



VETERAN SERVING ORGANIZATIONS

CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Deadline: September 28, 2018

To initiate or enhance services for female veterans

Purpose: The RFP will be issued to veteran serving organizations, particularly those that provide preventive health programs and supportive services to meet the needs of female veterans. There are numerous programs that focus on veterans in general however, few provide gender-specific programs and services for female veterans. Female veterans have similar concerns (homelessness, poverty, mental illness, chronic conditions, etc.) however, at the same time, they are different. The Foundation will award grants up to \$25,000 to assist organizations with meeting the health needs of this population.

Use of Funds: Grants may be used to initiate innovative preventive health programs and services or expand existing services for female veterans. If successful, the terms and conditions will be outlined in the grant agreement.

Potential Projects: The Foundation is seeking innovative programs that have the ability to transform health care and supportive services for female veterans in the following categories:

Access to Care

- Health screenings
- Maternal and child health programs
- Physical activity, nutrition and diet or exercise counseling
- Creating safe environments
- Continuity of care and linkage to community-based services

Service Delivery Systems

- Community health workers or health navigators (team-based care)
- Integration of physical health, oral health or behavioral health with primary care
- Chronic disease case management

Education

- Health education and health promotion programs that empower individuals to improve their quality of life

Timeframe is 12 months:

- Grants will be announced in November 2018
- Grant activity will begin in December 2018
- Grant period concludes December 30, 2019
- Final report is due on February 28, 2020

The Highmark Foundation is a private, charitable, organization of Highmark Inc. that supports initiatives and programs aimed at improving community health. The Highmark Foundation's mission is to improve the health, well-being and quality of life for individuals who reside in communities served by Highmark Inc. and its subsidiaries and affiliates. We are proud to support charitable organizations that are a good fit with our mission statement above. To be eligible for a grant, an organization must meet the following criteria:

- Be a nonprofit defined as tax exempt under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and as a public charity under section 509 (a) of that code. The Foundation does not support third-party or fiduciary arrangements.
- Be located in one of 62 counties in Pennsylvania (with the exception of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties) or the state of West Virginia.
- Organizations with an active Highmark Foundation grant are eligible to apply for this opportunity.

This RFP is available at <https://highmarkfoundationrfp.versaic.com/login>. Please download and read the accompanying information. Follow the directions to apply. All requests for consideration must be submitted online.

For questions or additional information regarding the RFP or application process, call the Foundation at 1-866-594-1730 or email: info@highmarkfoundation.org.





RESOURCE DOCUMENT

CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS – VETERAN SERVING ORGANIZATIONS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Important Application Information:

Deadline to Apply:	September 28, 2018
Application Available:	https://highmarkfoundationrfp.versaic.com/login
RFP and Resource Guide	www.highmarkfoundation.org
Grants Announced:	November 2018
Grant Activity Begins:	December 2018

Getting Started

Organizations (such as community health centers, free clinics, and Federally Qualified Health Centers and social service agencies) are eligible to receive a one-year mini-grant up to \$25,000 to implement measurable actions and/or interventions to address barriers to the health and well-being of women veterans. Grant awards will be based on level of need, clarity of implementation plan, and ability to demonstrate qualitative and quantitative outcomes. The Foundation's RFP will assist organizations with building capacity by providing grant funding to initiate or enhance services for women veterans, as a result, closing gaps in care.

Highmark Foundation will outline terms of grants (payments and progress reports) with successful grantees. All applications must be submitted electronically.

- The RFP and Resource document can be downloaded and printed from the Highmark Foundation's website: www.highmarkfoundation.org
- The online application, the RFP and Resource document are also available from: <https://highmarkfoundationrfp.versaic.com/login>

Please follow the directions to login to the Versaic grants management system to complete the application. Contact the Foundation at 1-866-594-1730 if you need assistance.

