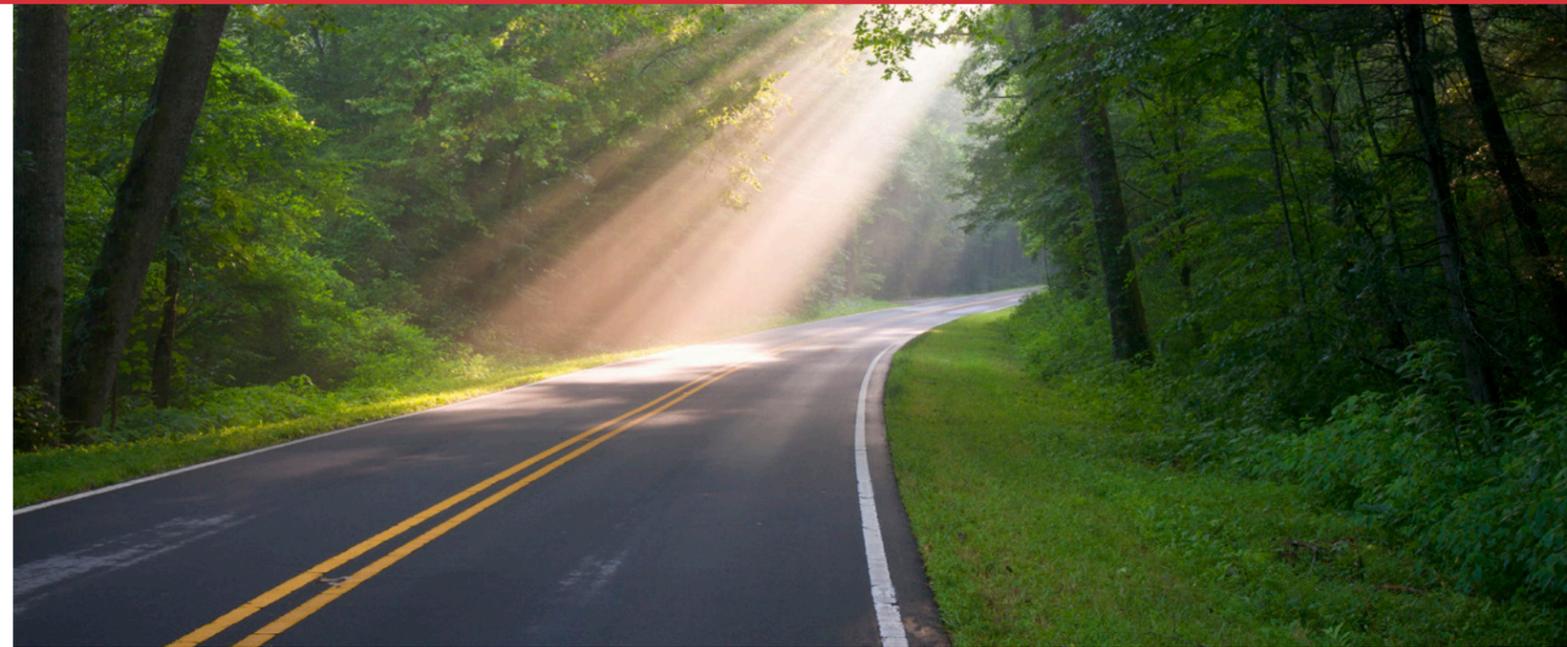


Highly Rural Transportation Grants



Going the Extra Mile for Veterans

VA is committed to going the extra mile to ensure that our nation's Veterans receive the best medical care, regardless of where they live. We are building partnerships, providing grants for Veteran transportation services to eligible organizations and fostering a network of providers in rural areas.

