

VETERANS RECOGNITION FUND COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES, WEDNESDAY JULY 19, 2017, 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
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.
 - Due to low volume of applications, deadline was extended to June this year.
 - 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 FY19 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

- GoRide Veterans Van Transportation – Valley Regional Transit
 - Amount Requested: \$60,500
 - Amount IDVS suggested: \$25,000
 - Provides free transportation to veterans in need.
 - Emphasis on serving elderly veterans, disabled veterans, and veterans with limited financial means.
 - This program provides approximately 200 rides a week to veterans in the Treasure Valley area.
- 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
 - 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: \$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
 - Amount IDVS suggested: \$40,000
 - 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
 - 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 State University Veteran Student Services Center
 - Amount Requested: \$36,060
 - Amount IDVS suggested: \$15,000
 - 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.
- North Idaho College Expansion of Veterans Resources program
 - Amount requested: \$9,300
 - Amount IDVS suggested: \$5,000
 - Provide SALUTE membership to all veteran students. Established in 2009, SALUTE is the first national honor society established for student veterans and currently serving military personnel attending 2-year and 4-year institutions of higher education.
 - The NIC SALUTE chapter will be administered by the Veteran and Military Family Services.
 - Funds would also be utilized to expand computer access in the NIC Veterans Resource Center with addition of new computers.
- Phoenix Multisport – Boise Chapter
 - Amount Requested: \$50,000
 - Amount IDVS suggested: \$5,000
 - A sober active community for people in recovery.
 - Phoenix Multisport leverages physical and social activity to support veterans on a path to recovery from addiction.
- IDVS Veterans Support Fund
 - Amount requested: \$25,000
 - Amount IDVS suggested: \$15,000
 - 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>.
- Ruck Up & Rebuild – Ride for Joy
 - Amount requested: \$2,000
 - Amount IDVS suggested: \$0
 - This application fit the eligibility criteria for a Veteran Support Fund. IDVS contacted the applicant to have them resubmit a veteran support fund application instead.

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.

FY2019 Recognition Fund Requests			Original Request	IDVS Recommendation	% of Original Request	Committee Recommendation
GoRide Veterans Van Transportation	Valley Regional Transit	Provides Transportation to veterans in the Treasure Valley	\$60,500	\$25,000	41.32%	\$25,000
Launch a Boise Chapter of Phoenix Multisport	Phoenix Multisport - Boise	A sober active community for people in recovery, Phoenix Multisport leverages physical and social activity to support veterans on their path recovery from addiction.	\$50,000	\$5,000	10.00%	\$5,000
Wyakin Warrior Program	Wyakin Warrior	Wounded Warrior Education and Employment.	\$100,000	\$10,000	10.00%	\$10,000
Legacy Corps Caregiver Support	Jannus	Serves three populations of Veterans; caregivers, care receivers, those who volunteer; since 2012 has served over 112 veterans; plus families	\$65,000	\$40,000	61.54%	\$40,000
Bravehearts	Bravehearts	Grants up to \$500 to assist Veterans in dire financial need.	\$50,000	\$25,000	50.00%	\$25,000
Ruck Up & Rebuild	Ride for Joy	Holistic healing through camping and recreation for veterans. Note: Due to low amount referred to Veteran Support Fund program.	\$2,000	\$0	N/A	\$0
Operation Education	University of Idaho	Education scholarship program for severely disabled Veterans	\$50,000	\$10,000	20.00%	\$10,000
Veterans Student Services Center	Idaho State University	Student veterans transition and academic support.	\$36,060	\$15,000	41.60%	\$15,000
Expansion of resources for Veteran Students	North Idaho College	Provide SALUTE membership to all veteran students and expand computer access in the NIC Veterans Resource Center with addition of new computers.	\$9,300	\$5,000	53.76%	\$5,000
Veterans Support Fund	IDVS	Small grant program for non-profits and other entities that provide services to veterans. Governed by IDAPA 21.01.03	\$25,000	\$15,000	60.00%	\$15,000
Total			\$447,860	\$150,000	33.49%	\$150,000

Commissioners discussed adding a dollar to veteran breakdown for future grant requests.

Commissioners requested recipients to provide a mid-term report to provide commissioners information about how funds are being utilized.

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

Allen Niksich 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 2:00 PM MST.