Grant and Per Diem Program NOFA
Frequently Asked Questions

**General Overview:**

**Who can apply for this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)?**
- 501(c)3 or 501(c)19 non-profit agency
- State or Local Government
- Indian Tribal Government

**Can I apply for this NOFA if I am an individual or a for profit organization?**
No. Only non-profit agencies who have a IRS tax letter that shows their tax-exempt status along with their EIN may apply under this NOFA.

**Can I use another non-profit agency’s 501(c)3 or 501(c)19 non-profit Tax exempt status letter to apply for the NOFA?**
No. The non-profit status must belong to the applicant.

**What are the funding opportunities?**
VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem program is offering funding for transitional housing and services centers and transition in place housing

**Will there be an opportunity to apply for capital grant funds?**
There are no additional funds available for capital development or expansion of GPD transitional housing or service centers through non-capital (Per Diem Only) or (Transitions in Place) awards.

**Can I use this funding for capital improvements or to purchase vans or real property?**
No. Per diem funds can only be used to offset operating costs for a program of supportive housing or services.

**Does the VA provide a checklist of items that need to be included in the application?**
Yes. This document is a suggested tool to help the agency with their NOFA and they can be found on the webpage: [www.va.gov/homeless/gpd.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/gpd.asp)

Applicants must have an active registration with the System for Award Management (SAM).

**Where can I find information about how to register for SAM?**
There is a Quick Reference Guide on the GPD webpage or you may go directly to [https://www.sam.gov/](https://www.sam.gov/)

**What if my SAM registration is going to expire before or during the grant application?**
Your SAM registration must be updated each year. Do not submit application if your registration has expired or will expire soon after the grant is submitted. Please use the link provided on the GPD Provider website to update your registration.
What if I have been doing business with the GPD Office for several years. Won’t they know how my program operates and have our outcome data on hand?
Grant application are reviewed by readers who purposely know nothing about your grants or your agency to support an unbiased review of applications. Please keep this in mind when writing your application. You should provide clear, concise yet complete responses on your application.

Does my local VA Medical Center have to agree with my application?
Applications will be scored nationally by a team of subject matter experts from outside of the applicant’s local area. There is a requirement in the application to demonstrate coordination with the local Medical Center. This is especially true with the Hospital to Housing Model, which requires a Memorandum of Understanding in which the medical center would be providing follow-up care post hospitalization for homeless Veterans in these programs. Applicants must also demonstrate coordination with local Continuums of Care or other community entities who serve the homeless.

Can the GPD Liaison assist with the application?
No. This is not allowed. However, the Liaison can provide Performance Measure data and assist with obtaining a letter of support/coordination from the local medical center director.

What is the difference between the two current NOFAs?
The Per Diem Only (PDO) NOFA provides funding for agencies who are eligible entities to provide transitional housing beds under one of five (5) transitional housing models and/or service centers.

The Transition in Place (TIP) NOFA provides funding for current grantees (with awards expiring 9/30/2018) and new applicants that will serve the homeless Veteran population through a TIP housing model to facilitate housing stabilization. TIP Programs provide transitional housing and a milieu of services that facilitate individual stabilization and movement of the Veteran to permanent housing. Upon completion of the program, the Veteran must be able to “transition in place” by assuming the lease or other long-term agreement which enables the unit in which he or she resides to be considered the Veteran’s permanent housing.

How long are the award periods?
PDO is an award period of 1 year with a 1 year-option for renewal. The award period for PDO would begin October 1, 2018 and end September 30, 2019. The option year for the PDO would begin October 1, 2019 and end on September 30, 2020.

TIP grant award period is for two years, beginning October 1, 2018 and end on September 30, 2020.

If funding is for one year, how are Veterans going to stay for 2 years?
On average the length of stay in GPD is about 6 months. Admissions to GPD Programs should be clinically indicated. GPD stays should continue to be clinically appropriate when assessed throughout the year at quarterly progress reviews. Grantees are expected to assist Veterans in moving from homelessness to permanent housing as quickly as is clinically appropriate. Extensive lengths of stay in the place of low cost permanent housing are not appropriate.
**Per Diem Only NOFA:**

**I am a current GPD (PDO) Provider, can I apply for a grant under this new NOFA?**
Yes. Current GPD Providers who want to expand or change their programs can apply for this NOFA. Additionally, GPD grantees who had grants that were extended for a period and/or were not funded may also apply for new grants.

**Does geography play a role in which projects get funded?**
Yes. VA has 3 priority groups outlined in the **PDO NOFA**. The first two groups are prioritized by Continuum of Care (CoC) locations. The 3rd group will include applicants that were not selected in the first two priorities as well as all other PDO applications that did not fall in the priority CoC’s. Within your application, you must include the CoC that aligns with the physical location of the site address where housing and services will be provided to Veterans.

