



July 10, 2009

County Veteran Service Officers,

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs will open the Fiscal Year 2010 Enhancement Grant cycle on Monday, July 20, 2009 with a closing date of Friday, October 2, 2009, 4:30pm.

As you read through the grant process explanation, please make note of the policy changes and timelines for this cycle as they are different from previous years.

Regarding the programmatic goals, the outreach programmatic goal is for your office to reach the underserved veterans of your community – not for advertising and/or marketing your office. Examples of outreach would be visiting veterans in local nursing homes, satellite county offices, veterans' benefits fairs, job fairs/resume building workshops, etc. Examples of marketing/advertising may include brochures, pamphlets, newspaper inserts, billboards, etc. When submitting your grant application for advertising/marketing, be aware that **ALL MARKETING AND ADVERTISING EFFORTS MUST INCLUDE LINKVET.**

A noteworthy change in this year's grant cycle is under the category of "Staff Management and Training". In past grant cycles, the department allowed the applicant to submit a request to attend NACVSO training. The FY2010 grant cycle **will not** be granting counties funds to attend the 2010 NACVSO. Cost of attendance for all Minnesota CVSOs and Assistant CVSOs for the 2010 NACVSO was granted in the FY09 Enhancement Grant cycle to Le Sueur County.

Another change from previous years, applications need not be returned by certified mail. Standard mail, fax or e-mail is acceptable. Upon the receipt of your application, you will receive verification via e-mail from Nicole Peine.

Enclosed in this packet of grant materials you will find: FY10 Grant Process Explanation, FY10 Grant Application, three sample applications, and a guide to establishing measurable outcomes. The Enhancement Grant is open to all County Veteran Service Offices and the Minnesota Association of County Veteran Service Officers. The monies available for this grant cycle are \$750,000.

In closing, I would just like to say what a pleasure it has been working with you all on this program. I feel I was able to get a glimpse into the workings of your offices in a way that others do not. I know you will all enjoy working with Nicole on the FY2010 Enhancement Grants.

Thank you,

Christine Kiel