

# Veterans Guidebook to Opportunities and Benefits

*How to Navigate the Funding Process and Services*

U.S. Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand

New York



2014

*\*\* Note: This document will be updated as information becomes available.*



## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Section I: Transportation</b> .....	<b>3</b>
1) Capital Assistance Program for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities.....	3
2) Automobile and Special Adaptive Equipment Grants .....	3
3) Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative Capital Grants Program .....	4
<b>Section II: Affordable Housing</b> .....	<b>5</b>
1) VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program .....	5
2) Veterans Homelessness Prevention Demonstration Program.....	5
3) The VA Home Loan Guaranty Program .....	6
<b>Section III: Constructing and Modifying a Home for Disabled Veterans</b> .....	<b>8</b>
1) Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) Grant .....	8
2) Special Home Adaptation (SHA) Grant .....	9
3) Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) Grant .....	10
<b>Section IV: Employment and Job Training</b> .....	<b>11</b>
1) Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP).....	11
2) Veterans' Employment Program .....	11
3) Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project.....	12
4) Local Veterans' Employment Representative Program .....	12
5) Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service.....	13
<b>Section V: Healthcare Services</b> .....	<b>14</b>
1) VA Healthcare Benefits.....	14
2) Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) State Demonstration Grant Program .....	14
<b>Section VI: Additional Resources</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>Section VII: Letters of Support from Senator Gillibrand</b> .....	<b>21</b>

## Introduction

Dear Veteran,

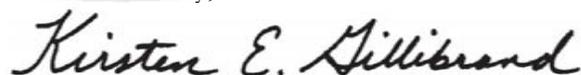
New York is home to more than one million men and women who have served in the Armed Services. As your United States Senator, I count among my highest responsibilities that of ensuring our veterans are given the very best opportunities and benefits we can provide.

Finding the resources that meet your needs in the government's complex web of agencies can be an almost impossible task. For this reason, I have created this guidebook to serve as a starting point in providing information to veterans about the resources, benefits and services that are eligible for.

The information in this guidebook details transportation, housing, vocational rehabilitation, and healthcare services as well as other opportunities available to all who have served our nation in the armed services. Although this guidebook provides multiple opportunities for review, it is by no means comprehensive. As new funding and benefits become available or programs change, this guidebook will be updated accordingly. My Senate website is continually updated with critical information about various funding opportunities that are available to you, how to access them, and where to apply. I urge you to visit my funding website to learn more ([http://gillibrand.senate.gov/services/grants\\_central/](http://gillibrand.senate.gov/services/grants_central/)). Additionally, if you need assistance with a federal agency please fill out the form on the following webpage (<http://gillibrand.senate.gov/services/casework/form/>) or call my New York City office at (212) 688-6262.

As you move forward with any funding opportunities, please contact Andrew Usyk, my Grants Director, for letters of support, when applicable and if you have any questions on or difficulties with the process. You can reach him in my Washington, D.C. Office at [Grants@Gillibrand.Senate.gov](mailto:Grants@Gillibrand.Senate.gov) or (202)-224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
United States Senator

## **Section I: Transportation**

### **1) Capital Assistance Program for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities**

- To provide financial assistance in meeting the transportation needs of elderly persons and persons with disabilities where public transportation services are unavailable, insufficient or inappropriate. The Section 5310 program is designed to supplement the Federal Transit Administration's other capital assistance programs by funding transportation projects for elderly persons and persons with disabilities in all areas - urbanized, small urban, and rural.

#### **Eligibility:**

- Eligible sub-recipients include private nonprofit organizations, public bodies approved by the State to coordinate services for elderly persons and persons with disabilities and public bodies which certify to the governor that no nonprofit corporations or associations are readily available in an area to provide the service.

#### **Additional Information:**

- Funding may be used for eligible capital expenses needed to provide specialized transportation service for elderly persons and persons with disabilities. Projects must provide for the maximum feasible coordination of transportation services assisted under this section with transportation assisted by other Federal sources and must provide for the maximum feasible participation of private-for-profit operators

#### **Contact:**

- Office of Program Management  
(202) 366-2053  
[http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants/13093\\_3556.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants/13093_3556.html)

### **2) Automobile and Special Adaptive Equipment Grants**

- Financial assistance is available to certain disabled veterans and servicemembers to purchase new or used automobiles (or other conveyances) to accommodate a disability. The veteran or servicemember may only receive the automobile grant once in his or her lifetime. The grant is up to \$18,000 (as of October 1, 2011) and is paid directly to the seller of the automobile to be applied to the total price of the automobile. Certain veterans who need to have a vehicle specially adapted due to their service-connected disability may qualify for the adaptive equipment grant.

