

VETERANS RECOGNITION FUND COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES, WEDNESDAY JULY 20, 2016, MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:00 PM.

Committee Members Present: David Brasuell, Administrator
H. Melvin Napier, IVAC Chairman
Leo Dub, IVAC Vice Chairman
Arthur L. Gimpel, IVAC Commissioner
Jinny Cash, IVAC Commissioner
John A. Spurny, IVAC Commissioner
Allen Niksich, Committee Member

Guests: Phil Wickliff, Potential Committee Member
Tracy Schaner, Deputy Administrator
Debbie Spence, Financial Manager
Kevin Wallior, Admin Asst II – Minute Taker

I. WELCOME – INTRODUCTIONS – ORIENTATION

- Introductions around of all attendees.
- David Brasuell provided a brief background about the fund
 - The Veterans Recognition Fund was established by Idaho during the 62nd Legislature in House Bill 222. The history and text which can be found at <http://legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2013/H0222.htm>
 - The Veterans Recognition Fund is governed by the rules set out by IDAPA 21.01.08 and can be accessed at <http://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/21/index.html>
 - The Veterans Recognition Fund came to be through excess funds that were set aside after IDVS bills had been paid. Revenue exceeded our expenditures in excess of what was required to care for Idaho's veterans.
 - The excess was set aside to be reserved for future veteran support.
 - The funds built up over time until it was the \$20 million that currently sits in the fund.
- Debbie Spence provided more specific financial information regarding the fund
 - The \$20 million was initially transferred into the State Treasurer's account.
 - At that time all of it was kept in the idle investment, which is the normal investment where all the cash the agencies use immediately is kept.
 - IDVS worked with the State Treasurer to determine an account that can earn higher interest.
 - The idle fund earns interest at 0.0392%
 - The State Treasurer has an account called the diversified business fund, which is an investment fund

- Money placed in that account must remain for 3 to 5 years
 - This account earns 2.24%
 - \$18 million of the Veterans Recognition fund was placed in the diversified business fund, the remaining \$2 million was left in the idle fund to be allocated by the Veterans Recognition Fund Committee.
 - Per statute, we cannot use more than 5% of the average balance to give out to projects. At end of July, when the new fiscal year begins we have to verify with the State Treasurer's office how much that amount is.
 - Strong recommendation that we not use any of the principal, and only use interest.
- David Brasuell explained the logistics
 - Proposals for funds from the Recognition Fund will be solicited in December or January privately and publicly from non-profit and service organizations to be returned no later than May.
 - Those proposals will be discussed by the Recognition Fund Committee in mid-July
 - The recommendations made in July will be a line item on the budget submitted to the Governor's office.
 - Determinations made during this meeting will impact the FY18 budget.
 - Proposals will be reviewed and weighted based on the legislative intent.
- Committee informed that Idaho was likely to be approved for a Cemetery Grant in the very near future and will need matching funds from the Recognition Fund. As such, encouraged to keep this in mind when considering grant approvals.

II. GRANT PROPOSALS

Formal Requests

- Bravehearts Emergency Grants
 - Mel Napier recused himself from discussion on this grant due to his involvement as chairman of the Bravehearts Foundation.
 - Amount Requested: \$50,000
 - Initial Amount IDVS suggested: \$30,000
 - Final Amount IDVS suggested: \$25,000
 - A minimum of 30 Veterans will be able to receive aid from this grant.
 - Bravehearts provides small (no greater than \$500) one-time grants to veterans suffering from financial hardship.
 - Program was started in 2008 and to date as provide help to over 200 veterans
 - The grants are paid directly to the individuals/organizations owed money not to the veteran directly.
 - Some examples of aid: providing rent money, paying utility bills, vehicle repairs, etc.
 - \$15,000 is approximately the amount required to fund it for a year, based upon historical precedent.

- University of Idaho: Operation Education
 - Amount requested: \$50,000
 - Initial Amount IDVS suggested: \$20,000
 - Final Amount IDVS suggested: \$10,000
 - This program honors and assists Veterans who have sustained severe and permanent disability while serving our country post-9/11 by providing the opportunity to attain a college degree.
 - This was one of the first programs in the nation for disabled veterans in higher education.
 - The program provides aid beyond the GI Bill. It can provide therapy, transportation around campus, transportation from campus to therapy, financial assistance to cover short falls.
 - The program caters to the specific needs of each veteran. The program does everything possible to ensure disabled veterans are successful and able to achieve their educational goals.
 - Serves approximately 20 Veterans annually.