Eligibility: Organizations with the desire to initiate or enhance programs and services for women veterans located in central Pennsylvania, western Pennsylvania and the state of West Virginia are eligible to apply (**see map on Page 4**). *Organizations located in Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, Delaware and Philadelphia counties are **not eligible** to apply.*

Purpose: The Foundation has a history of addressing the health care needs of individuals and communities served by Highmark Inc. and its subsidiaries and affiliates. The purpose of the grants is to help organizations provide accessible, coordinated and comprehensive care and supportive services for women veterans and to encourage them to have an active role in their health care. To more effectively initiate or enhance services, these organizations need help with streamlined monitoring, reducing barriers to care, increasing program retention and reducing costs.

Priority Funding Areas: Submitted proposals must include how each organization will use funding to help reduce barriers to care for women veterans. Please refer to the RFP. Innovative strategies should demonstrate measurable outcomes, and address population health through only one of the following three categories:

1. Access to care: There are few gender-specific programs and services exclusively designed for women veterans. Programs to address these causes can involve a variety of approaches, including:

- Linking patients from and to care and with integrated health and supportive services using a well-functioning referral system
- Identifying the populations that most need additional prevention support and are willing and able to use it
- Providing opportunities to expand or improve physical health through physical activity and healthy eating
- Improving the health of women, children and subsequently families

2. Service Delivery Systems: This approach includes efforts to increase delivery of services and support to eliminate barriers to quality health care based upon cultural, ethnic, gender and racial differences.

- Including community health workers or navigators to improve linkages and retention in care
- Integration of other services with primary care to create more coordinated or systematic care in one setting
- Fostering optimal health outcomes by providing cost-effective, patient-centered, quality care with an emphasis on service

3. Education: Educating people about health including environmental, physical, social, emotional and spiritual health, as well as sexual and reproductive health

- Providing learning experiences designed to help individuals and communities improve their health, by increasing their knowledge or influencing their attitudes
- Adoption of an existing approved prevention education models from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Awareness-raising campaigns (no advocacy) that provide information about issues such veterans rights related to healthcare through media (e. g. TV, radio, print, Internet webinars and webcasts)
- Community mobilization and education, peer outreach and telephone hotlines

Goals: With this RFP, the Foundation will provide grants in central Pennsylvania, western Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The goals of the RFP are to:

- Improve access to community health programs, treatment and services.
- Support the development and implementation of evidence-based or innovative best practice strategies designed to change or improve care for women veterans
- Provide organizations with funding support. As a result, organizations will be required to measure, monitor and track outcomes; and to report qualitative and quantitative results

Implementation and Monitoring: If awarded a grant, organizations will face great expectations. Grantees will be expected to include an acknowledgment of the Highmark Foundation's funding for the project in all press releases, newsletters, brochures, annual reports, websites and other promotional materials. By doing so, these organizations will help the community understand how the Highmark Foundation supports outstanding organizations in the region. Before any print material (newsletter, brochure or press release) is sent for publicity, it must be approved by the Highmark. Foundation.

Grantees may be expected to participate in technical assistance webinars and a learning collaborative that will be established to support projects. The learning collaborative is a vehicle for executive staff of awarded organizations to report outcomes from their projects. The time and location will be determined. Foundation staff will also conduct periodic visits and meetings to monitor program progress, to discuss outcomes, and to work with grantees on agreed-upon metrics. The Highmark Foundation expects projects to be sustainable after the grant period.

Award Evaluation Criteria: Proposals will be judged according to the following criteria and the grantees' ability to achieve the following aims, including enhancing the quality of activities, programs and services; and creating innovative approaches to improve the health of populations. **Funding is not to be used to purchase medications or pharmaceuticals.**

- Develop practical culturally competent interventions that demonstrate ability to expand and to ensure that program treatment and services are available to meet community needs. Education, care and treatment should be coordinated and comprehensive to obtain the best results. Strategies should have long-term results that will improve efficiency of care through collaborations with other local or regional health improvement partnerships.
- Develop programs that significantly impact public health and engage communities in addressing disparities women veteran's care, treatment and education with new delivery models focused on reducing gaps in care and services.
- Develop measurable outcomes. Measurable outcomes should be demonstrated from investing in and making sure women veterans receive appropriate linkages to a coordinated system of care.

