



VETERANS' PROGRAM LETTER: 05-19

MEMORANDUM TO: RECIPIENTS OF COMPETITIVE GRANTS
VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICE
STAFF

FROM: J.S. SHELLENBERGER
Acting Assistant Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "J.S. Shellenbeger", is written over the typed name and title.

SUBJECT: Exception for the Provision of Emergency Services by Homeless
Veterans' Reintegration Program Grantees Outside of their
Approved Service Delivery Area

I. Purpose

To provide time-limited exception guidance for Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program grants to serve in Federally Declared Major Disaster Areas that are not included in the grant-approved service delivery area (SDA).¹ The location must be a presidentially declared Federal disaster area and determined appropriate by the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL), Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) Assistant Secretary.

II. References

- (a.) 38 U.S.C. § 2021, 2021A, and 2023
- (b.) 42 U.S. C. § 11302
- (c.) [Veterans' Program Letter \(VPL\) 02-17](#) *Quarterly Guidance Reporting for Competitive Grantees and Non-Competitive Stand Down Grant Recipients*
- (d.) [VPL 06-18 Change 1](#) *Grant Modification Process for Grants Awarded Under the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP)*
- (e.) Grant Officer's Notice of Award

III. Background

The Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP), Incarcerated Veterans' Transition Program (IVTP), and the Homeless Female Veterans and Veterans with Families (HFVWF) grant program are collectively referred to as HVRP.

VETS recognizes the unique and critical employment needs of those in disaster-affected areas, especially veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. This particular population in a disaster-declared area creates additional challenges that our

¹ Service delivery area is defined as county, parish, independent city, or Native American tribal area.

grantees are uniquely prepared to address. To maximize efforts to assist in the relief and recovery operations and expedite individualized career services to eligible disaster-affected veterans, this guidance authorizes HVRP grantees temporary expansion of the grant-approved service delivery area.

IV. Temporary Additional Service Area Exceptions

Grantees who are interested in providing HVRP services in a Federally Declared Major Disaster area are eligible to request a temporary exception to the restrictions of providing services only in their grant-approved SDA.

Grantees must provide their Grant Officer Technical Representative (GOTR) a justification for providing program services in the disaster-declared area; the justification must indicate the potential number of eligible veterans who would be served. The grantee must also describe their ability to provide services to the affected communities and work collaboratively with agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Departments of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the local American Job Centers.

V. Notification of Approved Disaster Areas for Service Delivery to Homeless Veterans

Written notification by the DOL VETS Assistant Secretary of approved Federally Declared Major Disaster-affected areas authorized for temporary exception to the grantee's SDA will be provided through the appropriate VETS state director.

VI. Time Limit Period

Grantees providing service in excepted SDAs may do so for 120 days, effective from the date of the Federally declared disaster. *NOTE: DOL VETS Assistant Secretary may approve extension requests and will require a written modification request.*

VII. Performance Reporting

Grantees will be required to report quarterly, using their HVRP forms, information about the participants served in the Federally Declared Major Disaster area.

VIII. Inquiries

Contact your GOTR for any questions concerning this guidance.

IX. Expiration Date

This VPL will be reviewed for relevance on or before September 2022 and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.