 Grants must achieve 60% of the "Total Number of Clients to Be Served at the end of the 9th month of the grant period (July 1st – March 31st).
- 3.9.9 Grant must not have unresolved compliance findings.
- 3.9.10 Commission may request additional information to determine renewal.

3.10. Grant Reporting Requirements:

- 3.10.1. Monthly Payment Reimbursement Request (PRR):** The Grantee shall provide fourteen (14) monthly expenditure reports in a format prescribed by the FVA inside the TVC Grants Portal. The monthly progress information will be captured within the PRR. Monthly reports are due by the 15th of the following month.
- 3.10.2. Veteran Mental Health/Clinical Counseling Outcome Measure:** TVC is required to collect an outcome measure regarding grant funded mental health services. Therefore, Veteran Mental Health grantees who are providing Clinical Counseling, are required to administer the appropriate tools/assessments to their clients before treatment/services begin, and after

treatment/services end. This measure will be reported at the beginning and end of the grant period to TVC.

- 3.10.3. **Closeout:** Grantees will acknowledge that all grant-related expenses have been reported and reimbursements received by TVC no later than sixty (60) days after the end of the grant period. Closeout actions occur inside the TVC Grants Portal of record.

3.11 Grant Period Performance Standards:

- 3.11.1 Grant Period Performance Standards are used by TVC to determine how successful the grant is performing throughout the grant period.
- 3.11.2 Grant performance is determined by the Total Number of Unduplicated Clients Served divided by the Total Number of Clients to Be Served.
- 3.11.3 Grant performance will be calculated each quarter with the data submitted in the monthly Payment Reimbursement Request (PRR).
- 3.11.4 Grantees not meeting the quarterly performance standards must provide a written plan explaining why they are not meeting the standard and how they plan to meet the following quarter’s standard.
- 3.11.5 Grant performance standards for renewal eligibility will be taken at the end of the 9th month.

Period	Dates	Performance
1st	July 2025 – September 2025	20%
2nd	October 2025 – December 2025	40%
3rd	January 2026 – March 2026	60%
Renewal Eligibility	July 2025 – March 2026	60%
4th	April 2026 – June 2026	80%
5th	July 2026 - August 2026	100%

Grant performance is determined by the Total Number of Unduplicated Clients Served divided by the Total Number of Unduplicated Clients to be Served.

3.12 Grant Amendments:

- 3.12.1 Any changes, additions, or deletions to the provisions contained in the NOGA or Approved Application must be executed through a grant amendment. Amendments may modify the approved budget categories, grant period, or scope of the Grant Project as described in the Approved Application. All amendments except increases to award amounts are reviewed by the Executive Director for approval.
- 3.12.2 Amendment requests seeking to increase the award amount must be brought before the Commission for approval and must be submitted within the amendment deadline of May 31, 2026. Written requests must be submitted to your Grant Officer 45 days before the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting to be included on the agenda.
 - 3.12.2.1 Organizations requesting total grant funding via applications, amendments, and/or renewals exceeding certain amounts must follow Section 4.12 Required Financial Documents for Multiple Funding Sources in this document.
- 3.12.3 Each amendment request will be considered on a case-by-case basis. A Grantee may have no more than three (3) amendments during a grant period and must be submitted no later than May 31, 2026.

- 3.12.4 Awarded grants can extend up to 6 months from the awarded grant end period of August 31, 2026, extending to February 28, 2027.
- 3.12.5 Grantees in the renewal track that submit an amendment to extend the grant end period are self-withdrawing from the renewal track and are not eligible for grant renewal.

3.13. Texas Veterans Commission Recognition: Grantee must include the following information on the organization's website and on all grant-funded project-related materials, brochures, flyers, and forms:

- 3.13.1. Texas Veterans Commission website URL.
- 3.13.2. Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA) logo.
- 3.13.3. The following statement: "This program is supported by a grant from the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance. The Fund for Veterans' Assistance provides grants to organizations serving veterans and their families. For more information, visit www.tvc.texas.gov"
- 3.13.4. Awardees/Grantees must mention TVC in all TV and radio announcements and interviews dealing with FVA grant projects.

