

VA LEGAL SERVICES FOR HOMELESS VETERANS AND VETERANS AT-RISK FOR HOMELESSNESS (LSV-H) GRANT PROGRAM

MONTHLY GRANTEE WEBINAR
NOVEMBER 6, 2024

Recording: <https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/recording/service/sites/veteransaffairs/recording/9457297e7e9f103dbf3fee90f97356ac/playback>
Password: Homeless1!

AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Compliance
- III. Fiscal
- IV. eGMS
- V. Operations

COMPLIANCE

- I. Eligible Veterans Review
- II. Length of Service (38 USC 5303A)
- III. Determining LSV-H Eligibility
- IV. Quarterly Reports

ELIGIBLE VETERANS

- A Veteran's eligibility for the LSV-H Grant is determined by a two-prong test. First, the individual must be found to be a 'Veteran' pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 101(2). Second, the individual must be found to be homeless or at-risk for homelessness pursuant to 38 CFR § 79.15.
 - Regarding the first element: The definition of "Veteran" found in 38 U.S.C. 101(2) is to be used ("A person who served in the active military, naval, air, or space service, and who was discharged or released therefrom **under conditions other than dishonorable.**"). Additionally, the length of service requirements set forth in 38 U.S.C. 5303A apply to this grant program.
 - Regarding the second element: 38 CFR 79.15 states "To be eligible for legal services under this part, an individual must be a: (1) Homeless veteran or (2) Veteran at-risk for homelessness."
 - Homeless: means a Veteran who is homeless as that term is defined in subsection (a) or (b) of section 103 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302).
 - At Risk for Homelessness: 38 CFR 79.15(b)(1-9) goes on to provide a list of conditions of which at least one must be met to be considered 'at-risk for homelessness'.

ELIGIBLE VETERANS – LENGTH OF SERVICE

Eligible Veterans 38 USC 5303A

§5303A. Minimum active-duty service requirement

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any requirements for eligibility for or entitlement to any benefit under this title or any other law administered by the Secretary that are based on the length of active duty served by **a person who initially enters such service after September 7, 1980**, shall be exclusively as prescribed in this title.

(b)

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, a person described in paragraph (2) of this subsection who is discharged or released from a period of active duty before completing the shorter of-

(A) 24 months of continuous active duty, or

(B) the full period for which such person was called or ordered to active duty,

is not eligible by reason of such period of active duty for any benefit under this title or any other law administered by the Secretary.

(2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection applies-

(A) to any person who originally enlists in a regular component of the Armed Forces after September 7, 1980; and

(B) to any other person who enters on active duty after October 16, 1981, and has not previously completed a continuous period of active duty of at least 24 months or been discharged or released from active duty under [section 1171 of title 10](#).

(3) Paragraph (1) of this subsection does not apply-

(A) to a person who is discharged or released from active duty under [section 1171 or 1173 of title 10](#);

(B) to a person who is discharged or released from active duty for a disability incurred or aggravated in line of duty;

(C) to a person who has a disability that the Secretary has determined to be compensable under [chapter 11](#) of this title;

(D) to the provision of a benefit for or in connection with a service-connected disability, condition, or death;

(E) to benefits under [chapter 19](#) of this title;

(F) to benefits under [section 2011, 2012, 2013, 2044, or 2061](#) of this title;

(G) to benefits under [chapter 30 or chapter 37](#) of this title by reason of-

(i) a discharge or release from active duty for the convenience of the Government, as described in [sections 3011\(a\)\(1\)\(A\)\(ii\)\(II\) and 3012\(b\)\(1\)\(A\)\(iv\)](#) of this title;

(ii) a discharge or release from active duty for a medical condition which preexisted service on active duty and which the Secretary determines is not service connected, as described in clauses (A)(ii)(I) and (B)(ii)(I) of [section 3011\(a\)\(1\)](#) of this title and in [section 3012\(b\)\(1\)\(A\)\(ii\)](#) of this title;

