

Report From Agency
REPORT
OF
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Clearinghouse Rule 14-058
Wis. Admin. Code VA 2.07

The Department of Veterans Affairs proposes an order to amend VA 2.07, relating to grants to non-profit organizations.

a) Proposed rule:

See Proposed Rule attached immediately following this report (Appendix A).

b) Rule summary:

This rule establishes the general criteria, procedures, requirements and conditions for the award of grants to nonprofit organizations that provide assistance to veterans and their families. It allows for grant applications from any nonprofit, as defined in s.108.02 (19) Stats., to provide financial assistance or other services to veterans and their dependents. The applications are evaluated based upon 11 enumerated factors relating to both the specific merits of the plan and the experience of the applicant organization. Applicants are evaluated based upon different selection criteria, which will be assigned pre-determined point values by an evaluation committee comprised of members of the Board of Veterans Affairs. The Department shall award grants to the applicants with the highest numerical score based upon the total scores of the combined points. Each applicant will be notified in writing of the Department's decision.

The rule provides for solicitation of applications for grants in the form of public notice. Each grant applicant will be asked to provide: (1) proof of nonprofit status; (2) information about itself; (3) description of the financial assistance or other services it provides to veterans and their dependents; and (4) description of the need for the requested funds.

See also Proposed Rule attached immediately following this report (Appendix A).

c) Reference to applicable forms:

Applications shall be submitted using form WDVA 2001, which will be available at the Department's website: <http://dva.state.wi.us/Pages/home.aspx>

See also Nonprofit Grant Application attached immediately following this report (Appendix B).

d) Fiscal estimate:

See Fiscal Estimate & Economic Impact Analysis attached immediately following this report (Appendix C.)

e) Any statement, suggested changes, or other material submitted to the agency by the SBRRB:

Not applicable.

f) Any economic impact analysis prepared by the agency:

See Fiscal Estimate & Economic Impact Analysis attached immediately following this report (Appendix C.)

g) Any revised economic impact analysis prepared by the agency:

Not applicable.

h) Any report prepared by DOA for a proposed rule with \$20,000,000 or more in implementation and compliance costs:

Not applicable.

i) Any energy impact report received from the Public Service Commission:

Not applicable.

j) Rules Clearinghouse Report:

See Clearinghouse Report to Agency attached immediately following this report (Appendix D.)

k) A detailed statement explaining the basis and purpose of the proposed rule, including how the proposed rule advances relevant statutory goals or purpose:

Act 190 creates s. 45.46, Stats., which provides the Department of Veterans Affairs authority to award grants to non-profit organizations that provide assistance to veterans or their families.

Section 45.03 (1), Stats., authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to promulgate rules necessary to carry out the purposes of Chapter 45 and the powers and duties conferred upon it.

Section 227.10 (1), Stats., directs each agency to promulgate as a rule each statement of policy to govern its enforcement and interpretation of a statute and section 227.10 (2m), Stats., directs each agency to promulgate rules for the implementation or enforcement of any standard, requirement, or threshold.

The Department has existing rules related to grants awarded to veterans service organizations and counties for the delivery of services to veterans, and also specifically for transportation services provided to veterans. The existing rules, however, are insufficient and inappropriate for the new grant authority.

The proposed new policies will create a process for non-profit organizations that provide financial assistance or other services to veterans and their dependents to apply for grant funds not to exceed \$25,000 per fiscal year. The proposed rule will require a non-profit organization to submit: (1) proof of non-profit status; (2) information about itself; (3) a description of the financial assistance or other services it provides to veterans and their dependents; (4) and describe their need for the requested

funds. The proposed rule will require the Board of Veterans Affairs to review the applications for these grants and make recommendations of award to the Secretary of the Department.

l) Summary of public comments to the proposed rule and the agency's response to those comments, and an explanation of any modification made in the proposed rule as a result of public comments or testimony received at a public hearing:

No comments were made at the public hearing on November 12, 2014, or received afterward prior to the closing of the hearing record on November 19, 2014.

m) List of the persons who appeared or registered for or against the proposed rule at a public hearing:

No one appeared at the public hearing on November 12, 2014, nor registered for or against the proposed rules.

n) Any changes to the rule summary or the fiscal estimate:

Not applicable.

o) Response to the recommendations in the Rules Clearinghouse Report indicating acceptance of the recommendations in whole, acceptance of the recommendations in part, rejection of the recommendations in whole, rejection of the recommendations in part, and the specific reason for rejecting any recommendation:

The Department of Veterans Affairs accepted the recommendations in the Rules Clearinghouse Report in whole.

p) For a proposed rule that will have an effect on small businesses, a final regulatory flexibility analysis that contains the information in s. 227.19 (3) (e):

Not applicable.

q) If an energy impact report regarding the proposed rule was submitted, an explanation of the changes, if any, that were made in the proposed rule in response to that report:

Not applicable.

r) If applicable, the report from DOA for a proposed rule that directly or substantially affects the development, construction, cost, or availability of housing in this state:

Not applicable.

s) A response to any report prepared by the SBRRB:

Not applicable.

t) Comments and opinion prepared by the Board of Veterans Affairs:

Pursuant to s.45.03(2m), Stats., the Board of Veterans Affairs on July 15, 2014, voted to provide no written comment or opinion on the proposed rule.

Respectfully submitted August ____, 2016

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

By: _____
John A. Scocos
Secretary