3.14. Prohibited Uses of FVA Grant Funds: Per Texas Administration Code §460.10, grant funds cannot be used for the following:

- 3.14.1. Capital expenditures, including capital purchases or capital leases, except for grant funds awarded under the Housing for Texas Heroes program.
 - 3.14.1.1. Capital expenditures definition is expenditures to acquire a capital asset (such as land, additional buildings and/or structures, vehicles, trailers, livestock, and service animals), or expenditures to make additions, improvements, modifications, replacements, rearrangements, reinstallations, renovations, or alterations to capital assets that materially increase their value or useful life.
- 3.14.2. Sub-granting of funds to other organizations or agencies.
 - 3.14.2.1. Sub-Granting is an award made by a Grantee to another organization or agency using FVA grant funds.
- 3.14.3. Distribution of cash or a cash equivalent to veterans and/or their dependents. Cash equivalents include gift cards or pre-paid service cards, such as gas, grocery, and department store-related cards.
- 3.14.4. Acquisition or construction of facilities, except for grant funds awarded under the Housing for Texas Heroes program for home modifications, repairs, and weatherization.
- 3.14.5. Scholarships for Education.
- 3.14.6. Payment of Child Support.
- 3.14.7. Any expense not necessary to complete the grant project, or not consistent with the Grant Agreement.
- 3.14.8. Contributions to any political party, political association, or the campaign of any candidate for public office, party office, or similar political activities.
- 3.14.9. Contributions that support or oppose candidates for public or party office, or to support or oppose any ballot propositions.

- 3.14.10. Medical costs, including physician fees, prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, medical insurance premiums or copays, emergency/after-hours clinic fees, and prescribed prosthetics.
- 3.14.11. Stipends for beneficiaries, volunteers, students, interns, employees, and members of the board of directors.
- 3.14.12. Payments for capital assets that are not physically in Texas.
- 3.14.13. Any cost that is not allowable under the Grant Agreement, the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Fiscal Guidelines, Texas Grant Management Standards (TxGMS).

3.15. Unallowable Expenses:

- 3.15.1. Supplanting of salaries or compensation for part-time or full-time county or city employees.
- 3.15.2. Conduct activities or provide services that duplicate those provided by the Texas Veterans Commission.
 - 3.15.2.1. Grant funds may be used to conduct activities or provide services that complement those provided by the Texas Veterans Commission.
 - 3.15.2.2. Services provided by the Texas Veterans Commission include Claims, Education, Employment, Mental Health, Women Veterans, Health Care Advocacy, and Entrepreneur Programs. More information about these programs can be found on the Texas Veterans Commission website, <http://www.tvc.texas.gov>.
- 3.15.3. Conduct activities or provide services that duplicate those under contracts or agreements with the Texas Veterans Commission.
 - 3.15.3.1. Organizations are responsible for ensuring they disclose any such contract.
 - 3.15.3.2. Organizations must clearly and sufficiently differentiate between the grant project and TVC contracted services.
- 3.15.4. To purchase equipment.
 - 3.15.4.1 Equipment means tangible property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization threshold established by the Grantee for financial statement purposes or \$2,000.
- 3.15.5. Vehicle purchase and capital leases. "Use" leases or "operational" leases are allowable only with prior approval.
- 3.15.6. Expenses that are not listed in the project budget and do not support approved grant project objectives, are prohibited without prior approval.
- 3.15.7. Client services for employees (or contractors), when the employees' salaries (or contracted fees) are paid in full or in part by the same TVC Grantee organization providing the services, are only allowable with prior approval.
- 3.15.8. Preparation of Grant Application costs associated with preparing and/or submission of an application.
- 3.15.9. "Honoraria" – The term "fee" should be used in lieu of honorarium in accounting records and consulting agreements.
- 3.15.10. Food – other than food meal services (meal delivery or soup kitchen), food voucher, or food pantry.
- 3.15.11. Alimony is not considered emergency financial assistance.
- 3.15.12. Court-ordered or settlement-mandated payments.
- 3.15.13. Tax costs in the form of special assessments for capital improvements and/or federal income taxes.

