

News Release
Office of Public Affairs Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600

www.va.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Jan. 29, 2020

Applications open for community organizations to apply for millions in adaptive sports grants to support community reintegration for disabled Veterans

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is accepting applications through March 17 for up to \$15 million in grants for civic groups providing adaptive sports and therapeutic recreational opportunities to Veterans and members of the armed forces with disabilities.

Application instructions and eligibility information for these grants — which will help qualified organizations plan, develop, manage and implement these programs — are available at <u>VA Adaptive Sports Grant Program</u>.

"Built on VA clinical expertise and operations, with essential support from community partners, the adaptive sports grant program allows VA to extend its level of care beyond the clinical setting," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "We are pleased to offer grant funds to community organizations as it means there will be more Veterans engaging in the challenge of sports and more Veterans who are exposed to new skills for healthier living.'

In 2019, VA awarded \$14.9 million in adaptive sports grants to 126 organizations, estimated to serve more than 11,000 Veterans and service members from every state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Of the total awarded, \$1.5 million is being used to assist organizations that offer equine-assisted therapy to support mental health.

All applications must be submitted to www.grants.gov by 8 p.m. EST, March 17. VA will announce awards based on a competitive selection in fall 2020.