

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Solicitation of Nominations for Appointment to the Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is seeking nominations of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment as a member of the Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board (herein-after referred to as “the Board”) for the VA West Los Angeles Campus in Los Angeles, CA (“Campus”) for the 2022 membership cycle.

DATES: Nominations for membership on the Board must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on July 22, 2022.

ADDRESSES: All nominations should be mailed to the Veterans Experience Office, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW (30), Washington, DC 20420; or sent electronically to the Advisory Committee Management Office mailbox at vaadvisorycmte@va.gov with a subject line: Nomination to VCOEB.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eugene W. Skinner Jr., Designated Federal Officer, Veterans Experience Office, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW (30), Washington, DC 20420, telephone 202–631–7645 or via email at Eugene.Skinner@va.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In carrying out the duties set forth in the West LA Leasing Act, the Board shall:

(1) Provide the community with opportunities to collaborate and communicate by conducting public forums; and

(2) Focus on local issues regarding the Department that are identified by the community with respect to health care, implementation of the Master Plan, and any subsequent plans, benefits, and memorial services at the Campus. Information on the Master Plan can be found at <https://www.losangeles.va.gov/masterplan/>.

Authority: The Board is a statutory committee established as required by Section 2(i) of the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016, Public Law 114–226 (the West LA Leasing Act). The Board operates in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. app. 2. The Board is established to coordinate locally with the Department of Veterans Affairs to identify the goals of the community and

Veteran partnership; provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary to improve services and outcomes for Veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and the families of such Veterans and members; and provide advice and recommendations on the implementation of the Draft Master Plan approved by the Secretary on January 28, 2016, and on the creation and implementation of any other successor master plans.

Membership Criteria: VA is seeking nominations for Board membership.

The Board is composed of fifteen members and several ex-officio members. The Board meets up to four times annually; and it is important that Board members attend meetings to achieve a quorum so that Board can effectively carry out its duties. The members of the Board are appointed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from the general public, from various sectors and organizations, and shall meet the following qualifications, as set forth in the West LA Leasing Act:

- (1) Not less than 50% of members shall be Veterans; and
- (2) Non-Veteran members shall be:
 - a. Family members of Veterans,
 - b. Veteran advocates,
 - c. Service providers,
 - d. Real estate professionals familiar with housing development projects, or
 - e. Stakeholders.

The Board members may also serve as Subcommittee members.

In accordance with the Board Charter, the Secretary shall determine the number, terms of service, and pay and allowances of Board members, except that a term of service of any such member may not exceed two years. The Secretary may reappoint any Board member for additional terms of service.

To the extent possible, the Secretary seeks members who have diverse professional and personal qualifications including but not limited to subject matter experts in the areas described above. We ask that nominations include any relevant experience and information so that VA can ensure diverse Board membership.

Requirements for Nomination Submission:

Nominations should be typed written (one nomination per nominator). Nomination package should include:

- (1) A letter of nomination that clearly states the name and affiliation of the nominee, the basis for the nomination (i.e. specific attributes which qualify the nominee for service in this capacity), and a statement from the nominee indicating a willingness to serve as a member of the Board;
- (2) The nominee’s contact information, including name, mailing

address, telephone numbers, and email address;

(3) The nominee’s curriculum vitae, not to exceed three pages and a one-page cover letter; and

(4) A summary of the nominee’s experience and qualifications relative to the membership criteria and professional qualifications criteria listed above.

The Department makes every effort to ensure that the membership of VA Federal advisory committees is diverse in terms of points of view represented and the committee’s capabilities. Appointments to this Board shall be made without discrimination because of a person’s race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, or genetic information. Nominations must state that the nominee is willing to serve as a member of the Board and appears to have no conflict of interest that would preclude membership. An ethics review is conducted for each selected nominee. An OGE Form 450, Confidential Financial Disclosure, is required annually for all Board Members.

Dated: May 31, 2022.

Jelessa M. Burney,

Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Funding Opportunity: Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice of funding opportunity; correction.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) published a document in the **Federal Register** on April 15, 2022, concerning a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for suicide prevention services grants under the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SSG Fox SPGP). This Notice amends two provisions in section I to clarify requirements regarding the provision or coordination of a baseline mental health screening to participants.