(iii) an involuntary discharge or release from active duty for the convenience of the Government as a result of a reduction in force, as described in clauses (A)(ii)(III) and (B)(ii)(III) of [section 3011\(a\)\(1\)](#) of this title and in [section 3012\(b\)\(1\)\(A\)\(v\)](#) of this title; or

(iv) a discharge or release from active duty for a physical or mental condition that was not characterized as a disability and did not result from the individual's own willful misconduct but did interfere with the individual's performance of duty, as described in [section 3011\(a\)\(1\)\(A\)\(ii\)\(I\)](#) of this title; or

(H) to benefits under [chapter 43](#) of this title.

DETERMINING LSV-H ELIGIBILITY

- When determining Veteran Eligibility for LSV-H, reviewing their DD-214 is the best method to use. However, Veterans experiencing homelessness don't always have a copy of their DD-214. In these situations, we recommend the following steps to help determine if an individual is an eligible Veteran for LSV-H:
 - **First** - NPRC: Submit a request to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC). NPRC prioritizes requests for Veterans who are homeless. Please note that if you do need to submit a request to NPRC, you **WILL** be able to bill the LSV-H Grant for your efforts to that end. If the potential client turns out to not be eligible, you just won't be able to provide services beyond the records request. If the potential client is eligible, you'll be able to provide covered legal services under the grant in the normal course.
(<https://vetrecs.archives.gov/VeteranRequest/home.html>).
 - **Second** – SQUARES: Status Query and Response Exchange System (SQUARES) is a VA web application that provides VA employees and external organizations (homeless service community partners, law enforcement partners (police departments, sheriff departments, courts, and jails) local, state and federal agencies with reliable, detailed information about Veteran eligibility. Please note that SQUARES requires log-in via ID.me. We will be providing a SQUARES overview during onboarding in August.
 - **Third** – DPRIS: The LSV Business Team can run a search in the Defense Personnel Records Information Retrieval System (DPRIS). This search works best for Veterans discharged after 2002. The LSV Business Team will need the consent of the Veteran to allow us to conduct a search for the limited purpose of determining eligibility. Email us at LSVGrants@va.gov if you'd like us to run a DPRIS search for you.

QUARTERLY REPORT

- To ensure compliance with 38 CFR 79 and 2 CFR 200, a Quarterly Report must be completed.
- Quarterly Reports are cumulative in nature and will be completed the Electronic Grants Management System (eGMS). Instructions can be found in our Grant Recipient Guide. Reports are due one month after the end of each Quarter:
 - Q1 (August 1, 2024 – October 31, 2024): Report due no later than November 30, 2024.
 - Q2 (November 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025): Report due no later than February 28, 2025
 - Q3 (February 1, 2025 – April 30, 2025): Report due no later than May 31, 2025
 - Q4 (May 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025 – 5 Months Total): Report due no later than October 31, 2025
- If complete Quarterly Reports are not received within 30 days of the date they are due, the LSV Program Office may elect to issue a withholding of payments notification.

**PLEASE ENSURE YOUR QUARTERLY REPORTS ARE
SUBMITTED ON TIME**

FISCAL

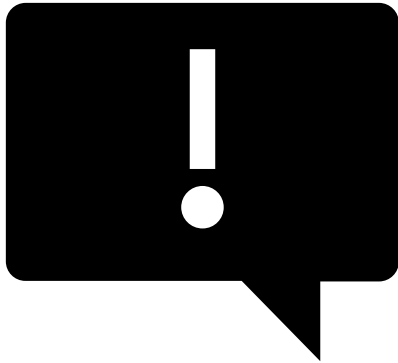
Payments:

- If drawing quarterly, please submit August – October by the end of November.
 - Minimum milestone for Q1: 10% of the total grant award
 - Enter the PMS draw and payment request in eGMS at the same time
- If you're a new grantee and still haven't received PMS access (to include submitting the SF1199 direct deposit form) please email us with estimated completion date

