

VETERANS AFFAIRS

County and Tribal Veterans Service Office Grants

Motion:

Move to specify that county veterans service office grants and tribal veterans service grants must be made on a reimbursable basis. Specify that eligible costs include information technology, transportation for veterans and services to veterans with barriers, special outreach to veterans, and training and services provided by the Department and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Require county and tribal offices to provide the Department with documentation and confirmation of office expenditures. Specify that reimbursements are to be made twice annually and authorize the Department to promulgate administrative rules to establish reimbursement criteria and procedures. Specify that no more than 50% of a county's or tribe's maximum grant in 2016 and no more than 25% of a maximum grant in 2017 may be used for salary and fringe benefit costs, and prohibit the use of grants for salary and fringe benefit costs in 2018 and thereafter.

Change the date for requiring a civil service process to be used for choosing a veterans service officer from after August 9, 1989, to after April 15, 2015. Specify that the county executive, administrator, or administrative coordinator must certify to DVA that the county employs a CVSO that meets civil service process requirements.

Note:

County veterans service offices (CVSOs) are required to: (a) advise veterans of any benefits to which they may be entitled and to provide assistance regarding any complaint or problem arising from such services; (b) make reports to their county board, as the board requires; (c) cooperate with federal and state agencies that serve or grant aid or benefits to former military personnel and their dependents; and (d) furnish information about veterans burial places within the county. DVA provides grants to counties to establish CVSOs ranging from \$13,000 to \$8,500, depending upon population, for counties with a full time CVSO officer and \$500 for counties with a part time officer. Total base funding for grants is \$761,000. Tribal service offices have the same duties as CVSOs. DVA provides grants of up to \$15,000 for tribal offices. This motion would require grants to county and tribal veterans service offices to be made on a reimbursable basis and would phase out the use of grants for salary and fringe benefit costs.

Posted By:
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