#### **Eligibility and Application Process:**

- Veterans can apply for the grant by submitting VA Form 21-4502 (completing only Section I) to the local VA regional office. The VA will complete Section II, which certifies eligibility, and return the original application to the veteran. The veteran is then responsible for obtaining the invoice from the seller, completing Section III, and submitting the completed form to the local VA regional office.

- If the veteran is entitled to adaptive equipment only (i.e., service-connected for ankylosis, or stiff or fixed joints, of the knees or hips), the veteran would complete VA Form 10-1394, ***Application for Adaptive Equipment-Motor Vehicle***, and submit it to the local VA medical center. Additionally, VA Form 10-1394 should be completed for approval of equipment not specified on VA Form 21-4502.
- Go to the following website to learn more on this application process:  
<https://www.disability.gov/viewResource?id=13784556>

**Additional Information:**

- The adapted automobile grants are available to any veteran or servicemember entitled to compensation as the result of certain injuries incurred or diseases contracted in or aggravated by active military, naval, or air service. Those specific injuries include the loss or permanent loss of use of one or both feet, one or both hands, or permanent impairment of vision. The Veterans' Benefits Act of 2010 expanded eligibility to include veterans with a severe burn injury effective October 2, 2011.

**Contact:**

- Phone: 1-800-827-1000  
Website: <http://www.va.gov>

### **3) Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative Capital Grants Program**

- This grant opportunity makes funds available to state and local government agencies to finance capital costs of implementing, expanding, or increasing transportation for the public to increase veterans' transportation options. A focus of the program is to provide better transportation for veterans to and from VA medical facilities.

**Eligibility:**

- States, local governments and Indians Tribes are eligible to apply. Eligible subrecipients include public agencies, private non-profit organizations, including a Veterans Service Organization, and private providers engaged in public transportation.

**Contact:**

- Doug Birnie  
(202) 366-1666  
or  
Pamela Brown  
(202) 493-2503  
General email: [veteranstransportation@dot.gov](mailto:veteranstransportation@dot.gov)  
More information: [http://fta.dot.gov/grants/13094\\_13528.html](http://fta.dot.gov/grants/13094_13528.html)

## **Section II: Affordable Housing**

### **1) VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program**

- To assist public and nonprofit private entities in establishing new programs and service centers to furnish supportive services and supportive housing for homeless veterans through grants that may be used to acquire, renovate or alter facilities, and to provide per diem payments, or in-kind assistance in lieu of per diem payments, to eligible entities which established programs after November 10, 1992 that provide supportive services and supportive housing for homeless veterans.

#### **Eligibility:**

- Applicants eligible for grants include public and nonprofit private entities with the capacity to effectively administer a grant. The organization must be able to demonstrate that adequate financial support will be available to carry out the project, and agree to and demonstrate capacity to meet the applicable criteria and requirements of the grant program. Applicants eligible for per diem payments include public or nonprofit private entities that are either grant recipients, or that are eligible to receive a grant. Programs eligible for coverage under per diem payments must have been established after November 10, 1992.

#### **Additional Information:**

- The Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Service Programs Act of 1992 established the VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program. The Act authorizes VA to assist public or nonprofit private entities with partial funding for "bricks and mortar" to create supportive housing or services centers or to purchase vans for outreach and transportation. The Act also authorizes VA to partially fund operating expenses for these facilities through per diem payments.
- More information is available at the following site: <http://www.va.gov/homeless/GPD.asp>

#### **Contact:**

- Dr. Roger Casey  
VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program  
Office of Mental Health Services (116E)  
VAHQ  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20420  
Toll-free: 1-877-322-0334  
Email: [VHATAMGRANTANDPERDIEM@va.gov](mailto:VHATAMGRANTANDPERDIEM@va.gov)

### **2) Veterans Homelessness Prevention Demonstration Program**

- The Veterans Homelessness Prevention Demonstration Program (VHPD) explores ways for the Federal Government to offer early intervention homelessness prevention, primarily to veterans returning from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The VHPD program specifically acknowledges the increasing number of women veterans, veterans with families especially with a single head of household, as well as those from the National Guard and Reserve, who

are being discharged from the military and whose unique needs should be more closely examined.