VETERANS: To find an HRTG provider, please visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vtp/highly_rural_transportation_grants.asp. Share your experiences with HRTG providers by calling the HRTG customer satisfaction number toll free at **855-488-8445**.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR VETERANS

About the Highly Rural Transportation Grants Program

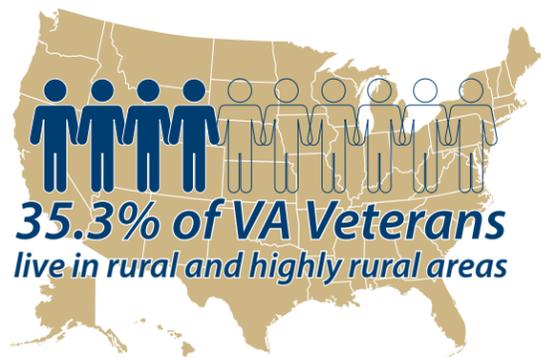
Approximately 35.3% of enrolled Veterans live in rural and highly rural areas, which can make it difficult to access the high-quality VA medical care they deserve. Although there may be many obstacles prohibiting these Veterans from obtaining medical care, distance and transportation are cited as being the most common.

A top VA priority is to increase access to VA medical care and services for all Veterans, regardless of where they live. VA is accomplishing this in a three-pronged effort: facilities, programs, and technology. The Highly Rural Transportation Grants (HRTG) program assists Veterans in highly rural areas with their transportation needs to and from a VA or VA-authorized medical facilities.

VA wants to be sure that all Veterans, including those who live in rural and remote areas, can receive the health care they have earned through service to our country.

-Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald

www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vtp/highly_rural_transportation_grants.asp



HRTG transportation services are provided by Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) and State Veterans Service Agencies that receive grants from VA for their services in highly rural counties. Grants enable these organizations to employ transportation services for Veterans in highly rural areas, resulting in better service and better health care for Veterans across the country.

Grantees can receive one \$50,000 grant per fiscal year for each highly rural area in which they provide transportation services. There can be only one grantee per highly rural area, and there is no cost to Veterans who obtain transportation from an available HRTG provider.

Highly Rural Areas and HRTG Program Availability

The HRTG program is only available within parts of the country that are classified as “highly rural,” which is defined as a county with a population of fewer than seven persons per square mile. About 25 states have counties with highly rural areas.

For Veterans

The HRTG program increases access to transportation to VA or authorized non-VA medical facilities for Veterans who live in highly rural areas. By providing grants to eligible organizations, the HRTG program enhances transportation efforts through VSOs and State Veteran Service Agencies, expanding the coordination of transportation resources. This enables transportation for Veterans in highly rural areas who might otherwise be unable to access VA medical care because of where they live. These Veterans can contact an HRTG provider in their area to arrange for transportation to a VA or VA-authorized medical facilities.

Contacting an HRTG Provider

HRTG transportation is provided by VSOs and State Veterans Service Agencies and not by VA directly. To arrange for transportation, Veterans who live in a qualifying county defined as a highly rural area must contact their local VSO or State Veterans Service Agency. A list of HRTG providers and contact information can be found at www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vtp/highly_rural_transportation_grants.asp.

For Grant-Seeking Organizations

ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS



Only Veterans Service Organizations and State Veterans Service Agencies that are recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs are eligible to receive HRTG grants. The organizations that apply must be able to provide services in counties that are considered highly rural. Non-eligible organizations, such as local transportation providers, must serve as sub-contractors to approved organizations to participate in the grant program.

APPLYING FOR A GRANT

VSOs and State Veterans Service Agencies may apply for grants up to \$50,000 to fund transportation of Veterans to and from VA or VA-authorized medical facilities. If specified in the application, the services may be provided under agreements with sub-contractors, such as private bus or van companies. Grant applications are only accepted during the open application period described in the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), which is published on www.grants.gov and on the Federal Register.

Grant applicants should use innovative approaches to transportation, including community resources, and must demonstrate how existing relationships with state and local agencies would enhance program effectiveness. If no such resource exists, the applicant should show how the development of the community resource would enhance program effectiveness. Their programs must also identify and serve Veterans who would not otherwise be able to obtain medical care through conventional transportation options.

One grant may be awarded to a grantee per fiscal year for each highly rural area in which the grantee provides transportation services. Transportation services may not be simultaneously provided by more than one grantee in any single highly rural area.

The HRTG program Grant Application Process:

- Applications are not accepted for Highly Rural Transportation Grants until the NOFA is published on www.grants.gov and on the Federal Register.
- When the NOFA is published, applicants must submit their applications through www.grants.gov and follow all guidelines and specifications.
- For specific details and questions regarding the grant process, please contact the HRTG National Coordinator at HRTG@va.gov. (Note: the HRTG National Coordinator cannot arrange transportation for Veterans.)