SF425:

- Year 1 grantees need to submit the final SF425 by November 28th
- Early submissions are encouraged
- LSV will issue a withholding of payments for any grant projects that have not submitted a properly completed SF-425 and supporting documentation by the due date.
 - Supporting documentation: general ledger or profit and loss statement that shows the revenue earned from LSV as well as the expenses to run the program for the grant period

EGMS – UPDATING CONTACTS



- Please reference our how-to guide for updating and adding contacts in the grants management system:
https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/lsv/providers/UDPaaSTutorialAddContacts_LSV_508c.pdf
- Please note that the contacts provided in eGMS are the only contacts our office has and thus our only way of communicating important information and updates about your grants

OPERATIONS

Legal Services for Veterans: Provider Website: https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/LSV_Provider.asp

- Updates
- LSV-H Grant Veterans Survey
- How to Contact LSV Program Staff
- Regulations, Guides & NOFO
- Fiscal Information
- Program Management & Operations
- External Systems (eGMS, SAM, SQUARES)
- National Calls, Webinars, Training Resources and FAQs

OPERATIONS

LSV-H Grant - Survey for Veterans

- **Purpose:** To learn from Veterans ways to improve the LSV-H grant program to better meet their needs.
- **Format:** A brief survey, administered by a VA-funded evaluation team separate from the LSV-H grant program team.
- **Request:** Share an informational flyer with Veterans to whom you deliver legal services through the LSV-H grant program.
- Flyer available on the LSV Provider Website.



Legal Services for Homeless Veterans and Veterans At-Risk for Homelessness (LSV-H)

A new VA program that gives awards to organizations to provide legal services to Veterans

More information about LSV-H is available at <https://www.va.gov/homeless/lsv.asp>

For any questions or concerns, please call or text Samantha at (617) 963-6766

You are invited to complete a survey about the legal services you received

- Please consider completing a 10-minute survey to help the VA improve the new legal services program for Veterans (LSV-H).

You can access the survey online at https://vhaordfedramp.gov1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6SxI2Hr0TMZ9R9c or scan this QR code:



- All of your answers are **confidential**. The LSV-H legal service organization that helped you with your legal needs will **not** be notified that you completed the survey.
- If you prefer to complete the survey by phone, please text or leave a message at (617) 963-6766 with the best phone number to reach you.
- A \$20 CVS gift card will be provided if you complete the survey and provide a mailing address.

OPERATIONS

Introducing LSV Grants Program Office Hours

- Voluntary attendance and participation
- Open forum
- 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2:00p - 2:30p ET
- Beginning November 20, 2024

OPERATIONS

New VA Legal Services Grant – Proposed Rule Published

- VA Legal Services for Veterans – Legal Assistance for Access to VA Programs (LSV-A) Grant Program
- Authorized by William M. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act of FY2021, Sec 548(b)
- Purpose of the new grant program is to provide certain legal assistance to former service members to assist them in gaining access to VA benefits.
- LSV-A would serve a broad group of individuals, not just those who meet the statutory definition of Veteran under 38 USC 101(2) and would assist any individual discharged or released from the Armed Forces, including those who served in a reserve component
- Notice of Funding Opportunity is contingent upon the federal rule making process
- Proposed Rule is published in the Federal Register and open for public comments for 60 days: [Federal Register :: Legal Services for Veterans-Legal Assistance for Access to VA Programs Grant Program](#)

REMINDERS

- Note due dates for mandated reporting
 - FY23 Grantees: SF 425 due by November 28, 2024
 - FY24 Grantees: Q1 performance reports due by November 30, 2024
- Note fiscal minimum milestones and payment limitations
- Share LSV-H Veteran survey information
- Utilize lsvgrants@va.gov email
- Monthly LSV-H National Call
 - 1st Wednesday of each month
 - 2pm ET
 - Next scheduled call: December 4, 2024

Questions?