**Eligibility:**

- HUD allows grantees significant discretion in program design and operations while targeting those who are most in need of homelessness prevention housing assistance

**Additional Information:**

- It is anticipated that this demonstration program will provide an opportunity to understand the unique needs of this new cohort of veterans, and will support efforts to identify, reach, and assist them to regain and maintain housing stability.
- More information on the program can be found on the following site:  
[http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/NationalCenter\\_VHPD.asp](http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/NationalCenter_VHPD.asp)

**Contact:**

- Rico Aiello  
VHPD Project Coordinator  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Phone: (215) 823-4285  
or  
Mark Nowakowski  
VHPD Coordinator for New York State  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Phone: (315) 412-3285  
Email: [mark.nowakowski@va.gov](mailto:mark.nowakowski@va.gov)

### 3) The VA Home Loan Guaranty Program

- The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 established the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program. The program authorized the guaranty of 20-year loans at a 4% interest rate under which the VA guaranteed to pay the lender the lesser of 50% of the loan amount or \$2,000 if the borrower defaulted. The loan term, interest rate, and the percentage and dollar guaranty limitations have been increased over the years.

**Eligibility:**

- Eligibility for VA-guaranteed housing loans is generally based upon the period and length of active duty service of honorably discharged veterans. Veterans who served more than 90 days of active duty during World War II, the Korean conflict, the Vietnam Era, or the Persian Gulf War are eligible for VA-guaranteed housing loans.

**Additional Information:**

- The VA loan guaranty program was an alternative to cash bonuses for the millions of men and women who served in the Armed Forces during World War II. There was the feeling that veterans, during their service to the country, had missed the opportunity to accumulate savings or to establish a credit rating which could be the basis of borrowing to acquire a home or establish a business.

- The loan guaranty program is an attempt to put veterans on par with their nonveteran counterparts. Under this program, an eligible veteran may purchase a home through a private lender and the VA guarantees to pay the lender a portion of the losses if the veteran defaults on the loan.
- Although initially established to benefit veterans who had served during war times, the program has been amended to extend eligibility to all parties who are on active duty or honorably discharged from the services. The main objective of the current VA home loan guaranty program is to help veterans finance the purchase of homes on favorable loan terms.
- More information on the program can be found on the following site:  
<http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/>

**Contact:**

- Regional Loan Center for New York State  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
VA Regional Loan Center  
1240 East Ninth Street  
Cleveland, OH 44199  
Phone: 1-800-729-5772  
<http://www.vba.va.gov/ro/cleveland/index1.htm>



## **Section III: Constructing and Modifying a Home for Disabled Veterans**

Housing grants are provided for constructing an adapted home or modifying an existing home to meet the adaptive needs of veterans and totally disabled members of the Armed Forces before discharge or release from the Armed Forces. There are three major grant programs:

- The Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant, available for permanent and some temporary residences, which is focused on the construction or acquisition of a specially adapted home, or remodeling of an existing home into a specially adapted home for veterans and servicemembers;
- The Special Home Adaptation (SHA) grant, available for permanent and some temporary residences, which is focused on adapting homes to reduce the barriers to living for veterans and servicemembers;
- The Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) grant, available for permanent residences, which is focused on improvements necessary for treatment continuation, or for disability access to the home and essential lavatory and sanitary facilities for disabled veterans.

### **1) Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) Grant**

- The SAH grant is focused on the construction or acquisition of a specially-adapted home, or remodeling of an existing home into a specially-adapted home for veterans and servicemembers. The goal is to provide a barrier-free living environment that affords the veteran or servicemember a level of independent living that he or she may not have otherwise enjoyed. The grant is currently limited to \$60,000 per lifetime, and it may be used up to three times.

#### **Eligibility:**

- The SAH benefit is available to veterans and servicemembers who have service-connected disabilities. These service-connected disabilities entitle them to compensation for permanent and total disability due to
  - the loss or loss of use of both lower extremities, such as to prevent movement without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair;
  - blindness in both eyes, having only light perception, plus the loss of use of one lower extremity;
  - the loss or loss of use of one lower extremity together with (1) residual of organic disease or injury, or (2) the loss or loss of use of one upper extremity, which also affects the functions of balance or propulsion so as to prevent movement without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair;
  - disability due to a severe burn injury; and
  - the loss or loss of use of both upper extremities such as to prevent the use of the arms at or above the elbow.
- In addition, it must be medically feasible for the veteran or servicemember to live in the house; the house must be adapted to meet the veteran's or servicemember's needs; and it must be feasible, with the grant assistance, for the veteran or servicemember to buy the house.