DATES: Applications for suicide prevention services grants under the SSG Fox SPGP Program must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on June 10, 2022. In the interest of fairness to all competing applicants, this deadline is firm as to date and hour, and

VA will treat as ineligible for consideration any application that is received after the deadline. Applicants should take this practice into account and make early submission of their materials to avoid any risk of loss of eligibility brought about by unanticipated delays, computer service outages or other submission-related problems.

ADDRESSES: *For a Copy of the Application Package:* Copies of the application can be downloaded from the SSG Fox SPGP website at <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/ssgfox-grants/>. Questions should be referred to the SSG Fox SPGP at VASSGFoxGrants@va.gov. For detailed SSG Fox SPGP information and requirements, see part 78 of title 38 CFR part 78.

Application Submission: Applicants must submit applications electronically following instructions found at: www.mentalhealth.va.gov/ssgfox-grants/. Applications may not be mailed or sent by facsimile (fax). Applications must be received by the SSG Fox SPGP Office no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the application deadline date. Applications must arrive as a complete package. Materials arriving separately will not be included in the application package and may result in the application being rejected.

Technical Assistance: Information on obtaining technical assistance preparing a suicide prevention services grant application is available on the SSG Fox SPGP website at <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/ssgfox-grants/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Sandra Foley, Director, SSG Fox SPGP, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, 11MHSP, 202-502-0002 (this is not a toll-free telephone number), or VASSGFoxGrants@va.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As VA prepares to implement the SSG Fox

SPGP and coordinate with grantees, we identify the requirement in 38 CFR 78.50(a) that “Grantees must provide or coordinate the provision of a baseline mental health screening to all participants,” including children, could present significant logistical and legal difficulties. VA is unaware of any validated tool that can be used by non-clinicians as a baseline mental health screening to assess suicide risk and mental and behavioral health conditions for persons under the age of 18. Further, persons under the age of 18 generally need parental consent to access screening services like this, and such a requirement could delay, or at least complicate, compliance with this requirement. It is also unclear how often children under the age of 18 would be active participants in programs administered by grantees, physically present with the grantee or otherwise in contact and coordination with the grantee. Given these factors, we do not believe it is appropriate, at this time, to require applicants to plan to screen participants under the age of 18 in their programs. Consequently, VA will not require applicants under this Notice, or grantees awarded funds pursuant to this Notice, to provide or coordinate a baseline mental health screening to participants under the age of 18. VA will consider possible changes to this requirement, as it prepares a final rule to implement its interim final regulations from March 10, 2022.

We emphasize one point for clarity. VA expects applicants to be aware that children may be members of a household of an eligible individual and consequently could be participants in their programs. VA expects that any applicant awarded a grant who is presented with a person under the age of 18 who is in a mental health crisis or emergency will take all appropriate actions necessary to serve and protect that person.

CORRECTION:

In the **Federal Register** (FR) NOFO of April 15, 2022, in FR Doc 2022-08040, correct:

(1) Section I (Funding Opportunity Description), Paragraph D (Approach), first paragraph, second sentence to read: “Applicants must include in their application how they will provide or coordinate the provision of the baseline mental health screening to all participants age 18 and over.”

(2) Section I (Funding Opportunity Description), Paragraph D (Approach), third paragraph, first sentence to read: “Baseline mental health screening: Grantees must provide or coordinate the provision of baseline mental health screenings to all participants age 18 and over they serve at the time those services begin.”

(3) Section I (Funding Opportunity Description), Paragraph F (Guidance for the Use of Suicide Prevention Services Funds), fifth paragraph, third and fourth sentences to read: “Grantees must determine and document the degree of risk of suicide for each participant age 18 and over using tools identified in the suicide prevention services grant agreement. Prior to services ending, grantees must provide or coordinate the provision of a mental health screening to all participants age 18 and over they serve, when possible.”

Signing Authority

Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, approved this document on May 23, 2022, and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Jeffrey M. Martin,

Assistant Director, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

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