- 3.15.14. Release Time as a fringe benefit or a component to a compensation package for a grant-funded employee.
- 3.15.15. Paying out accrued annual leave.
 - 3.15.15.1. Pay out of accrued leave does not contribute to the delivery of client services. Grant-funded employees are encouraged to use the annual and sick leave they accrue (as authorized by their organization's employee management policies) during the grant period.
- 3.15.16. Negotiated indirect cost rates based on cost allocation plans or indirect costs that exceed the 10% limit. FVA grants use a 10% de minimis indirect cost rate for reimbursing indirect costs.
- 3.15.17. Payments made directly to the beneficiary.
- 3.15.18. Tuition, books, or fees for classes with institutions of higher learning.
- 3.15.19. Tools and uniforms that are provided by the employer, or not required within the first 90 days of employment.
- 3.15.20. Employees, managers, directors, executives who provide overall supervision, oversight, or executive authority and do not provide direct client services.
 - 3.15.20.1. Employees conducting supervision, oversight, executive authority administrative, or facilities duties are allowed under Indirect Cost.
- 3.15.21. Cost/Debt under collection where the creditor is not the sole receiver of payment.

4. 2025-2026 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY AND APPLICATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1. Total Funding Available and Number of Awards:** The anticipated amount available for awards in 2025-2026 for all four FVA grant programs including the Service Dog Program, VCSO Funding, and grant renewals is \$31,000,000. The number of awards will be dependent upon the FVA grant amounts awarded to Eligible Applicants.
- 4.2. Funding Goals for FVA Grants:** TVC established the following priorities to provide guidance to the FVA Advisory Committee in developing funding recommendations and for the Commission in making grant awards. The FVA Advisory Committee shall provide funding recommendations for grant applications based on the Funding Goals listed in *Section 1 – Program Description, Paragraph 1.2 - Funding Goals* located in this document.
- 4.3. Term of Grant:** Grants awarded under this RFA will be for 14 months beginning on July 1, 2025, and ending on August 31, 2026. Reimbursement will only be made for allowable expenses that occur within this grant term. No pre-award spending will be allowed.
- 4.4. Number of Applications and Awards per Organization:** Organizations may apply for and be awarded 1 grant per grant program - a maximum of 3 grants per grant period. County Governments may have 4 grants awarded, including a VTC grant.
- 4.5. Application Period:** The application period for this grant opens September 12, 2024, and closes November 12, 2024. Applications must be submitted by 5pm (CST) on the closing date through the TVC Grants Portal. Only applications submitted via the portal will be considered for funding.
- 4.6. Eligible Applicants: Who can apply for a grant?**

- 4.6.1. Organizations providing services under a renewed grant are not eligible for a second renewal and must apply under this RFA for the 2025-2026 grant period.
- 4.6.2. Units of local government.
- 4.6.3. IRS Code §501(c)(19) Posts or organizations of past or present members of the Armed Forces.
- 4.6.4. IRS Code §501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations authorized to do business in Texas; or
- 4.6.5. Texas chapters of IRS Code §501(c)(4) Veteran’s service organizations.

