



# **Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance**

## **Annex B: 2024-2025 Grant Program Requirements**

### **Appendix 1: General Assistance Grant Program**

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**FUND FOR VETERANS' ASSISTANCE WEBSITE**

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# General Assistance Grant Program

The General Assistance (GA) Grant Program includes service categories that collectively support veterans, dependents, and surviving spouses who live in Texas. Tangible services paid for by this grant program must be in Texas.

## 1. Financial Assistance

This service category is temporary and intended to provide limited emergency assistance and financial relief to clients who can demonstrate financial need.

- It is the Organization's responsibility to verify a client's need for requesting financial assistance.
- Temporary housing and shelter nights are included in Homeless Veteran Support grants and therefore not allowed in the financial assistance service category.

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Veterans, Dependents, Surviving Spouses

- The client must be the named person on mortgage, rent, utility, loan, vehicle title, or other bill/invoice presented for financial support.

**Eligible Services:**

- Mortgage Payments:** cost to provide beneficiaries with mortgage payments (including escrow) and payments in arrears, not to exceed a 6-month period or \$6,000 per beneficiary household per grant period.
- Rent Payments:** cost to provide beneficiaries with rent payments including application fees, deposits, late fees, and payments in arrears, not to exceed a 6-month period or \$6,000 per beneficiary household per grant period.
- Utility Payments:** cost to provide beneficiaries with electric, water, gas, garbage, internet, and beneficiary household's primary user's cell phone service (also includes connection & re-connection fees, late fees, and payments in arrears), not to exceed a 6-month period or \$3,000 per beneficiary household per grant period.
- Food – Grocery:** in accordance with the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#), cost to provide beneficiaries experiencing food insecurity with perishable and non-perishable food from a local grocery store, not to exceed a 6-month period per beneficiary household per grant period.
- Transportation Assistance – Rides:** cost to provide beneficiaries with third party transportation including daily, weekly, or monthly bus, train or metro rail passes, ride-share & cab fare in local area in support of basic needs, work, school, medical appointments, or other non-social events or activities.
- Transportation Assistance - Vehicle:** cost to provide beneficiaries' vehicles with fuel not to exceed 3 months, necessary repairs not to exceed \$4,000, insurance, and loan payments not to exceed a 3-month period or \$3,000. These payments are per beneficiary household per grant period to allow safe travel in support of basic needs, work, school, medical appointments. General maintenance is not allowable.

- g) **Drop-in Child/Adult Care:** cost to provide beneficiaries with services at a licensed day care facility or business not to exceed 30 days or \$2,000 per household per grant period. Child/Adult care services is for emergency or last minutes need of care. Drop-in Child/Adult care services is not for long term care, after school, or summer programs.
- h) **Funeral:** cost to assist surviving family members who can demonstrate financial need with paying for a veteran’s funeral and interment services (excluding costs for indigent veteran services, receptions, and celebrations of life) not to exceed \$6,000.
- i) **Assistive Technology:** cost to provide dependents and surviving spouses with disabilities with products and equipment that increase, maintain, or improve the beneficiaries’ functional capabilities and promote independent living.
- j) **Restorative Dental-Care:** cost to provide beneficiaries with emergency procedures consisting of dental implants, dentures, fillings, crowns, and tooth extractions not to exceed \$2,500 per beneficiary, per grant period.

## 2. Supportive Services

This service category is for services identified through case management that provide support for low-income clients to enable stability and promote family integration with the community.

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Veterans, Dependents, Surviving Spouses; & **Low Income** - 80% of the median family income for the county in which the beneficiary lives as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

### Eligible Services:

- a) **Meal Delivery Services:** home-delivered, prepared meals to homebound or VA disabled clients, providing a friendly visit, and conducting safety checks of the client and their home.
  - Hot meals delivered daily.
  - Frozen meals or packaged meals delivered to beneficiaries living in an area where daily delivery is limited.
  - Certified service animal food is allowable. Domesticated pet food is unallowable.
- b) **Elder Care Services:** supports the clients’ ability to age in place with dignity and live independently.
  - In-Home Care consisting of personal hygiene and care task (bathing and dressing).
  - Home housekeeping consisting of cleaning, cooking and meal preparation.
  - Assistive Technologies providing dependents and surviving spouses with disabilities with products and equipment that increase, maintain, or improve the beneficiaries’ functional capabilities and promote independent living.
  - Door to door transportation rides to medical appointments with organization vehicle or paid service.
- c) **Family Support Services:** supports clients in stabilizing relationships, reducing family stress, and promoting integration with their communities.
  - Post Deployment Family Reintegration Programs to assist and prepare families for reunion after deployment.
  - Dependent Activities consisting of After School Programs, Child Care, Summer Camps, Pre-School for Qualified Dependents, Programs for Dependents with Special Needs.

