

United States Department of
Veterans Affairs

Grant and Per Diem Program

Procedure for Requesting and
Receiving Approval for a
Per Diem Rate

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Part I: General Instructions

IMPORTANT: It is recommended all providers visit the provider's website on a monthly basis to ensure the most current procedures are followed and the most current forms are used. This will help ensure providers receive their payment requests in a timely manner. Here is a link to the website: http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD_ProviderWebsite.asp

1. Read the entire contents contained herein before any forms are submitted to the VA GPD Program Office.
2. Direct any questions via e-mail to VHATAMGRANTANDPERDIEM@va.gov. If you would like to discuss via telephone, request a day and time via the same e-mail address or by calling the VA GPD Program Office at 1-877-332-0334.
3. All providers are required to obtain a working knowledge of all applicable Federal Regulations and OMB Circulars. These are posted on the VA GPD website <http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD.asp>.
4. Organizations can submit a Per Diem Rate Request Form at anytime.
5. Once an initial Per Diem Rate has been approved there is no annual requirement to submit the Per Diem Rate Request Form. The form should only be submitted if the Provider would like to change their current approved Per Diem Rate.
6. Requests must be based on the accrual basis of accounting and generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

Part II:

Complete the Per Diem Rate Request Form

1. Retrieve the Per Diem Rate Request Form from the VA GPD Providers website.
2. Use Adobe Acrobat Reader v7.0 or greater to open the file on your computer.
3. Once the document is opened check the Highlight Fields box. The fields that are required to be completed will be highlighted.
4. Any form that is received with invalid or omitted entries in the required fields will prolong the processing time or result in a denial of the request.
5. Indicate whether this is an initial Activation or an Increase to an existing program.

Please note that the Sample Attachment referenced within the following instructions appears at the end of this guide.

Item	Instructions		
1	Employer Identification Number		
	Move the cursor over and left-click the far left box of Item 1. Enter the Provider's 9-digit EIN, and leave the last block empty. Press the Tab key and the cursor will move to Item 2.		
	Sample Attachment	Data Entered:	123456789
		Data Output:	12-3456789
2	Recipients' Account Number		
	This is an identifier that the Provider would have created in their accounting system to segregate the costs related to the project. Press the Tab key and the cursor will move to Item 3.		
3	VA GPD Project Number		
	Enter the VA GPD Project number, using the YYNNNSA format. YY– represents the last 2 digits of the year the grant was awarded, i.e. 99, 00, 01... NNN- represents the numeric identifier assigned to the grant award. It is required that 3 numeric digits are used, i.e. 001, 011, 111 ... SA – represents the 2 letter abbreviation of the state where the facility is located. Press the Tab key and the cursor will move to Item 4 "Name".		
	Sample Attachment	Data Entered:	08000FL

	Data Output:	08-000-FL
4	Recipient Organization	
	<p>Enter the official name of the Recipient. Press the Tab key and the cursor will move to Item 4 “Address”. Enter the street address, PO Box, Suite # ...of the Recipient. Press the Tab key and the cursor will move to Item 4 “City’. Enter the name of the city where the Recipient resides. Press the Tab key and the cursor will move to Item 4 “State”. Move the cursor over the drop down arrow to the right of the “State” field. Left click the arrow and then move the cursor over the applicable state and left click the state. Press the Tab key and the cursor will move to Item 4 “Zip”. Enter the 5-digit numeric zip code. Press the Tab key and the cursor will move to Item 5 “From:”</p>	
5	Financial Reporting Fiscal Year	
	<p>Move the cursor over the drop down arrow to the right of the “From:“ field. Left click the arrow and a calendar will appear. Move the cursor to the top right or left arrow and left click the applicable arrow to adjust the month and year. Select the month and year in which the Recipient’s current financial reporting fiscal year has begun. Move the cursor over the day of the month in which the Recipient’s current financial reporting fiscal year has begun, and then left click. The date will appear in the following format as per the Sample Attachment: July 1, 2007 Press the Tab key and the cursor will move to Item 5 “To:” Repeat the same steps as the “From:” field except select the month, year, and day in which the Recipient’s current financial reporting fiscal year ends. Press the Tab key and the cursor will move to Item 6a</p>	
6	<p>When entering numbers in any parts of this Item, do not use any \$ or commas; just enter the numeric digits. For example, on the Sample Attachment 125000 was entered in Item 6a resulting in the default output of \$ 125,000.</p>	
6a	Total Estimated Cost of Veteran Care	
	<p>Enter the Recipient’s most current and accurate estimate of the total cost of providing transitional housing and supportive services for the veterans participating in the VA GPD program. The estimate must be based on the 12 month period beginning the date specified in Item 7c “Requested Effective Date”. Press the Tab key and the cursor will move to Item 6b.</p>	