4.7. Not Eligible to Apply: Who cannot apply for a grant.

- 4.7.1. Individuals.
- 4.7.2. For-profit entities.
- 4.7.3. Units of federal or state government, state agencies, or colleges and universities.
- 4.7.4. Organizations that have not fulfilled and maintained all legal requirements to operate in Texas.
- 4.7.5. Organizations that do not have current operations in Texas or a Texas-based chapter; and
- 4.7.6. Organizations that are currently providing services under a non-renewed grant during the 2024-2025 grant period, have an opportunity to meet renewal criteria for a 2025-2026 grant, and therefore are ineligible to submit applications for the same grant programs announced in this RFA.
- 4.7.7. Applicant organizations with contracts or agreements with the TVC may be ineligible for FVA grant funding requested for Proposed Projects involving the same or similar services as those funded under the contract. Applicants are responsible for ensuring their submitted application discloses any such contract. The Proposed Project must be clearly and sufficiently differentiated in the application from any contracted services.

4.8. Online Grant Application: Applicants must complete and submit the application on the TVC Grants Portal found at www.tvc.texas.gov/grantseekers/. Paper applications are not accepted. Each Organization is required to register for one account in the TVC Grants portal. This one account is used for all applications submitted by that Organization. Each section description explains the information required to complete the application. The application window will be open for 60 days. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications in the TVC Grants Portal at least 72 hours prior to the announced application closing date to avoid technical or user-generated issues. The TVC Grants Portal will not allow applications to be submitted after the announced closing time and date.

4.9. Funding Amounts per Grant Program: Eligible Applicants can request funding in increments of \$5,000 when their grant-funded services are provided at the local, county, regional, and statewide levels. See table below.

Table 4.1 Funding Amounts per Grant Program.

Grant Program	Requested Funding Limits	
	\$5,000 - \$400,000	\$5,000 - \$600,000
General Assistance: Local, County, and Regional	X	
General Assistance: Statewide		X
Housing for Texas Heroes		X

Veteran Mental Health		X
Veteran Treatment Court: County-level	X	
Veteran Treatment Court: Regional Court (2 or more counties)		X
Veteran County Service Office: GA, H4TXH, VMH	X	

4.10. Matching Funds: There is no matching requirement.

4.11. Financial Documentation: FVA staff review financial documents associated with the applicant via the IRS website. Staff may request additional information to determine financial stability. Applicant should pass the liquid asset test and have sufficient funds to cover 2 months of services.

4.12. Application Certification: Applicants will attest to reading, understanding, and accepting the terms of this grant contract according to federal and state regulations, and TVC policies outlined in the RFA, program requirements, and the Notice of Grant Award statement.

4.13. Application Package: A complete Application Package includes submitting a completed online application and attached items listed below via the TVC Grants Portal. An Application Package may have up to three (3) attachments. Failure to provide required attachments or to agree with the True and Correct Statement will result in ineligibility. When submitting the Application Package, name each attachment below.

4.13.1. List and terms of current governing body members (Board of Directors, Commissioners Court, City Council Members).

4.13.2. IRS Tax determination letter regarding non-profit status, if applicable. Do not submit paperwork from the State Secretary of State or the State Comptroller of Public Accounts regarding non-profit status. Only IRS Tax determination letter indicating your organization is recognized as a tax-exempt non-profit is acceptable.

4.13.3. A copy of current professional liability insurance and/or malpractice insurance policy covering the applicant organization at the time of application submission.

4.14. Application Webinar and Questions: Potential applicants can participate in an information webinar session regarding 2025-26 FVA grant applications. The webinar is tentatively scheduled as listed in Key Dates below. Information regarding the webinar will be available on the [FVA website](#). Please check the [FVA website](#) for updated information.

4.14.1. The information webinar will address questions regarding the application or application process but will not address a specific project or an organization’s application.

4.14.2. All questions pertaining to this RFA must be submitted to rfaquestions@tvc.texas.gov with “2025-26 [Grant Program inserted here] Question” in the subject line of the email. FAQs and responses will be posted on the website.

5. APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY AND REVIEW: All submitted applications are screened for eligibility before entering the competitive selection process. The eligibility assessment is designed to be a proactive measure to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse and to alert the commission to potential risks before an award is made.