- Workshop Programs consisting of Financial Planning, Family Communications, Anger/Behavioral Management, Family Safety, Adolescent and Teenage Parenting.
- Financial Assistance if financial need is identified through case management. Financial assistance services are listed in Section 1. Financial Assistance.
- Family Counseling to assist with family issues and difficulties.
  - Intervention counseling or mental health treatment provided to clients must be essential and provided by or under a Texas Licensed Mental Health Professional (LMHP) applying Evidence-Based Practice(s) (EBP) who has received adequate training in the applied EBP.

### 3. Homeless Veteran Support

This service category is for supportive services and rapid re-housing for clients who are homeless or have transitioned out of a homeless status and are identified in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Supportive services are identified through case management to address acute and chronic conditions underlying the homeless status.

Services provided to clients under this service category must be documented in the HMIS database that covers the county in which the service was provided. This documented service is required for reimbursement. Organizations providing services to homeless veterans and families must have software licenses to access the HMIS databases that cover the counties they serve.

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Veterans, Dependents, Surviving Spouses; & Homeless - Individuals who have lost their primary nighttime residence or are living in a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter, in transitional housing, have transitioned out of a homeless status, or are exiting an institution where they temporarily resided.

Client must be the named person on rent or temporary housing agreement, utility, loan, vehicle title, or other bill/invoice presented for financial support and tangible services paid for by this grant program must be in Texas.

**Eligible Services:**

- a) **Shelter Programs:** programs that provide nightly, temporary, or short-term facilities for the homeless to sleep.
- b) **Transitional Housing Rent:** HUD/VASH facilities or apartments that are for long-term lodging including application fees, deposits, and arrears.
- c) **Temporary Housing Facilities or Motels:** where clients can be housed temporarily or short-term until longer or long-term adequate housing can be found not to exceed 3 months.
- d) **Utility Payments** for electric, water, gas, garbage, internet, and cell phone service including application fees, connection fees, deposits and arrears for beneficiaries living in transitional housing.
- e) **Transportation Assistance** including daily, weekly, monthly bus passes, train or metro rail passes, ride-share, and cab fare.
- f) **Assistive Technology:** cost to provide dependents and surviving spouses with disabilities with products and equipment that increase, maintain, or improve the beneficiaries' functional capabilities and promote independent living.

- g) Restorative Dental-Care:** cost to provide beneficiaries with emergency procedures consisting of dental implants, dentures, fillings, crowns, and tooth extractions not to exceed \$2,500 per beneficiary, per grant period.
- h) Household Goods:** cost to provide beneficiaries to provide basic and reasonable furniture, cookware, and other items to establish long-term housing.
- i) Food & Hygiene Pantry** – Established pantry services that provide food and hygiene products for clients without housing or in shelters with limited capability to store food.
- j) Beneficiary Identification Documents:** services to obtain identification card, driver’s license, or social security card.
- k) Employment support** that provides resources for clients to prepare for, secure, and maintain employment.
- l) Meal Services – Organization:** organization prepares hot nutritious meals to serve at their facilities to feed those experiencing homelessness. Including food for service animals. Meal services are reimbursed at cost per meal.
- m) Meal Services – Home:** provided in-home consisting of daily hot meals, packaged and frozen meals for extended periods. Including food for certified service animals. Meal services are reimbursed at cost per meal.
- n) Food – Grocery:** in accordance with the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#), clients that are housed and have the capability to store dry, canned, fresh, and frozen food can receive perishable and non-perishable food from a local grocery store.
- o) Intervention Counseling or Mental Health Treatment** provided to clients must be essential and provided by or under a Texas Licensed Mental Health Professional (LMHP) applying Evidence-Based Practice(s) (EBP) who has received adequate training in the applied EBP.

## 4. Employment Support

This service category is for resources that support clients to prepare, secure, and maintain employment. Applicants are to review current programs offered by TVC to ensure proposed projects described in their applications do not duplicate services currently provided by TVC.