- Legacy Corps Caregiver Support
 - Amount requested: \$65,000
 - Initial Amount IDVS suggested: \$50,000
 - Final Amount IDVS suggested: \$35,000
 - Legacy Corps is a national volunteer-powered caregiver support program, operating within the Mountain States Group, which provides assistance to veterans needing help in their home and a veteran's family caregiver. Legacy Corps volunteers provide caregiver respite, caregiver education, linkages to other community support resources, and other services that help veterans' families.
 - Legacy Corps serves family members who provide live-in care for veterans and veterans or military family members who care for an adult at home.
 - Legacy Corps can provide:
 - 3-5 hours of caregiver respite per week
 - Transportation to medical appointments/grocery shopping for care receiver
 - Information sharing about community and veteran resources to help family caregivers
 - Peer-to peer support networks
 - This grant will benefit over 200 veterans.
 - The grant will be used to increase the number of caregivers and care receivers served, veteran volunteers, target geographic areas they are not already visible, and overall expansion of the program.

- Wyakin Warrior Program
 - Amount Requested: \$100,000
 - Initial Amount IDVS suggested: \$30,000
 - Final Amount IDVS suggested: \$10,000
 - Enables severely wounded and injured veterans to achieve personal and professional success.
 - Help veterans develop as business and community leaders
 - Provides mentoring, professional development, financial support, community service and networking.

- Idaho Supreme Court Veterans Treatment Courts
 - Amount Requested: \$42,336
 - Initial Amount IDVS suggested: \$21,000
 - Final Amount IDVS suggested: \$12,500
 - Grant will allow twenty-one representatives from the six Idaho Veterans Treatment courts to attend a national veterans' treatment court training conference.
 - Goal is to model Idaho Veterans treatment courts of best practice principles developed through critical training.
- Idaho State University Veteran Student Services Center
 - Amount Requested: \$27,084
 - Initial Amount IDVS suggested: \$10,000
 - Final Amount IDVS suggested: \$10,000
 - The Veteran Student Services Center provides services assistance to student and community veterans, student service members, and qualified family members.
 - Provide transition and academic support.
 - Grant will be used for operations, training support, and staff development.
- The Guardians Foundation
 - Amount Requested: \$10,000
 - Initial Amount IDVS suggested: \$5,000
 - Final Amount IDVS suggested: \$0
 - The Guardians Foundation provides a variety of assistance to veterans and their families.
 - Financial assistance.
 - Educational assistance.
 - Emergency grants.
 - Homelessness support services.
- IDVS Veterans Support Fund
 - Amount requested: \$30,000
 - Initial Amount IDVS suggested: \$30,000
 - Final Amount IDVS suggested: \$25,000
 - Serves tens to hundreds of veterans.
 - Will be used to fund small-scale grants of less than \$5,000 to be used to serve veterans interests.
 - The rules covering the Fund are at <http://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/21/0103.pdf>.

III. DISCUSSION AND VOTING

- After presentation and discussion, the committee decided to adopt the recommendations of IDVS with the intent of safeguarding the matching funds required for a second state cemetery being constructed in Eastern Idaho.

Grant Requests		
Bravehearts	IVAL	\$25,000.00
Operation Education	University of Idaho	\$10,000.00
Legacy Corps	JANNUS	\$35,000.00
Wyakin Warrior Program	Wyakin Warrior Program	\$10,000.00
Veterans Treatment Courts	Idaho Supreme Court	\$12,500.00
Veterans Student Services Center	Idaho State University	\$10,000.00
The Guardians Foundation	The Guardians Foundation	\$0.00
Veterans Support Fund	IDVS	\$25,000.00
2 nd State Veterans Cemetery	IDVS	\$809,400.00
Total		\$936,900.00

Art Gimpel made a motion to accept all grant proposals, as a whole, as annotated in the table above, including the stipulations discussed.

John Spurny seconded.

All committee members voted unanimously in favor of funding the programs as annotated in the table above, including the stipulations discussed.

The Committee talked of working with the VSOs about getting the word out about this grant program and urge Veterans Service Organizations to get involved with building infrastructure in communities to serve disabled veterans.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:45 PM MST.