**If a provider applies for one of the PDO priority geographical areas, are they guaranteed funding?**
No. This is a competitive process. The highest scoring application for the first two priority geographical location groups will be funded. The rest will be rolled into the 3rd group funding opportunity. Applications must score at least 750 out of 1000 to be legally eligible to be considered for funding.

**What if my proposed project is not located in the priority CoC but we plan to offer services for Veterans from that CoC, will we be considered in the priority funding?**
No, the project must be located in the CoCs identified for priorities 1 or 2 to be considered for selection under these priorities.

**What if my program has transitional housing under one VA medical center that is located in more than one CoC location, how will my application be prioritized?**
Only the applications that fall under one of the priority CoC locations will be considered in groups 1 or 2. Providers may submit two separate applications to be considered under the priority CoC location where their program is located. Otherwise the application will be considered under priority group 3.

**How does it work if my agency’s transitional housing and or service centers are located in two different medical center’s catchment areas?**
Providers currently servicing more than one medical center must write separate applications for each site that falls under different medical center catchment areas.

**Can my agency apply for more than one grant?**
Yes. VA will only award up to two PDO applications per medical center, per applicant EIN. A separate application is required for each model.

**Does my transitional housing application have to fall into one of the five housing models described in the Notice of Funding Availability?** *(Bridge Housing, Low Demand, Hospital to Housing, Clinical Treatment, Service-Intensive Transitional)*
Yes. Programs will complete a separate application for each model that they wish to offer. Service centers also require a separate application.

**Can my agency obtain funding for more than one model?**
Yes, Applicants applying for more than one model at the same VAMC should consider that VA will only award up to two applications per medical center, per applicant EIN.
Do any of these models take priority over the others?
No. Geographical locations will be given priority.

How many beds can I apply for?
The minimum number of beds is 5 with a maximum of 40 per model.

If I provide a total of 30 beds, and want to offer 10 Clinical Treatment, 10 Bridge Housing and 10 Service Intensive, do I have to write three grants?
Yes. Separate applications will be required. This allows providers to re-design and commit resources to specific programs within GPD. However, VA will only fund two applications per medical center, per applicant EIN.

Will the per diem be higher for certain models?
No. per diem payments are set by law according to the state home domiciliary bed rate, the maximum rate, currently is $45.79.

What if I commit beds to a particular model but then can’t fill them?
For those applicants that are successfully funded for multiple models under this NOFA, VA will allow, without a change of scope, a flex of beds between the applicant's models at the same VAMC. This flex will be up to five (5) beds or 15 percent of the total awarded bed limit per medical center, whichever is greater. Successful applicants who seek a greater number of flex beds than what is allowed must receive prior written approval from the National GPD Program Office.

The PDO NOFA talks about applications need to demonstrate low barriers to access. What does a low barrier approach entail?
In a low barrier approach, a Veteran would be able to enter GPD expediently and without a long assessment process or period of sobriety. Providers are expected to help Veterans access services quickly and in a manner that is flexible and understanding of their needs. It means that providers are willing to work with Veterans who relapse, without immediate discharge from the program. With this NOFA, a low barrier approach to housing is expected for all applicants. This is not to be confused with the Low Demand Model, outlined in the NOFA.

Does low barrier mean that I can’t discharge someone for drinking or using street drugs?
It means that providers should be able to provide safe space for Veterans who are vulnerable and to work with relapse issues with Veterans in a manner that preserves the safety of others in the program. This would include policies and procedures that support continued engagement of Veterans who drink or use while in services. When discharge is necessary, appropriate arrangements to ensure the Veterans safety should be made while also minimizing the chance of re-creating homelessness for that individual.

Should I answer all of the questions regarding all of the models?
No. Only answer the Housing Model questions in the NOFA that pertain to the specific model you are applying for.
Transition In Place NOFA:

I am a current TIP Grantee, do I need to apply for the TIP NOFA?
Yes, if your agency would like to continue providing TIP services after September 30, 2018 when all current TIP awards expire.

I am not a current TIP Grantee. Am I able to apply for the TIP NOFA?
Yes, if your agency meets the eligibility requirements and would like to provide housing and services as described in the TIP NOFA then you may apply. This NOFA is open to current grantees and new applicants.

How many beds and how much funding may I apply for under the TIP NOFA?
Approximately $25 million is available nationwide under this NOFA. No award may exceed $1.25 million for the 2-year award period based on providing an average of 25 beds per day. Applicants may apply for a minimum of 5 beds and a maximum of 25 beds.

