

IDVS-PO-19-03 – POLICY GOVERNING THE VETERANS RECOGNITION FUND PROGRAM

In 2008, the Idaho Legislature created within the State Treasury the Veterans Recognition Fund¹ consisting of money appropriated from excess earnings from funds maintained by the Idaho Division of Veterans Services and the interest and investment earnings generated by such moneys in the fund.

The award of funding under the Veterans Recognition Fund Program is a discretionary action to be performed by the Idaho Governor and Legislature with recommendations from the Idaho Veterans Recognition Committee. There is no provision for administrative appeal under these rules. If your grant is denied, you may alter the request and resubmit for reevaluation during the next application window.

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

Purpose of Grants.

The purpose of the Idaho Veterans Recognition Fund Program is to fund programs to support Idaho 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. The Division may refer applicants to the Idaho Veterans Support Fund if it is deemed to be a more appropriate grant opportunity for the applicant. The Division will refer applicants for grants to support the needs of individuals to the Veterans Services Emergency Relief Program.

Veterans Recognition Fund Committee²

The Veterans Recognition Fund Committee consists of seven (7) members. Committee members shall include the five members of the Idaho Veterans Affairs Commission and two (2) additional members to be appointed by the Governor. At least one (1) of the members shall have served in a recent war or conflict engaged in by the government of the United States and at least one (1) member shall be a disabled Veteran. For purposes of the appointment to the committee, a disabled Veteran shall have a current service-connected disability of thirty percent (30%) or greater.

The committee shall:

1. Maintain a familiarity with the needs of veterans returning from armed service;
2. Establish priorities for use of funds in the Idaho Veterans Recognition Income Fund; and
3. Make a recommendation each year to the governor and legislature on use of money in the Idaho Veterans Recognition Income Fund in the form of an annual allocation plan.

¹ Idaho Code § 65-702

² Idaho Code § 65-705

Eligible Applicants.

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

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.
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. 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 Veterans Recognition Committee will prioritize:

1. Proposals which serve the greatest number of veterans;
2. Proposals for which there is no other source of funding; and
3. Proposals for start-up funds for programs that will become self-sustaining.

Application, Review and Award.

Application.

Applications for the Veterans Recognition Fund Program may be submitted annually by the deadline posted on the Division Website. Applicants shall submit a grant proposal via the

Veterans Recognition Fund 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. The Chief Administrator will make recommendations for funding to the Veterans Recognition Committee.

Grant Awards.

The Veterans Recognition Committee will evaluate grant proposals annually during a meeting to be held in conjunction with the July meeting of the Idaho Veterans Affairs Commission. The Veterans Recognition Committee shall provide its proposed award of funds to the Chief Administrator to be included in the annual Idaho Division of Veterans Services budget request to the Governor. Funding approved during the budget process shall be paid to grant applicants by the Division after the beginning of the fiscal year for which it was budgeted.

Grant Conditions and Requirements.

The Veterans Recognition Committee may establish conditions or requirements for the expenditure of grant funds in a written agreement between the Committee, the Division, and the grant recipient. Conditions and requirements may include, but are not necessarily limited to:

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. Acknowledgement of a Veterans Recognition Fund grant in public information campaigns or press releases; and
8. A written accounting of the use of grant funds and copies of all receipts associated with the expenditure of grant funds.

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 Recognition Fund Committee at any time for use of grant funds or conduct 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 will immediately cease all expenditures of grant funds and return all unspent grant funds. The Recognition Fund Committee 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.