5.1. Application Eligibility: A Grant Application must meet the following requirements to be considered eligible for the competitive grant selection process:

- 5.1.1. Be completed according to the grant application instructions.
- 5.1.2. Satisfy all requirements as listed in Section 4: 2025-2026 Funding Opportunity and Application Submission Requirements; and
- 5.1.3. Submitted via the TVC Grants portal by the deadline established in this RFA.
- 5.1.4. If a Grant Application does not meet all requirements listed above, it may not be considered for funding. FVA may request additional documentation from the applicant for clarification after initial review of submitted application. Any information requested by the FVA must be submitted within five (5) business days of FVA's request. If clarification information is not received or is incomplete, the application may not be considered for funding.

5.2. Application Eligibility – Unallowable Expenses: The requested grant amount will be reduced by the TVC Executive Director during application eligibility screening if the application includes unallowable budgeted expense(s) equaling 20%-40% of the total grant amount requested. Example: if \$20,000 of unallowable costs are listed in the budget of an application seeking \$100,000 of grant funding, the unallowable items will be removed, and the application amount will be reduced to \$80,000. The TVC Executive Director shall determine if the resulting, reduced application will move forward in the competitive selection process for awarding.

5.3. Ineligible Applications: Grant Applications received will be reviewed for eligibility and deemed ineligible if one or more of the following applies:

- 5.3.1. The application is not complete.
- 5.3.2. The Application Package is missing required attachments.
- 5.3.3. If the organization has an exclusion record listed on the General Services Administration (GSA) System for Award Management (SAM). A Grantee with an exclusion record listed in GSA SAM will be ineligible for renewal.
- 5.3.4. The Application Package is not submitted through the TVC Grants portal by the deadline.
- 5.3.5. The **application is ineligible** if more than 40% of the budgeted expenses in the application are determined unallowable expenses and prohibited uses of FVA grant funds.
- 5.3.6. Applicant organizations with contracts or agreements with TVC **may be ineligible** for FVA grant funding requested for Proposed Projects involving the same or similar services as those funded under the contract. Applicants are responsible for ensuring their submitted application discloses any such contract. The Proposed Project must be clearly and sufficiently differentiated in the application from any contracted services.
- 5.3.7. The applicant organization is deemed financially unstable per the liquid asset test.

5.4. Risk Determination: Awarded organizations will be assessed for risk including review of additional information available about the organization such as public information discovered through open-

source research, Federal Audit Clearing House (Harvester), IRS Select Check, SAM, GuideStar and FVA risk assessments. If selected, High Risk organizations are subject to additional compliance reviews throughout the grant period.

- 5.5. Applicant Financial Stability** will be assessed using the liquid asset test based on financial documentation found on the IRS website. Competitive organizations typically can show a cash and/or cash equivalent balance covering at least two (2) months of the projected grant expenses for the proposed grant project included in the application.

- 5.6. Application Review:** Following eligibility screening, and financial stability assessment, the eligible applications are reviewed by the FVA staff to assess the application's fit and alignment with FVA's grant program, as described in the RFA, the Annex A - Terms and Conditions, and Annex B - Grant Program Requirements. Each application receives independent reviews from three separate FVA staff. The results from the reviews are scored based on the scoring table below.

Table 5.1. Application Review Scoring

Criteria	Question	Score
Proposed Project	Project includes services identified in the Needs Assessment study published in August 2024 mentioned in Section 1 – 1.2.6. of this RFA	1
	Project serves a highly rural county as defined by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (counties with fewer than seven people per square mile)	1
	Project serves more than 1 county	1
	Project serves beneficiaries statewide	1
Financial Management	Applicant passes the liquid asset test mentioned in Section 5 – 5.5 of this RFA	1
	Applicant has sufficient funds to cover 2 months of services as mentioned in Section 5 – 5.5 of this RFA	1
	Applicant uses software to record accounting transactions and manage financial bookkeeping	1
	Applicant can sustain this project without FVA funding	1
Budget	Budget does not contain unallowable or prohibited expenses mentioned in Section 3 – 3.14 and 3.15 of this RFA	1
	75% of the budget is allocated to client services as mentioned in Annex B: 2025-2026 Grant Program Requirements (Treatment Court, Mental Health, or other budgeted salary providing an intangible service are considered client services; equipment and conference fees are not considered client services)	1
Total		10