**Additional Information:**

- The VA can provide an SAH grant of up to \$14,000 to disabled veterans and servicemembers temporarily living in a home owned by a family member. This program for temporary residence grants is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2011
- To apply for the SAH grant, a veteran or servicemember completes and submits VA Form 26-4555, Veterans Application in Acquiring Specially Adapted Housing or Special Home Adaptation **Grant**, to the local VA regional office.

**Contact:**

- Website: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/sah.asp>  
or  
Regional Loan Center for New York State  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
VA Regional Loan Center  
1240 East Ninth Street  
Cleveland, OH 44199  
Phone: 1-800-729-5772  
<http://www.vba.va.gov/ro/cleveland/index1.htm>

**2) Special Home Adaptation (SHA) Grant**

- This grant is used to assist disabled veterans and servicemembers with mobility throughout their homes. The grant is currently limited to \$12,000 per lifetime, and it may be used up to three times.

**Eligibility:**

- The SHA grant is available to veterans and servicemembers who have service-connected disabilities, entitling them to compensation for permanent and total disability due to
  - blindness in both eyes with 5/200 visual acuity or less;
  - the anatomical loss or loss of use of both hands or extremities below the elbow; or
  - a severe burn injury.

**Additional Information:**

- To apply for the SHA grant, a veteran or servicemember completes and submits VA Form 26-4555, Veterans Application in Acquiring Specially Adapted Housing or Special Home Adaptation Grant, to the local VA regional office.
- The VA can provide an SHA grant of up to \$2,000 to disabled veterans and servicemembers temporarily living in a home owned by a family member. This program for temporary residence grants is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2011

**Contact:**

- Website: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/sah.asp>  
or  
Regional Loan Center for New York State  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
VA Regional Loan Center  
1240 East Ninth Street  
Cleveland, OH 44199

Phone: 1-800-729-5772

<http://www.vba.va.gov/ro/cleveland/index1.htm>

### 3) Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) Grant

- Under the HISA grant program, assistance is provided for any home improvement necessary for the continuation of the disabled veteran's treatment, or for disability access to the home and essential lavatory and sanitary facilities. A HISA grant is available to veterans who have received medical determinations indicating that improvements and structural alterations are necessary or appropriate for the effective and economical treatment of their disabilities. A veteran may receive both a HISA grant and either an SHA or SAH grant.

#### **Eligibility:**

- The HISA program is available for both service-connected disabled veterans and non service-connected disabled veterans as detailed below:
  - Home improvement benefits up to \$4,100 may be provided to service-connected disabled veterans; and
  - Home improvement benefits up to \$1,200 may be provided to nonservice-connected disabled veterans.

#### **Additional Information:**

- To apply for the HISA grant, the veteran completes and submits VA Form 10-0103, Veterans Application for Assistance in Acquiring Home Improvement and Structural Alterations, to the local VA medical center.

#### **Contact:**

- Website: <http://www.prosthetics.va.gov/HISA2.asp>  
or  
Regional Loan Center for New York State  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
VA Regional Loan Center  
1240 East Ninth Street  
Cleveland, OH 44199  
Phone: 1-800-729-5772  
<http://www.vba.va.gov/ro/cleveland/index1.htm>

## **Section IV: Employment and Job Training**

### **1) Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP)**

- Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) seeks to provide intensive services to meet the employment needs of disabled and other eligible veterans with maximum emphasis in meeting the employment needs of those who are economically or educationally disadvantaged, including homeless veterans and veterans with barriers to employment.

#### **Eligibility:**

- Funds must be used only for salaries and expenses and reasonable support of Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP). Applicants must be the state administrative entity designated by each Governor. Veterans and eligible persons with emphasis on Special Disabled veterans, disabled veterans, economically or educationally disadvantaged veterans, and veterans with other barriers to employment.

#### **Contact:**

- Pam Langley  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue  
NW., Room S-1316  
Washington, DC 20210  
Phone: (202) 693-4708  
Additional information:  
[http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/fact/Employment\\_Services\\_fs01.htm](http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/fact/Employment_Services_fs01.htm)

### **2) Veterans' Employment Program**

- Programs supported with these funds shall include: 1) Activities to enhance services provided to eligible veterans by other providers of employment and training services funded by Federal, State, local or tribal governments; 2) activities to provide innovative employment and training services and projects to eligible veterans not currently provided by other public employment and training service providers; and 3) outreach and public information activities to develop and promote maximum job and training or retraining opportunities for eligible veterans.