6b	<p>Other Sources of Income</p> <p>Enter the Recipient’s most current and accurate estimate of the other sources of income that are used to fund the total estimated cost of veteran care entered into Item 6a.</p> <p>Other sources of income are defined under 35 CFR § 61.33(d)(1)(i) as “payments and grants from other departments and agencies of the United States, from departments of State and local governments, from private entities or organizations, and from program participants” used to fund the total cost of veteran care.</p> <p>VA GPD per diem funding should NOT be included as an other source of income.</p> <p>Private donations restricted to be used exclusively for veterans under this program and/or restricted to be used for services or goods received by veterans under this program must be reported as an other source of income.</p> <p>Any fee (including rent) charged to a veteran under this program must be reported as an other source of income, and is considered Program Income as defined by the applicable OMB Circulars.</p> <p>Any fee (including rent) charged to a veteran under this program cannot be used to fund any unallowable costs as defined by the applicable OMB Circulars.</p> <p>Press the Tab key and the cursor will skip Item 6c and move to Item 6d.</p>
6c	<p>Estimated VA GPD Project Costs</p> <p>This item is automatically calculated and equals Item 6a minus Item 6b.</p> <p>These estimated costs must exclude any unallowable costs as defined by the applicable OMB Circulars.</p> <p>IMPORTANT – If Item 6c divided by Item 6f is greater than the current maximum per diem rate, then Item 6h will default to zero. To correct this, an adjustment to Item 6a, 6b, or 6f will be necessary.</p> <p>If Item 6a or 6b are adjusted, you must tab thru the rest of the schedule to refresh the calculations in Item 6g and 6h.</p>
6d	<p>VA GPD Project Beds Awarded</p> <p>Enter the number of project beds awarded to the recipient per terms of the award letter.</p> <p>Press the Tab key and the cursor will skip Item 6e and move to Item 6f.</p>
6e	<p>Maximum Annual Bed Days</p> <p>This item is automatically calculated and equals Item 6d times 365 days.</p>
6f	<p>Estimated Annual Bed Days</p>

	<p>Enter the most current and accurate number of bed days the Recipient expects to provide during the 12 month period budgeted under Item 6a.</p> <p>Press the Tab key and the cursor will skip Items 6g and 6h and move to Item 7.</p> <p>IMPORTANT - If the bed days entered in this Item exceed the days in Item 6e an error message will appear, and Item 6h will default to zero.</p> <p>To correct, left click the error message OK button or press the enter key.</p> <p>Then move the cursor back over to the Item 6f entry field and enter a number that is equal to or less than Item 6e.</p> <p>If the value in Item 6h is still zero, then go back and review Item 6c and ensure the value of 6h is not greater than \$38.90.</p>
6g	<p>Total Estimated Per Diem Rate</p> <p>This item is automatically calculated and equals Item 6a divided by Item 6f.</p>
6h	<p>Requested VA GPD Project Per Diem Rate</p> <p>This item is automatically calculated and equals Item 6c divided by Item 6f.</p> <p>If this value equals zero then you have overstated your estimated budget. Go back to items 6c and 6f to identify the corrective action required.</p>
7	<p>Certification</p> <p>If the recipient is a non-profit organization, then move the cursor over the OMB A-122 check box and left click. Press the Tab key twice and the cursor will move to Item 7a "Name".</p> <p>If the recipient is a not non-profit organization, then move the cursor over the OMB A-87 check box and left click. Press the Tab key once and the cursor will move to Item 7a "Name".</p>
7a	<p>Recipient Authorized Certifying Official</p> <p>This official must be an Executive Level employee.</p> <p>These fields are self explanatory.</p> <p>Enter 10 numeric digits for the phone and fax the form will auto-format. For example, on the Sample Attachment 2223456789 was entered for the "Phone Number", resulting in the default output of +1 (222) 345-6789.</p> <p>After an Email is entered, press the Tab key and the cursor will skip Item 7b and move to Item 7c.</p>
7b	<p>Date Request Submitted</p> <p>This date is automatically entered and reflects the current date.</p>

7c	Requested Effective Date
	<p>Unless otherwise specified by the VA GPD Program Office, this date must be no sooner than the first day of the month that comes after the month specified in Item 7b. For example, on the Sample Attachment Item 7b is 11/13/07, therefore the earliest date for Item 7c is 12/1/07.</p> <p>To enter the date, move the cursor over the drop down arrow to the right of the entry field. Left click the arrow and a calendar will appear.</p> <p>Move the cursor to the top right or left arrow and left click the applicable arrow to adjust the month and year.</p> <p>Select the appropriate month and year.</p> <p>Move the cursor over the appropriate day of the month and then left click.</p> <p>The date will appear in the following format as per the Sample Attachment: 12/1/07</p>

The form is now ready for printing. Before the form is printed it is recommended that it is reviewed to ensure all fields are completed.

WARNING: Do not close out the form before printing, data entered on the form cannot be saved to the computer.

Part III: Transmit Form

1. The official identified in Item 7a must sign the form in the signature area.
2. The form can be mailed, faxed or e-mailed.

- If mailing; send the form to the following address:
VA Grant/Per Diem Program
10770 N. 46th Street, Suite C-200
Tampa, FL 33617

Attn: Michelle Lewis

- If faxing; the toll free fax number is (877) 332-0335; please include a fax cover sheet stating Per Diem Rate Request and Attn: Michelle Lewis.

Originals do not have to be sent via mail unless requested by the VA GPD Office.

If e-mailing; scan the form using the Adobe PDF format.

E-mail the documents to michelle.lewis1@va.gov In the subject line, please enter the name of the organization followed by Per Diem Rate Request.

Part IV: Approval

1. In general, all request determinations will occur within 30 days of receipt of the Per Diem Rate Request Form. If it is expected to take longer than 30 days, the VA GPD Program Office will contact the Recipient Authorized Certifying Official via e-mail specifying the expected date of determination.
2. Once a determination is made, the Recipient Authorized Certifying Official will be notified via e-mail. If the request is approved, at a minimum, the per diem rate and its effective date will be specified. If the request is denied, the reason(s) for denying the request will be specified.
3. Per diem rate requests will be automatically denied for any one of the following reasons:
 - Any item on the form is omitted or determined to be inaccurate.
 - The form is not signed.
 - The organization's per diem payments are being withheld or suspended.
 - The organization has an outstanding debt to the VA.
 - The organization has not submitted the SF 425 Fiscal Financial Report (previously known as the SF 269 Financial Status Report (Long Form) for the preceding fiscal years from 2004 or for each fiscal year that the organization has received per diem payments, whichever is less.
4. Due to the large number of requests, we ask that recipients only make status inquiries if they have not received an email notifications from the VA GPD Office within the timelines specified.