6. AWARD PROCESS:

6.1. Application Review Window: When the application window is opened, and before the TVC Commission makes the grant awards, TVC Commissioners and FVA Advisory Committee members cannot discuss applications with any organization.

6.2. FVA Advisory Committee:

6.2.1. All eligible applications will be given to the Committee for their evaluation and preparation of award recommendations to the Commission. The Committee uses the application, its attachments, FVA staff review, and the funding goals to formulate the recommendation list for awards.

6.2.2. The Committee will convene in January 2025 for a public presentation of the Proposed Projects by Applicants. Following that public presentation, the Committee will convene in late March or early April 2025 to make application recommendations. Additional information on these meetings (specific location and dates) will be available and shared when confirmed. The dates of these meetings are subject to change. Please check the FVA website for updated information (tvc.texas.gov/grants). Applicants are not required to participate in the presentation meeting, as their recommendation for the award is not based on the presentation. The presentation meeting serves as an opportunity for applicants to present

their projects and interact in-person or virtually with the Committee while describing their projects' objectives.

6.3. Funding Recommendations: The funding recommendations made by the Committee will be presented to the Commission in May 2025 for the Commission's award decision. Additional information on this meeting will be made available when details are confirmed. The exact date of this meeting has not been set. Please check the FVA website for updated information.

6.3.1. If any part of the submitted application needs to be revised (for example, if the Grantee is awarded an amount other than that requested or the application mischaracterizes or contains unallowable costs), the Awarded Applicant must submit a revised application during post-award Revisions, following the 3rd Quarter Commission Meeting. Any element of the awarded application outside the scope or allowable expenses for the awarded service category will be removed during this process. The FVA will provide instructions and guidelines for the submission of the revised application.

6.4. Posting: Award determinations will be posted on FVA website after the 3rd Quarter Commission Meeting.

7. KEY DATES: The dates and times listed in this RFA are subject to change. Please check the TVC website for updated information at www.tvc.texas.gov.

7.1. September 2024: 2025–2026 Request for Application (RFA) and Application Webinar.

7.2. September 12, 2024 – 5:00pm: Grant Portal and Application Window Opens for 2025-2026 FVA Grants.

7.3. October 2024: 2025-2026 Request for Application (RFA) Webinar.

7.4. November 7, 2024 – 5:00pm: Last day to submit RFA questions to TVC (rfaquestions@tvc.texas.gov) regarding this RFA.

7.5. November 12, 2024 – 5:00pm: All applications must be submitted. Application portal will close automatically at 5:00 p.m., Central Standard Time on this date.

7.6. January 2025: Application Presentation Meeting. All eligible organizations may present their application to the FVA Advisory Committee in person or virtually. Travel expenses are not covered.

7.7. March 2025: Funding Recommendation Meeting. FVA Advisory Committee meets to confirm funding recommendations.

7.8. May 2025: Grant Award Commission Meeting. Austin, Texas.

7.9. May 2025: 2025-2026 Newly Awarded Applicants & Renewed Grantees Webinar.

7.9.1. **June 2025:** Notice of Grant Awards to be sent to funded organizations.

7.9.2. **July 1, 2025:** Grant Funding Period begins.

7.9.3. **August 31, 2026:** Grant Funding Period ends.

8. FVA GRANTEE TRAINING. Awarded Applicants will be required to participate in training. Training will be conducted remotely either via webinar or conference call, or in some instances FVA staff may conduct an onsite training visit at the Awarded Applicant's facility.