#### **Eligibility:**

- State and Local Workforce Investment Boards, State and State Agencies, local public agencies, private nonprofit organizations and community-based organizations (including faith-based and community organizations) are eligible to compete for these grant funds.

#### **Additional Information:**

- Beneficiaries must be service-connected disabled veterans, veterans who have significant barriers to employment, veterans who served on active duty in the armed forces during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized, and veterans who are recently separated from military service (48 months).

#### **Contact:**

- Kenneth Fenner  
Competitive Grants Lead  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Ave, NW Room S-1312,  
Washington, District of Columbia 20210  
Email: [Fenner.Kenneth@dol.gov](mailto:Fenner.Kenneth@dol.gov)  
Phone: (202) 693-4728.

### 3) Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project

- To provide services to assist in reintegrating homeless veterans into meaningful employment within the labor force; and to stimulate the development of effective service delivery systems that will address the complex problems facing homeless veterans.

#### **Eligibility:**

- State and Local Workforce Investment Boards, State and State Agencies, local public agencies, private nonprofit organizations (including faith-based and community organizations) and for-profit/commercial entities. Potential jurisdictions are metropolitan areas of the largest U.S. cities or non-urban areas in need, as announced in the solicitation for grant applications (SGA).

#### **Additional Information:**

- Projects supported with these funds shall provide for employment and training services and support services directly or through linkages with other service providers to assist homeless veterans to reenter the workforce. Outreach is necessary and is to be performed by formerly homeless veterans.
- For more information visit the following site:  
<http://www.dol.gov/vets/grants/grant2/main.htm>

#### **Contact:**

- Kenneth Fenner  
Competitive Grants Lead  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room S-1312  
Washington, District of Columbia 20210  
Email: [fenner.kenneth@dol.gov](mailto:fenner.kenneth@dol.gov)  
Phone: (202) 693-4728

### 4) Local Veterans' Employment Representative Program

- Conduct outreach to employers including conducting seminars for employers, conducting job search workshops and establishing job search groups; and to facilitate employment,

training, and placement services furnished to veterans in a State under the applicable State employment service or One-Stop Career Center delivery systems whose sole purpose is to assist veterans in gaining and retaining employment.

**Additional Information:**

- Funds must be used only for salaries, expenses and reasonable support of Local Veterans' Employment Representatives who shall be assigned only those functions directly related to providing services to veterans.
- For more information please visit the following site:  
<http://www.dol.gov/vets/aboutvets/contacts/main.htm>

**Contact:**

- Patrick Hecker  
State Grants Lead  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room S-1312,  
Washington, District of Columbia 20210  
Email: [hecker.patrick@dol.gov](mailto:hecker.patrick@dol.gov)  
Phone: (202) 693-4709

## 5) Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service

- The Department of Veteran Affairs' Veteran Benefits Administration's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR & E) Program is a national employment resource for employers. The VR & E Service provides effective vocational rehabilitation services to veterans with service-connected disabilities. Enabling our injured soldiers, sailors, airmen, and other veterans with disabilities for a seamless transition from military service to a successful rehabilitation and on to suitable employment after service to our Nation.

**Additional Information:**

- The VR & E Program provides employers with incentives for job training, hiring disable veterans and for implementing non-paid work experience programs for disabled veterans.
- A complete listing of incentives for employers, as well as the steps that an employer needs to take to establish eligibility, is available at the following site:  
[http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/emp\\_resources.htm](http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/emp_resources.htm)

**Contact:**

- New York State Regional Office  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Phone: 1-800-827-1000

## **Section V: Healthcare Services**

### **1) VA Healthcare Benefits**

- VA operates the nation's largest integrated health care system with more than 1,400 sites of care, including hospitals, community clinics, community living centers, domiciliary, readjustment counseling centers, and various other facilities.

#### **Eligibility:**

- A person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable may qualify for VA health care benefits. Reservists and National Guard members may also qualify for VA health care benefits if they were called to active duty (other than for training only) by a Federal order and completed the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty.
- Minimum Duty Requirements: Veterans who enlisted after Sept. 7, 1980, or who entered active duty after Oct. 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty in order to be eligible. This minimum duty requirement may not apply to veterans discharged for hardship, early out or a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

#### **Additional Information:**

- For complete information on healthcare benefits for veterans, dependents and survivors, please visit the following site:  
[http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book/benefits\\_chap01.asp](http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book/benefits_chap01.asp)

### **2) Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) State Demonstration Grant Program**

- To improve access to health and other services for individuals with TBI and their families.

