

# CVSO ENHANCEMENT GRANT APPLICATION – FY2010

Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs  
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## PROGRAM GOALS APPLYING UNDER

- OUTREACH TO VETERANS
- REINTEGRATION OF COMBAT VETERANS
- COLLABORATION WITH SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES; EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS; AND OTHER RELEVANT COMMUNITY RESOURCE;
- REDUCTION OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS
- DIGITAL RECORDS MANAGEMENT
- TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM
- MARKETING/ADVERTISING
- STAFF MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING

\*\*APPLICATIONS MAY INCLUDE ONE OR MORE OF THE ABOVE PROGRAMS

## COUNTY INFORMATION

**COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE: EXAMPLE COUNTY #3**

STREET:

CITY:

PHONE:

FAX:

WEBSITE:

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

CVSO:

EMAIL:

PHONE:

FAX:

## PROGRAM / GRANT SUMMARY OF REQUEST

GRANT TITLE: **RESOURCE COORDINATOR**

THIS REQUEST IS FOR:

- NEW PROJECT  
 CONTINUED SUPPORT OF EXISTING PROGRAMMING

REQUESTED LENGTH OF GRANT (MAY BE UP TO TWO YEARS, BUT CANNOT EXCEED TWO YEARS):

**2 years**

AMOUNT REQUESTED:

**\$34,000 for Resource Coordinator**

HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU SERVE ANNUALLY?

**3600**

HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL BE SERVED BY THIS REQUEST?

**3600**

### PROJECT RATIONALE

PLEASE PROVIDE A NARRATIVE THAT DESCRIBES WHY YOUR WORK MATTERS TO THE COMMUNITY YOU SERVE. IT SHOULD INCLUDE THE SCOPE, IMPACT, HISTORY, AND NEED OR NICHE YOU ARE FILLING BY THIS REQUEST. IF RELEVANT, DESCRIBE THE ROLE OF ANY PARTNERS OR VOLUNTEERS.

Scope:

**This application is for funds to cover the cost of a one day per week community resource coordinator. The Community Resource Coordinator will assist veterans, veterans' family members or significant others receive services and assistance sufficient and necessary to overcome problems related to deployment, reintegration, and placement in assisted living or skilled nursing care facilities. This application is for funding for a two year period. Although no veteran or veteran's family member will be denied assistance through our Community Resource Program, the primary focus of this proposal is that of aiding the families of**

**veterans who have most recently been deployed and those veterans residing in Assisted Living and Nursing Home facilities, and their families.**

**Purpose:**

**In our region at least 1200 National Guard members were deployed. The actual number of returning soldiers in our region is expected to be higher than 1,200 because it does not include soldiers returning from active duty and reservists who are cross-leveling. We have approximately 200 veterans and widows of veterans residing in Assisted Living and Nursing Home facilities. Additionally there are approximately 1,900 combat veterans in the County. These veterans will be eligible for pension benefits in the near future.**

**Our soldiers have focused on serving our nation under threatening and unsafe conditions. Throughout our soldiers' deployment their families and children have grown, their employment conditions and their friends' lives have changed, and their communities have continued to develop. We anticipate that returning soldiers and their families are likely to experience problems with readjustment and reintegration. Critical to successful readjustment will be the availability of support from family, friends and community. Additionally, medical and orthopedic care will be needed as well as counseling services for mental health, substance use, relationships and employment.**

**Our intent is to make sure that effective community resources are available to help returning veterans and their families overcome any problems that they may experience as a result of their soldier's deployment and their return home. These resources include formal services available through human and community service agencies as well as informal benefits available through natural community and family supports. We aim to fulfill this purpose by providing information to veterans and their families about resources available; by developing needed resources that are not currently available whenever possible; by providing support and encouragement and by eliminating any barriers to getting needed help. Ultimately, our goal is that of providing needed resources**

sufficient enough to make life manageable for veterans and their families. The result of having necessary and sufficient resources include enduring connected relationships, ongoing employment, healthy lifestyles and overall effective functioning of veterans and family members in the community, in school, at work and in the home.

Our World War II, Korean War and Vietnam veterans are rapidly aging. These veterans require assistance in acquiring benefits and resources that are pertinent to their life situation. Our goal is to provide wrap-around services and facilitate communication between governments, private and non-profit agencies providing services to our war-time veterans.

Description:

To accomplish our mission we intend to contract with an individual or agency for a half-time community outreach resource coordinator position. The coordinator will become an expert at helping veterans, their families and community service resources connect with one another. The person filling the coordinator position must have strong helping skills and be familiar with the military. The individual must be sensitive to the needs of veterans and their families and must be creative and resourceful and must be able to work assertively in the community. This coordinator will work under the supervision of our Veterans' Service Officer and will be given an office site and equipment that will make him or her easily accessible to veterans and their families. The coordinator will help and motivate veterans' and their families to overcome any barriers to effectively using available resources. Whenever resources are unavailable or non-existent, the coordinator will creatively help identify and meet the needs by either developing new or finding alternative resources. Additionally, the coordinator will become involved in community education, outreach and advocate for meeting veterans' and their families needs.

