

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

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MONTHLY GRANTEE WEBINAR  
OCTOBER 2, 2024

Recording: <https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/recordingservice/sites/veteransaffairs/recording/playback/638506d66316103db7fbba4eca979c57>  
Password: Homeless1!

# AGENDA

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

# COMPLIANCE

- Eligible Veterans
- Determining Veteran Eligibility
- Legal Aid Related to Disaster Relief
- Prohibition Against Adding Eligibility Criteria
- Partnership with Faith-Based and Neighborhood Organizations – Notice Requirement
- 2 CFR 200 Updates / Administrative Costs
- FY23 (Year One) Q4 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'.

# 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](mailto:LSVGrants@va.gov) if you'd like us to run a DPRIS search for you.

# LEGAL AID RELATED TO DISASTER RELIEF

- 38 CFR 79.15 states “To be eligible for legal services...an individual must be a: (1) Homeless veteran or (2) Veteran at risk for homelessness.”
- Natural Disasters, such damage caused by wildfires or hurricanes, could instantly change the housing situation for a previously ineligible Veteran - thus making them eligible for LSV-H.
- Veterans impacted by natural disasters could need assistance with a variety of legal issues including:
  - Insurance Claims
  - Landlord/Tenant Issues
  - Assistance Filing for Disaster Assistance Programs (such as FEMA)

# PROHIBITION AGAINST ADDING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- LSV-H Grantees may not add additional eligibility requirements beyond what has been established by VA. For Example:
  - There is no income cap for LSV-H. Grantees may have their own internal policies that establish an income cap. Those policies cannot be used to screen out an otherwise eligible LSV-H Veteran.

# PARTNERSHIPS WITH FAITH-BASED AND NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS

## WRITTEN NOTICE TO VETERANS ABOUT PROTECTIONS

- **New for FY24 Grant Year.** Effective April 3, 2024 a final rule amended 38 C.F.R. 50. Consistent with the requirements of 38 C.F.R. 50, all LSV-H grantees who provide legal services to Veterans under an LSV-H funded project must give written notice to Veteran clients about protections against religious discrimination. Grantees are responsible for ensuring that subrecipients comply with this requirement.
- Background:
  - Executive Order 14015 dated February 14, 2021: Establishment of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.
    - Organizing more effective efforts to serve people in need across the country and around the world in partnership with civil society.
    - Empowering faith-based and secular organizations to assist in the delivery of vital services in our neighborhoods.
    - Ensuring that Federal grants are consistent with applicable laws.
  - Final Rule FR Doc. 2024-03869 dated March 4, 2024: Partnerships with Faith-Based and Neighborhood Organizations
    - Nine Federal agencies (including HUD, DOL, DOJ, DHHS)
    - Maximize participation by Veterans and community-based organizations in projects funded by Federal grants and maximize consistency across Federal agencies.



# PARTNERSHIPS WITH FAITH-BASED AND NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS WRITTEN NOTICE TO VETERANS ABOUT PROTECTIONS - CONTINUED

- More information about this requirement as well as template language can be found on our LSV Provider Website under the 'Regulations, Guides & NOFOs' Section'

## Regulations, Guides & NOFOs

### Regulations & Guides:

[LSV-H Grant Recipient Guide](#) 

**NEW** [Beneficiary Notice of Religious Protections](#) 

# PARTNERSHIPS WITH FAITH-BASED AND NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS

## WRITTEN NOTICE TO VETERANS ABOUT PROTECTIONS - CONTINUED

- Again, all LSV-H grantees who provide legal services to Veterans under an LSV-H funded project must give written notice to Veteran clients about protections against religious discrimination. Grantees are responsible for ensuring that subrecipients comply with this requirement.
- This requirement applies to all LSV-H grantees regardless of the organization type (e.g., non-profit, State government, local government, Tribal government, faith-based organization, non-faith-based organization, housing authority).
- Each organization's written notices may vary depending on internal practices (e.g., handout, poster, signed agreement); however, the language must be substantially similar to the template text provided and grantees are responsible for proactively communicating the message.

## 2 CFR 200 UPDATES – ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

- Per LSV-H Regulation 38 CFR 79.90(d): Administrative costs are all direct and indirect costs associated with the management of the program, including administrative costs of subcontractors.
- On April 22, 2024, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published revisions to Title 2 of the CFR (2024 Revisions), including 2 CFR part 200 (the “Uniform Grants Guidance”), in the Federal Register. These revisions are effective for all Federal Awards entered into on or after October 1, 2024.
- Because LSV-H Regulations cap Administrative Costs at 10% (38 CFR 79.90(d)), this cap will remain in place for the duration of this grant year (August 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025).

# FY23 (YEAR 1) AWARD – Q4 REPORTS

- For our Grantees returning from our last grant year (August 1, 2023 – July 31, 2024), Q4 Reports were due on September 30, 2024.
- Many Grantees inadvertently submitted their Q4 Report under their FY23 (Year 1) Award. If your organization did this, you will receive notice from our team to resubmit.
- To Resubmit you'll need to select the 'Closed' tab of your profile and select that award.

The screenshot shows a web interface for 'My LSV Applications & Grants'. At the top, there are tabs for 'DRAFT (0)', 'SUBMITTED (0)', 'APPROVED (0)', and 'CLOSED (1)'. Below the tabs is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and '1-1 of 1' results. A table below displays the following data:

#	Program Name	FAIN/Grant ID	Organization Legal Name	Primary Contact	Status	Created Date
1	Legal Services for Veterans	Test-999-LSV-320-24	Test VJP Organization		Closed	12/18/2023 08:21

An 'Open' button is visible next to the first row of the table.

# FISCAL

- FY23 grantees:
  - Submit final payment request by end of October
  - SF425 due end of November
    - Submission of SF425 used to close out award in HHS/PMS
- FY24 grantees:
  - Status update on PMS access
  - Review How-to document for submitting payment requests
    - If billing quarterly, submit 1<sup>st</sup> request by end of November (Aug-Oct)
    - If billing monthly, submit 1<sup>st</sup> request as soon as possible (Aug)

# FISCAL

- The NOFO has minimum milestones and payment limitations.  
For Q1:
  - The grantee's requests to VA for grant funds are less than 10% of the total grant award by the end of the first quarter of the grant cycle, no later than October 31, 2024.
  - During the first quarter of the grantee's legal services annualized grant award period, the grantee's cumulative requests for legal services grant funds may not exceed 35% of the total legal services grant award without written approval by VA.
  - We will assess 1<sup>st</sup> quarter draws at the end of November

# 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](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.



Choose VA



Legal Services for Veterans (LSV)  
VA QUERI Partnered Evaluation Initiative



# 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
  - FY23 Grantees: Q4/EOY performance reports **past due**
  - FY24 Grantees: Q1 performance reports due by November 30, 2024
- Note fiscal minimum milestones and payment limitations
- Utilize [lsvgrants@va.gov](mailto:lsvgrants@va.gov) email
- Monthly LSV-H National Call
  - 1st Wednesday of each month
  - 2pm ET
  - Next scheduled call: November 6, 2024

# Questions?