#### **Eligibility:**

- Only State governments are eligible to apply for funding under the TBI grant program. The application for Implementation Partnership funds may only come from the State agency designated as the lead for TBI services. The State maternal and child health program is expected to be involved in the program. Only one application from each State may enter the review process and be considered for an award under this program.

#### **Additional Information:**

- Project grants to States to improve access to health and other TBI-related services for people of all ages are established within HRSA. Any State seeking TBI grant funds is required to agree to establish or have an advisory board within the appropriate health department of the State or within another department as designated by the Chief Executive Officer of the State.
- The Board's composition as specified must include representatives of the involved State agencies; public and nonprofit private health related organizations; disability advisory or planning groups; members of an organization or foundation representing individuals with TBI; State and local injury control programs if they exist, and a substantial number of individuals with TBI and/or their family members.

- The grants are called "Implementation Partnership Grants." These grants are to be used in building a statewide system to assure access to comprehensive and coordinated TBI services. Grants can address a wide range of activities and should reflect gaps or needed system change identified through the statewide TBI needs assessment.
- For complete information on this funding opportunity, please visit the following site: <https://www.cfda.gov/?s=program&mode=form&tab=step1&id=5729dcd9fc9d8426145f8af13a04b675>

**Contact:**

- LT Donelle McKenna  
Room 18A-18  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, Maryland 20857  
Email: [jmartin-heppel@hrsa.gov](mailto:jmartin-heppel@hrsa.gov)  
Phone: (301) 443-2370



## **Section VI: Additional Resources**

### **Veterans Business Development:**

- The Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans Business Development's mission is to maximize the availability, applicability and usability of all administration small business programs for Veterans, Service-Disabled Veterans, Reserve Component Members, and their Dependents or Survivors. To review a complete listing of resources available to veteran entrepreneurs and business owners, please visit the following site:  
<http://www.sba.gov/about-offices-content/1/2985>

### **Military and VA Health Grants Resources on PTSD and TBI:**

- The Defense Centers of Excellence (DCoE) for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury assess, validate, oversee, and facilitate "prevention, resilience, identification, treatment, outreach, rehabilitation, and reintegration programs for psychological health (PH) and traumatic brain injury (TBI) to ensure the Department of Defense meets the needs of the nation's military communities, warriors and families." The following website allows users to read the DOD's definition of a TBI, look at previous research proposals funded by the DCoE, and examine current funding opportunities in psychological health and TBI:  
<http://www.dcoe.health.mil/Research.aspx>
- The Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC), formerly known as the Defense and Veterans Head Injury Program, was mandated by Congress in 1992 through Title IV of the FY1991 Department of Defense Appropriations Act (P.L. 101-511). Congress's intent was to establish a network for TBI care, research, and education for active duty servicemembers and veterans. Directed by the DCoE, DVBIC consists of seven TBI injury programs in DOD and VA hospitals, two private pilot programs for transitional community re-entry care, two concussion clinics, and three affiliated sites. The DVBIC website provides a description of the center's mission, as well as contact information and links to its centers and newsletter, at the following link: <http://www.dvbic.org>
- Contact information for the TBI research program manager in the VA's Health Services Research and Development (HSR&D) Service and for the TBI program portfolio at the VA's Rehabilitation Research and Development (RR&D) Service can be found at the following links:
  - HSR&D:  
[http://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/research/portfolio\\_description.cfm?Sulu=19](http://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/research/portfolio_description.cfm?Sulu=19)
  - RR&D:  
<http://www.rehab.research.va.gov/staff/pars1.html#start>
- Contact information for the post-traumatic stress disorder PTSD research program manager in the VA's HSR&D Service appears at the following link:  
[http://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/research/portfolio\\_description.cfm?Sulu=14](http://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/research/portfolio_description.cfm?Sulu=14)

## Counseling and Therapy:

### State Resources

- The New York Office of Mental Health describes services for the military, veterans, and their families: <http://www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/military/>
- New York State Veterans Counselors can help veterans identify other benefits for which they may be eligible (1-888-VETSNYS or 1-888-838-7697): [http://veterans.ny.gov/counselor\\_location.html](http://veterans.ny.gov/counselor_location.html)
- New York State's Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services describes specialized addiction services for veterans and their families: <http://www.oasas.state.ny.us/pio/press/20101108Vets.cfm>

