

It is important to be aware that VA places great emphasis on responsibility and accountability. VA has procedures in place to monitor services provided to homeless veterans and outcomes associated with the services provided in grant and per diem-funded programs. VA is also implementing new procedures to further this effort. Interested faith-based and community-based organizations should be aware of the following:

- Each per diem-funded program will have a liaison appointed from a nearby VA medical facility to provide oversight and monitor services provided to homeless veterans in the per diem-funded program.

- Monitoring will include at least an annual review of each per diem program's progress toward meeting internal goals and objectives in helping veterans attain housing stability, adequate income support, and self sufficiency as identified in each per diem program's original application.

- Each per diem-funded program will participate in VA's national program monitoring and evaluation system administered by VA's Northeast Program Evaluation Center (NEPEC).

- It is the intention of VA to develop specific performance targets with respect to housing for homeless veterans. NEPEC's monitoring procedures will be used to determine successful accomplishment of these housing outcomes for each per diem-funded program.

VA encourages all eligible and interested entities to review this NOFA and consider applying for funds to provide service for homeless veterans.

Authority: VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program is authorized by Public Law 107-95 and has been extended through FY 2005. The program is implemented by the final rule codified at 38 CFR 17.700. The final rule was published in the *Federal Register* on June 1, 1994, and February 27, 1995, and revised February 11, 1997. The regulations can be found in their entirety in 38 CFR, Volume 1, Sec. 17.700 through 17.731. Funds made available under this Notice are subject to the requirements of those regulations.

Allocation: Approximately \$13.5 million is available for the per diem component of this program. This funding is expected to be available for

a maximum of 36 months from the date of award, subject to the availability of funds. In later years, continued payment is subject to availability of funds.

Application Requirements: The specific per diem application requirements will be specified in the application package. The package includes all required forms and certifications. Conditional selections will be made based on criteria described in the application. Applicants who are conditionally selected will be notified of the additional information needed to confirm or clarify information provided in the application. Applicants will then have approximately one month to submit such information. If an applicant is unable to meet any conditions for per diem award within the specified time frame, VA reserves the right to not award funds and to use the funds available for other applicants. Grant recipients who received prior year funding for acquisition, renovation or new construction need not reapply for per diem for those portions of their programs that were created with grant funds. Per diem for these programs is requested in the grant application and paid at the time of grant project completion. However, if such entities desire per diem for programs not funded by a grant award under VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program, an application responding to this NOFA is required.

Dated: June 24, 2002.

Anthony J. Principi,

Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

President's Task Force To Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 that a meeting of the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans is scheduled for Wednesday, July 10, 2002, beginning at 9 a.m. and adjourning at 5 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Horizon Ballroom of the

Ronald Reagan Building International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC and is open to the general public.

The purpose of the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans is to:

(a) Identify ways to improve benefits and services for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) beneficiaries and Department of Defense (DoD) military retirees who are also eligible for benefits from VA, through better coordination of the activities of the two departments;

(b) Identify opportunities to remove barriers that impede VA and DoD coordination, including budgeting processes, timely billing, cost accounting, information technology, and reimbursement; and

(c) Identify opportunities through partnership between VA and DoD, to maximize the use of resources and infrastructure, including buildings, information technology and data sharing systems, procurement of supplies, equipment and services.

On the morning of July 10, the President's Task Force will receive presentations by Dr. Robert Roswell, Under Secretary for Health (VA), and Dr. William Winkenwerder, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The morning session will conclude with a discussion of the next steps and issues leading to the Final Report. During the afternoon session, the seven Work Groups will brief the Committee in this order: Leadership Chapter, Benefits Chapter, Resources Chapter, Pharmaceuticals Chapter, Acquisition and Procurement Chapter, Facilities Chapter, and Information Management/Information Technology Chapter.

Interested parties can provide written comments to Mr. Dan Amon, Communications Director, President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans, 1401 Wilson Boulevard, 4th Floor, Arlington, Virginia 22209.

Dated: June 21, 2002.

By direction of the Secretary.

Nora E. Egan,

Committee Management Officer.

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