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Veterans, Dependents, Surviving Spouses

**Eligible Services:**

- a) Job skills training and education programs not longer than 6 months in duration per beneficiary per grant period.
- b) Tools and uniforms required to perform the job tasks assigned by the employer. Excludes tuition, books, or fees for veteran students taking classes with institutions of higher learning. Excludes tools and uniform items that are provided by the employer, or not required within the first 90 days of employment.
- c) Job search services and job placement assistance.
- d) Other employment-related services.
- e) Transition Assistance for service members and families entering civilian workforce.

## 5. Pro Bono Legal Services

This service category is for civil legal services and does not include criminal defense or Veterans Courts as defined in the Texas Government Code, Chapter 124, or costs associated with legal clinics where no legal consultation or services are provided.

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Per Texas Government Code 434.137(c)(2), this grant serves Veterans, Active-Duty Members of the United States Armed Forces, and Members of the State Military Forces.

**Eligible Services:**

- a) Elder Law
- b) Business Law
- c) Estate Planning
- d) Consumer Financial Protection Issues
- e) Family Law
- f) Real Estate Law
- g) Notary Services
- h) Debt Collection and Bankruptcy
- i) Landlord/Tenant Disputes (including but not limited to eviction and foreclosure proceedings)

**Unallowed Services:**

- a) Services provided to upgrade characterization of service (discharge status) are not allowed unless the discharge is the result of behaviors, decisions, misconduct linked to PTSD or MST incurred while in military service.
- b) Disability claims processing, filing, appeals processing, or any other activity associated with claims such as 2nd opinions. Claims services and support are provided by a separate TVC Department.

- c) Services provided to bring civil suit against any government entity (local, state, or federal)
- d) Any service where the government is a real or potential adversarial party (e.g., debt when the government is the lender, government foreclosures of property, adverse federal or state tax decisions etc.).
- e) Legal clinics where a representative passes information about the types of services provided and may answer general questions.

## 6. Referral Services

This service category includes programs that provide contact information of organization(s) that provide services needed by the client.

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Veterans, Dependents, Surviving Spouses

- a) Beneficiaries should be referred to organizations that can provide the services needed and are not required to be TVC grant funded organizations.
- b) Beneficiaries requesting or needing mental health services must be referred to organizations that are staffed with Texas Licensed Mental Health Professionals (LMHP).
- c) Organization should assess the beneficiaries to determine other needs to provide a complete referral.
- d) Organization must verify client is eligible to receive services, document what services were requested, and what organization(s) they were referred to.
- e) Organizations must conduct, at a minimum, a phone call follow-up with the beneficiaries to determine if need was met by the referred organization.

## 7. Transportation Programs & Services

This service category is to provide a transportation service to clients in the local area, county, or region with the use of the organization's fleet. Transportation services are in support of basic needs, work, school, medical appointments, or other non-social events or activities.

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Veterans, Surviving Spouses

**Allowable Costs of Organizational Vehicle(s):**

- a) Maintenance consisting of new tires, oil changes, tire rotation, wind shield repair, and minor repairs. Limited to \$2,000 per vehicle, per grant period.
- b) Registration
- c) Insurance
- d) Fuel consisting of gasoline, diesel, and electric vehicle charging.
- e) Drivers transporting clients.
- f) Caregiver for a veteran or surviving spouse may qualify for transportation assistance when accompanying them.



## 8. Veteran Small Business Support

This service category is for stabilizing or growing 100% veteran-owned businesses for the purpose of maintaining self-employment. Applicants are to review current programs offered by the Texas Veterans Commission's Veteran Entrepreneur Program to ensure proposed projects described in their applications do not duplicate services currently provided by TVC.

Lender referral services are provided by the Texas Veterans Commission, Veteran Entrepreneur Program.

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** Veterans; & must be in business, partnership or incorporated as a **100% veteran-owned** business certified by the TVC.

Eligible clients must obtain Veteran Verification Letter (VVL) issued by the Texas Veterans Commission, Veteran Entrepreneur Program, prior to receiving grant-funded services. For more information: <https://www.tvc.texas.gov/entrepreneurs>.

**Eligible Services:**

- a) Entrepreneurship and small-business training programs for veterans not longer than 5 months in duration per beneficiary per grant period.
- b) Tools, Equipment, Software, or other related business products for veterans valued below \$2,000.
- c) Other small-business related services are not considered financial.