The information we have available from veterans, families, family support groups and community agencies indicate that even when formal community resources exist there are often gaps or barriers

to their use. Examples of these barriers include the need for transportation to counselor appointments, the absence of child care for parents with ongoing community and service responsibilities, and the need of respite for parents in need of couple's time to improve their relationship. Our axiom is that of making maximum use of resources to the benefit of veterans and their families without duplication of services. Our work will be done with the strictest confidence and the respect due to veterans and their families. Upon initial contact the coordinator will assess the problems and the strengths that the veteran or family members have to overcome their problems. The coordinator will work with the veteran and/or family member to develop a plan and to identify resources available. The plan may require referral to human service agencies or clinics or connecting with and the development of community resources. Consideration will be given to the use of informal resources such as A.A. and church sponsors, mentors and other talented community members. A community resource network will be nurtured and made available. The resource network will include, but not be limited to, legal and financial consultants, educators and career and business consultants.

Essentially the coordinator will act as a helper, advocate, supporter and motivator as well as a conduit to needed resources. The coordinator will respect veterans' and family members self reliance and will do what is necessary to connect the veteran and family to resources without interfering with family and self sufficiency. The coordinator will keep confidential and anonymous record of problems and resources utilized. Each month the coordinator will follow up with the veteran/ family member to determine how effective the service has been. The coordinator's work with each family will be considered to be complete when the identified concerns are reported to be successfully addressed or the family is satisfied with the outcome.

**WHAT ARE THE MEASURABLE OUTCOMES FOR WHICH YOU ARE REQUESTING SUPPORT?**

**The impact of our Veterans and Families Resource program will be measured by the feedback the coordinator receives from veterans**

and their families. Each month a summary of the coordinator's follow-up contacts will be compiled. The report will include an account of identified problem areas, of resources made available and of the veterans or families status in regards to the concerns initially identified. The status would be reported on a continuum which includes: no change, somewhat improved, acceptable, greatly improved and resolved. Our monthly report will be reviewed by the Veterans Service Officer to determine the impact of resources applied and to strengthen, support or tweak our delivery.

WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES THAT WILL HELP YOU ACHIEVE THOSE OUTCOMES? INCLUDE FREQUENCY/DURATION OF PROGRAM EVENTS OR SERVICES PROVIDED.

**Implementation plan:**

**Secure office space and equipment - Will be completed by January 1, 2010.**

**Hire Resource Coordinator - Will be completed by January 1, 2010.**

**Orientation of Resource Coordinator - Will be completed by February 2, 2010.**

**Introduction to community groups, agencies and representatives - This is an ongoing activity that will began following orientation of the resource coordinator. A list of community service agencies and groups will be developed and provided to the Resource Coordinator. Introductions will be made wherever possible. For example advisory council members can introduce the Resource Coordinator to workgroups and organizations they are involved in.**

**Development of resource guide - This is an ongoing activity that will begin with the orientation of the Resource Coordinator. Before the Resource Coordinator begins work, the County Veterans Officer and Social Services Supervisor will compile a list of potential resources. This list will be complete by February 27, 2010.**

**Printed material distributed - This will be ongoing as necessary. We anticipate that the Resource Coordinators business cards will be available by February 2, 2010. Initial brochures and printed material will be available by February 15, 2010.**

**Contact commanders, chaplains, family resource groups - This will began upon notification of receipt of the grant. These critical individuals will also be among the first that the Resource Coordinator contacts and will occur by February 27, 2010.**

**Develop impact measurement tool - This will be developed within the first month of operation or by February 27, 2010.**

**HOW WILL YOU EVALUATE YOUR WORK?**

**The impact of our Veterans and Families Resource program will be measured by the feedback the coordinator receives from veterans and their families. Each month a summary of the coordinator's follow-up contacts will be compiled. The report will include an account of identified problem areas, of resources made available and of the veterans or families status in regards to the concerns initially identified. The status would be reported on a continuum which includes: no change, somewhat improved, acceptable, greatly improved and resolved.**

**OTHER**

**IS THERE ANY OTHER INFORMATION WE MIGHT NEED TO UNDERSTAND YOUR APPLICATION AND THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY THIS REQUEST WILL SERVE?**

**The proposed Community Resource Program for Veterans is a collaborative effort between the County Veterans Service Office and the County Human Services Office. During the development of this proposal consultation and direction was received from family resource group members, members of the Ministerial Association, County Administration, local mental health providers and the Soldier and Family Support Center, Fort Riley, Kansas.**