

Veterans Service Organizations, Matching Grants Bill House File 1000

Last Action:
**House Appropriations
Committee**
April 9, 2025

An Act providing for the establishment of a Veterans Service Organization Grant Program, and making appropriations.

**Fiscal Services Division
Legislative Services Agency**

NOTES ON BILLS AND AMENDMENTS (NOBA)

Available online at www.legis.iowa.gov/publications/information/appropriationBillAnalysis

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FUNDING SUMMARY

Establishes a Veterans Service Organization Grant Fund within the State Treasury under the control of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). Any unexpended moneys in the Fund at the close of a fiscal year are to remain available for expenditure. Interest or earnings on moneys in the Fund will be credited to the Fund.	Page 1, Line 8
Appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund to the DVA in FY 2026 for deposit in the Veterans Service Organization Grant Fund.	Page 2, Line 1

NEW PROGRAMS, SERVICES, OR ACTIVITIES

Establishes a Veterans Service Organization Grant Program under the administration and control of the DVA to award grants to veterans service organizations (VSOs) for the purpose of ensuring adequate staff are employed to assist veterans with claims.	Page 1, Line 1
FISCAL IMPACT: The DVA estimates that in order to administer the Program, it will need to hire one additional administrative assistant. The cost for one administrative assistant full-time equivalent (FTE) position ranges from \$60,000 to \$99,000.	
Directs the DVA to award matching funds to VSOs for the purposes of employing staff to assist veterans with claims. To receive a grant, a VSO must demonstrate that moneys have been budgeted and will be expended by the VSO in the amount required to provide matching funds for each staff position for which grant moneys are sought.	Page 1, Line 21
Requires the DVA to adopt application procedures, forms, administrative guidelines, and other administrative rules pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 17A to implement and administer the Program.	Page 1, Line 32

House File 1000 provides for the following changes to the Code of Iowa.

Page #	Line #	Bill Section	Action	Code Section
1	1	1	New	35A.23

1 1 Section 1. NEW SECTION 35A.23 VETERANS SERVICE
1 2 ORGANIZATION GRANT PROGRAM.

1 3 1. A veterans service organization grant program is
1 4 established under the administration and control of the
1 5 department to award grants to veterans service organizations
1 6 for the purpose of ensuring adequate staff are employed to
1 7 assist veterans with claims.

CODE: Establishes a Veterans Service Organization Grant Program under the administration and control of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to award grants to veterans service organizations (VSOs) for the purpose of ensuring adequate staff are employed to assist veterans with claims.

FISCAL IMPACT: The DVA estimates that in order to administer the Program, it will need to hire one additional administrative assistant. The cost for one administrative assistant full-time equivalent (FTE) position ranges from approximately \$60,000 to \$99,000.

1 8 2. A veterans service organization grant fund is created
1 9 within the state treasury under the control of the department.
1 10 The fund shall consist of moneys appropriated to the fund by
1 11 the general assembly and any other moneys available to and
1 12 obtained or accepted by the department for deposit in the fund.
1 13 All moneys in the fund are appropriated to the department for
1 14 purposes of administering the program and providing grants
1 15 under the program. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys in
1 16 the fund that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close
1 17 of a fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain available
1 18 for expenditure for the purposes designated. Notwithstanding
1 19 section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or earnings on moneys in
1 20 the fund shall be credited to the fund.

CODE: Establishes a Veterans Service Organization Grant Fund within the State Treasury under the control of the DVA. Any unexpended moneys in the Fund at the close of a fiscal year are to remain available for expenditure. Interest or earnings on moneys in the Fund will be credited to the Fund.

DETAIL: The Fund is to consist of moneys appropriated to the Fund by the General Assembly and any other moneys available and obtained or accepted by the DVA for deposit in the Fund.

1 21 3. a. In administering the program, the department shall
1 22 award matching funds to veterans service organizations for the
1 23 purpose of employing staff to assist veterans with claims.
1 24 b. To receive a grant, a veterans service organization shall
1 25 demonstrate that moneys have been budgeted and will be expended
1 26 by the veterans service organization in the amount required to
1 27 provide matching funds for each staff position for which grant
1 28 moneys are sought.
1 29 c. For purposes of this section, "veterans service
1 30 organization" means an organization recognized pursuant to 38
1 31 C.F.R. §14.628(c).

CODE: Directs the DVA to award matching funds to VSOs for the purposes of employing staff to assist veterans with claims. To receive a grant, a VSO must demonstrate that moneys have been budgeted and will be expended by the VSO in the amount required to provide matching funds for each staff position for which grant moneys are sought.

1 32 4. The department shall adopt, as necessary, application
1 33 procedures, forms, administrative guidelines, and other rules
1 34 pursuant to chapter 17A for purposes of implementing and

CODE: Requires the DVA to adopt application procedures, forms, administrative guidelines, and other administrative rules pursuant to Iowa Code chapter [17A](#) to implement and administer the Program.

1 35 administering the program.

2 1 Sec. 2. VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION GRANT FUND ———
2 2 APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated from the general fund of
2 3 the state to the department of veterans affairs for the fiscal
2 4 year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, the
2 5 following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be
2 6 used for the purposes designated:
2 7 For deposit in the veterans service organization grant fund
2 8 created in section 35A.23, as enacted by this Act:
2 9 \$ 250,000

Appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund to the DVA in FY 2026
for deposit in the Veterans Service Organization Grant Fund.

Health and Human Services

General Fund

	Actual FY 2024 (1)	Estimated FY 2025 (2)	House Approp FY 2026 (3)	Hse Appr FY26 vs Est FY 2025 (4)	Page and Line # (5)
<u>Veterans Affairs, Department of</u>					
Veterans Affairs, Dept. of					
Veterans Service Organization Fund	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	PG 2 LN 1
Total Veterans Affairs, Department of	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	
Total Health and Human Services	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	