### Federal Resources

- Federal benefits, including mental health benefits, are described in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) booklet Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors: [http://www1.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book.asp](http://www1.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp)
- The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline has a special hotline (1-800-273-TALK, Veterans Press 1) and 24/7 live online chat for veterans: <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/Veterans/Default.aspx> See the top right for other suicide prevention resources for veterans.
- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has compiled resources for military families, including veterans and their families: <http://www.samhsa.gov/militaryFamilies/>
  - SAMHSA can also provide constituents with free toolkits, including a handbook and DVD entitled Handbook for Family and Friends of Service Members Before, During and After Deployment: <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA10-EMLKIT>
- The VA has collected mental health, suicide prevention, and substance abuse resources for veterans:
  - VA resources: <http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/index.asp>
  - External resources: <http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/Resources.asp>
- The VA healthcare system includes coverage of mental health and substance abuse services. Eligibility information:
  - <http://www4.va.gov/healtheligibility/>
  - <http://www4.va.gov/healtheligibility/familymembers/>
- VA's Vet Centers offer some counseling services to veterans and their eligible family members. <http://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>
- This August 2010 VA Under Secretary for Health's Information Letter "provides clinical guidance on the expanded authority for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide mental health and other services to members of a Veteran's immediate family, the legal

guardian of a veteran, or the individual in whose household the veteran certifies an intention to live ("eligible individuals")." It includes discussion of marriage and family counseling.

[http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=2285](http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=2285)

### **Women Veterans' Healthcare:**

- No VA grants are available for women veterans' healthcare. Instead, any women veterans who meet the eligibility requirements can receive their healthcare through the VA. General information on VA healthcare eligibility can be found at the following VA Website link: <http://www4.va.gov/healtheligibility/>
- Information on VA healthcare for women veterans -- including a link to frequently asked questions (FAQs) -- appears at the following VA Website link: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth/>

### **Transportation:**

- Through the Transportation Network, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) volunteers drive sick and disabled veterans to and from VA medical facilities for treatment. The Transportation Network is a clear example of veterans helping veterans. The DAV stepped in to meet a substantial community need when the federal government terminated its program that helped many veterans pay for transportation to VA medical facilities. The DAV has 189 Hospital Service Coordinators around the country who coordinate the transportation needs for disabled veterans. For more information please visit: <http://www.dav.org/volunteers/Ride.aspx>

### **VA Beneficiary Travel Benefit:**

- Although not a grant, beneficiary travel mileage reimbursement or special mode transport associated with obtaining VA healthcare services is provided by the VA to eligible veterans. Overview information on this benefit (including eligibility criteria) can be found in VA Healthcare Fact Sheet 16-2, Beneficiary Travel Benefits (June 2010), which can be accessed at this link: <http://www4.va.gov/healtheligibility/Library/pubs/BeneficiaryTravel/BeneficiaryTravel.pdf>
- Answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) on VA beneficiary travel can be found at the following link: <http://www4.va.gov/healtheligibility/Library/FAQs/BeneTravelFAQ.asp>
- More detailed material on this benefit appears in the "Beneficiary Travel Mileage Reimbursement" section on pp. 30-32 in CRS Report R40737, Veterans Medical Care: FY2010 Appropriations, which is available at this link: <http://www.crs.gov/products/r/pdf/R40737.pdf?Source=404>

