## This information is copied and shared from the VFW Action Corps/VA VA Homeless Veteran Grant

# Legal Services for Veterans Programs

Veterans who are homeless or at risk for homelessness often face legal issues that make it difficult for them to obtain or maintain stable housing. The Legal Services for Veterans (LSV) program aims to increase access to legal services to eligible Veterans through the award of grant funds and by promoting Medical Legal Partnerships and VA-affiliated legal clinics throughout the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). LSV is a component of the Veterans Justice Programs (VJP) within the VHA Homeless Programs Office. The new Legal Services for Homeless Veterans and Veterans At-Risk for Homelessness Grants (LSV-H) will enable VA to deliver legal services to these Veterans. Legal services particularly civil legal services that support accessing government benefits, navigating family law, ensuring access to safe housing, and assisting with debt - can all be critical to resolving or preventing homelessness. View the LSV-H Interim Final Rule. In alignment with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness's goal to End Veteran Homelessness, this grant program will assist in furthering access to legal services for Veterans. LSV-H is authorized under sections 4202 & 5105 of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D., Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (P.L. 116-315), signed into law on January 5, 2021. LSV-H is further codified in 38 U.S.C. 2022A.

### **NEW** List of LSV-H Grantees

The Grantees for the Fiscal Year 2023 LSV-H were announced on June 29, 2023. Find a full list of awarded grantees <u>here</u>. **The LSV-H grant cycle will begin August 1, 2023.** 

Please check back often for important updates. The LSV grant application period is currently closed.

VA anticipates organizations will be able to apply for grants worth up to \$150,000 and may apply to renew awards from year-to-year throughout the length of the program. Grants may be awarded to public or nonprofit private entities with the capacity to effectively administer the grant and provide qualifying legal services to Veterans experiencing or at risk for homelessness.

Some legal services that may be provided under these grants are:

- Legal services related to housing
- Legal services related to family law
- Legal services related to income support
- Legal services related to criminal defense in matters symptomatic of homelessness
- Legal services to request an upgrade to the character of discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces
- Legal services related to access to health care
- Legal services related to employment law

VA may prioritize grant awards to organizations serving rural communities, trust lands, Native Americans, and tribal organizations. In any fiscal year, not less than 10% of grant funds shall be used to provide legal services to women Veterans.

For more information about the Legal Services for Veterans Grant Program, <u>read our</u> <u>one-page NOFO overview</u>, visit the <u>LSV Provider website</u> or contact LSVGrants@va.gov.

## **Additional Legal Services**

If you are a service member or Veteran in need of legal assistance now, there are several resources available to assist you.

Many legal service providers offer free legal clinics in VA facilities. Specific information can be found here: <u>Listing of pro-bono legal clinics</u>. You may also visit <u>StatesideLegal</u>, <u>ABA Federal Free Legal Answers</u>, <u>VetLex</u> or <u>ABA Pro</u> Bono Resources for Veterans.

Staff at your <u>nearest VA Medical Center</u> may be able to tell you more about available legal

clinics and other community legal assistance resources.

Please note: VA assumes no responsibility for the professional ability or integrity of the legal service providers that appear on this list. VA does not endorse or recommend any of these organizations.

#### What Services will the grant provide?

Grants will be awarded to organizations that provide legal services for homeless and at risk for homeless Veterans who are eligible, including primarily legal services related to housing, family law, income support, requested upgrade to the character of discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces, access to health care, and employment law