Do TIP awards have a different maximum per diem rate from PDO awards?
Yes, the per diem rate for TIP beds may not exceed 1.5 times the current maximum GPD per diem rate. The current maximum GPD rate is 45.79, therefore the maximum per diem rate for TIP projects is $68.69.

What are the characteristics of TIP housing?
TIP units are apartments intended as permanent housing for an individual or single family. They must meet the inspections standards outlined in 38 CFR 61.80 and must have the following:
1. Private access without unauthorized passage through another dwelling unit or private property;
2. Sanitary facilities within the unit;
3. Basic furnishings; and
4. Suitable space and equipment within the unit to store, prepare, and serve food in a sanitary manner (including, at a minimum, a refrigerator, freezer, sink, and stove). Note: Microwave ovens, hot plates, or similar items are not suitable substitutes for an operational stove.
**Application Process:**

**What is the process my grant application goes through after I submit it?**

After applications are received by the National GPD Program office they are catalogued and assigned a unique Federal Application Identification Number (FAIN). Then, applications go through a threshold review to determine if they are complete, that the activity applied for is eligible, and that the applicant is an eligible entity. Next, the applications that pass threshold are reviewed and scored by a review panel of subject matter experts. Applications that score sufficiently high enough will be conditionally selected for funding and applicants will be notified of any additional information that is needed.

**If my grant application passes threshold, will it automatically be funded?**

No. This is the first step in the process. Your grant will move to the next step for funding consideration.

**How will applications be scored?**

Applications will be scored in accordance with current regulations (38 CFR Part 61), which can be found on the GPD website: [www.va.gov/homeless/gpd.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/gpd.asp). Applications must score 750 out of 1000 possible points in order to be legally eligible for funding.

**Should I provide a backup contact persons’ information?**

Yes. The GPD offices often are reaching out to applicants during the summer months where staff may be on vacation. Please provide up to date contact information for a staff person who is able to answer questions about the grant and/or able to provide information.

**How soon will grantees hear back from the Department of Veterans Affairs on the status of their awards?**

Applicants should be contacted during the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2018 after an official announcement is published and posted on the VA’s Grant Per Diem webpage, [www.va.gov/homeless/gpd.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/gpd.asp). Timeframes are subject to change.

**What if my agency left out information from the application? Can we submit it separately?**

No. An application must arrive as a complete package. If the agency submits documentation separately from the original package, it will be set aside and cannot be added to the application package.

**Can I email or fax my application?**

No. An original signed and dated application with all required documentation (plus two completed collated copies) must be received by the GPD Program Office by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

**What is the due date for the NOFA?**

- TIP applications are due February 21, 2018
- Per Diem Only application are due February 28, 2018

**Who do I send this to?**

VA Homeless Providers GPD Program
Department of Veterans Affairs
10770 N 46th Street, Suite C-200
Tampa, FL 33617

**Will late applications be accepted?**

No. The Deadline is firm as to date and hour. Late applications are ineligible for consideration.
Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

Quick Tips to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

These are the answers for the PDO NOFA:

- Question 1, Type of Submission: **Application**
- Question 2, Type of Application: **New (even if you have an current PDO award)**
- Question 11, Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: **64.024**
- Question 11, CFDA Title: **VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program**
- Question 12, Funding Opportunity Number: **2018-PDO-NOFA**
- Question 12, Funding Opportunity Title: **2018 VA GPD Per Diem Only NOFA**
- Question 13, Competition Identification Number/Title: **N/A**
- Question 17, Proposed Start Date: **10/1/2018**
- Question 17, Proposed End Date: **9/30/2019**
- Question 18, Estimated Funding: **Should be the estimated amount for 1 year**
- Question 19, Executive Order 12372: **Only applies to governmental organizations**

These are the answers for the TIP NOFA:

- Question 1, Type of Submission: **Application**
- Question 2, Type of Application: **New (even if you have an current TIP award)**
- Question 11, Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: **64.024**
- Question 11, CFDA Title: **VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program**
- Question 12, Funding Opportunity Number: **2018-TIP-NOFA**
- Question 12, Funding Opportunity Title: **2018 VA GPD Transition In Place NOFA**
- Question 13, Competition Identification Number/Title: **N/A**
- Question 17, Proposed Start Date: **10/1/2018**
- Question 17, Proposed End Date: **9/30/2020**
- Question 18, Estimated Funding: **Budget should be for 2-year performance period**
- Question 19, Executive Order 12372: **Only applies to governmental organizations**

What is the Federal Entity and Federal Award Identifier?
These questions are not applicable, respond by placing N/A.

What is the estimated funding?
You would estimate this based on the estimated cost of per diem for the number of beds being provided in this application over a year.