### **Private Foundation and Nonprofit Resources:**

- **Army Emergency Relief (AER)** provides a range of services including emergency financial aid, children and spouse scholarships, grants to Wounded Warriors and benefits for surviving Family members. <http://www.aerhq.org/index.asp>
- **The Air Force Aid Society (AFAS)** is the official charity of the United States Air Force. AFAS has promoted the Air Force mission since 1942 by providing worldwide emergency assistance efforts, funding education assistance programs, and fostering communal programs to improve the quality of life for Airmen and their families. Available to Air Force only. <http://www.afas.org/>
- **The Air Force Association (AFA)** is a nonprofit, civilian education organization whose mission is to advance public knowledge of aerospace power and its role in national security. AFA also publishes Air Force Magazine, presents scholarships and grants to Airmen and their dependents, organizes seminars on professional development, and performs outreach activities. The AFA sponsors professional development seminars, provides awards for excellence in education and aerospace, and seeks to promote math and science education in elementary and secondary school. <http://www.afa.org/acf/default.asp?pm=asg>
- **The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund (IFHF)** is a non-profit organization founded in 2000 to provide financial support for the dependents of U.S. military personnel injured or lost in the line of duty. The fund provides grants to the spouses, dependents and families of service members in conjunction with the casualty offices of the Armed Forces. IFHF operates the Center for the Intrepid physical rehabilitation facility in San Antonio for service members with Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI), as well as the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) in Bethesda for advanced diagnostics, therapy and support for service members with TBI and post traumatic stress disorder. (<http://www.fallenheroesfund.org/>)
- **The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS)** is a private, non-profit organization sponsored by the Department of the Navy. The organization maintains 250 offices in Navy and Marine Corps facilities, and specializes in financial education and counseling, no-interest loans, educational grants, grants for emergency needs, and benefits information assistance. All services are provided free of charge. (<http://www.nmcrcs.org/services.html>)
- **Our Military Kids** provides financial assistance in the form of grants to enhance the lives of children of service members and wounded warriors. These grants go towards funding participation in sports, fine arts, camps, and tutoring programs. <http://www.ourmilitarykids.org/>
- **USA Cares** provides free financial and advocate services to post 9/11 active duty US military service personnel, veterans and their families. The organization aims to help service members and their families maintain financial stability. Financial assistance is provided in the form of payments made to mortgage lenders, utility companies, and other vendors. Click here to apply for assistance: [http://usacares.org/index.php/assistance/sub/category/main\\_application](http://usacares.org/index.php/assistance/sub/category/main_application) and for more information on USA Cares, go to the following link: <http://usacares.org/index.php/about/category/mission>

- **The Army Homefront Fund** provides emergency financial and other support to the families of soldiers, with a focus on wounded warrior care and transition assistance. Specifically, they provide cash GRANTS, not loans, usually paid directly to mortgage lenders, auto mechanics, utility companies, doctors, and other providers. Assistance is usually provided within 24-72 hours after receiving pertinent information from the warrior or family member. Additional services the Army Homefront Fund helps provide include emergency food, emergency home repairs, critical baby items, budget counseling, vision care assistance, transitional family housing, vehicle repair assistance, furniture and household items, and Wounded Warrior Wives retreats. For additional information, please visit the following site: <http://www.armyhomefrontfund.org/>



## Section VII: Letters of Support from Senator Gillibrand

While Senator Gillibrand does not decide which organizations are awarded federal funding, there are instances in which it is appropriate for the Senator to write a letter of support for an application. If you wish to request a letter of support for your application, please supply Senator Gillibrand with the following:

1. A description of your organization,
2. Summary of the application,
3. A description of what the money will be used for, and
4. A draft letter of support containing all the above information

Please forward this information by email to [grants@gillibrand.senate.gov](mailto:grants@gillibrand.senate.gov) or by mail to the nearest regional office:

### **Capital District**

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
Leo W. O'Brien Federal Office Building  
11A Clinton Avenue  
Room 821  
Albany, NY 12207  
Tel: (518) 431-0120  
Fax: (518) 431-0128

### **Buffalo/Western New York**

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
Larkin at Exchange  
726 Exchange Street, Suite 511  
Buffalo, NY 14210  
Tel: (716) 854-9725  
Fax: (716) 854-9731

### **Long Island**

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
155 Pinelawn Road  
Suite 250 North  
Melville, NY 11747  
Tel: (631) 249-2825  
Fax: (631) 249-2847

### **New York City**

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
780 Third Avenue  
Suite 2601  
New York, New York 10017  
Tel. (212) 688-6262  
Fax (866) 864-6340

### **North Country**

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
PO Box 273  
Lowville, NY 13367  
Tel. (315) 376-6118  
Fax (315) 376-6118

### **Rochester Region**

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
Kenneth B. Keating Federal Office  
Building  
100 State Street  
Room 4195  
Rochester, NY 14614  
Tel. (585) 263-6250  
Fax (585) 263-6247

**Syracuse/Central New York**

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand

James M. Hanley Federal Building  
100 South Clinton Street  
Room 1470  
PO Box 7378

**Hudson Valley Office**

PO Box 893  
Mahopac, NY 10541  
Tel. (845) 875-4585  
Fax (845) 875-9099

**Westchester County**

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
(For address, please call)  
Tel. (914) 725-9294  
Fax (914) 472-5073

**Washington D.C.**

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
United States Senate  
478 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Tel. (202) 224-4451  
Fax (202) 228-0282  
TTY/TDD: (202) 224-6821

