

IDVS-PO-19-02 – POLICY GOVERNING THE VETERANS SUPPORT FUND GRANT PROGRAM

In 2008, the Idaho Legislature created within the State Treasury the Veterans Support Fund¹ consisting of money collected through:

- Income tax refund donations;
- Gold Star License Plate fees;
- Gifts, grants, contributions and bequests to the fund;
- Interest earned on the investment of idle moneys in the fund, which shall be paid to the fund; and
- All other moneys as may be provided by law.

Chief Administrator of the Division of Veterans Services has the authority under Idaho Code to disburse money in the Veterans Support Fund to programs that support Veterans.² The award of grants under the Veterans Support Fund Grant Program is a discretionary action to be performed by the Chief Administrator. There is no provision for administrative appeal. However, if your grant application is denied, you may alter the request and resubmit for reevaluation.

This policy establishes a grant application and award process, details the types of programs and projects eligible for grants, and provides for the disbursement of funds.

Purpose of Grants.

The purpose of the Idaho Veterans Support Fund Grant Program is to fund programs to support Veterans of the armed forces of the United States. The policy of the Idaho Division of Veterans Services is to fund programs operated both within and outside state and local government. Veterans Support Fund grants are not provided to support the basic needs of individual veterans or their families. The Division will refer applicants for grants to support the needs of individuals to the Veterans Services Emergency Relief Program.

Eligible Applicants.

Individuals, organizations, and governmental entities, including Bureaus within the Idaho Division of Veterans Services, may submit applications for funding from the Veterans Support Fund.

Grant Priorities and Eligible Activities.

Eligible Activities and Costs.

Any purpose meeting the objective of supporting veterans of the armed forces of the United States and not explicitly excluded within the ineligible activities section of this policy is eligible to receive a grant under the Program. Eligible activities and costs include:

1. Programs to inform veterans and the public of services and programs for veterans, including programs offered by the Division.

¹ Idaho Code § 65-209

² Idaho Code § 65-209-3

2. Programs providing career training to veterans, including programs providing educational scholarships.
3. Programs providing training to individuals and organizations supporting veterans, including employees of public and private organizations assisting veterans with healthcare, education, and assistance in obtaining public benefits.
4. The acquisition of equipment supporting the health, rehabilitation, or recreational activities of veterans.
5. Financial support or sponsorship of ceremonies celebrating or honoring the service of veterans.
6. Programs providing social, health, rehabilitation, or recreational activities or care to veterans.

Ineligible Activities and Costs.

Grant funds **shall not** be used for political, lobbying, religious, or illegal activities. For the purposes of awarding grants ineligible lobbying does not include:

1. Advocacy on behalf of individual or groups of Veterans for public benefits.
2. The general edification of public officials concerning the needs of veterans that does not advocate for or support specific legislative proposals.

Funding Priorities.

The Idaho Division of Veterans Services prioritizes:

1. Proposals which serve the greatest number of veterans; and
2. Proposals for which there is no other source of funding.

Application, Review and Award.**Application.**

Applications for the Veterans Support Fund Grant Program may be submitted at any time. Applicants shall submit a grant proposal via the Veterans Support Fund Grant Program Application available at <http://veterans.idaho.gov/> and is included in Attachment 1 of this policy.

Review of Grant Proposals.

IDVS Central Support Office staff review proposals for completeness and compliance with the guidelines set forth in this policy and make recommendations for funding to the Chief Administrator. The Chief Administrator reviews these recommendations monthly.

Grant Awards.

The Chief Administrator, in his sole discretion, makes all Veterans Support Fund Grant awards. The Chief Administrator may establish conditions or requirements for the expenditure of grant funds in a written agreement between the Idaho Division of Veterans Services and the grant recipient.

Conditions and requirements may include:

1. The provision of matching funds from the grant recipient.
2. The repayment of all or a portion of the grant funds upon specified events.
3. The issuance of grant funds on a cost reimbursement basis.
4. The submission of status and final reports.
5. A completion date for the project or program.
6. Bidding requirements for the expenditure of grant funds.
7. Publication of credit to a grant from the Veterans Support Fund.
8. A written accounting of the use of grant funds and copies of all receipts associated with the expenditure of grant funds.

Grant Modification.

The Chief Administrator and the grant recipient may modify the grant award by written agreement. Modification, restructuring, or amendment to the grant shall be approved in the sole discretion of the Chief Administrator.

Compliance with Law and Conflict of Interest.

All grant recipients shall comply with applicable law in the conduct of programs supported by a Veterans Support Fund Grant. Public entities and employees receiving or administering grant funds shall comply with the ethics, personnel, bidding, and accounting requirements generally applicable to the entity or individual. Unless specifically provided in the grant, no official or officer of a grant recipient, individual grant recipient, or family member of an official or officer of a grant recipient or family member of an individual grant recipient shall personally profit financially from a Program grant.

Termination of Funding.

Grant funding may be terminated by the Chief Administrator at any time for use of grant funds in violation of this policy, the terms of the grant, or violation of any applicable law. Upon receipt of a written notice of termination, the grantee shall immediately cease all expenditures of grant funds and return all unspent grant funds. The Chief Administrator may require a written accounting of the use of grant funds upon the termination of funding and may deny payment for costs claimed by the grant recipient and not substantiated by written documentation.