

Request for Board Action Details

File #: 2021-504
Type: Administrative Item **Status:** Passed
In control: Board of Commissioners
On agenda: 9/28/2021 **Final action:** 9/28/2021
Title: Grant Award from Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs for County Veterans Services Operational Enhancement Grant
Sponsors: Veterans Services
Indexes:
Code sections:
Attachments: 1. Grant Agreement, 2. Grant Agreement Processing Instructions, 3. Resolution

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
9/28/2021	1	Board of Commissioners	approved	Pass

Sponsor: Veterans Services

Title

Grant Award from Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs for County Veterans Services Operational Enhancement Grant

Recommendation

1. Ratify the submittal of the grant application to the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs in the amount of \$22,500 to enhance the operations of Ramsey County's Veterans Services.
2. Accept a grant award and approve a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs to enhance the operations of Ramsey County's Veterans Services for the period of date of execution of the grant agreement through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$22,500.
3. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the grant agreement.
4. Authorize the County Manager to enter into agreements and contracts and amendments and agreements and contracts in accordance with the county's procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of the grant funding.

Background and Rationale

On June 11, 2021, the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs notified Ramsey County Veterans Services that they would be awarded a County Veterans Services Operational Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$22,500 for the period of date of execution of the grant agreement through June 30, 2022. This grant consists of the base grant amount of \$7,500 awarded to all 87 Minnesota counties and an additional \$15,000 based on the population of veterans currently residing in Ramsey County. A lump sum payment of \$22,500 will be made to Veterans Services upon execution of the grant agreement. Statute allows the grant to provide for expenses up to 60 days from the date the contract is executed.

The grant must be used to provide outreach to the county's veterans; to assist in the reintegration of combat veterans into society; to collaborate with other social service agencies, educational institutions, and other community organizations for the purposes of enhancing services offered to veterans; to reduce homelessness among veterans; and to enhance the operations of the county veterans service office, as specified in as specified in Minnesota Statutes 197.608 and Minnesota Laws 2021, 1st

Special Session, Chapter 12, Article 1, Section 37, Subdivision 2. This grant should not be used to supplant or replace other funding.

Ramsey County Board approval is necessary as the State requires that a certified copy of a resolution approving this specific grant to be attached to the grant contract.

County Goals (Check those advanced by Action)

☒ Well-being

☒ Prosperity

☐ Opportunity

☐ Accountability

Racial Equity Impact

Veterans Services serves a diverse group of veterans as Ramsey County is the most racially and ethnically diverse county in the state. When compared to Minnesota's veteran population, the county serves a higher proportion of Asian, Black, and Latino clients and a lower proportion of American Indian and White clients. When compared to the general county population, Veterans Services serves a higher proportion of Black and White clients, and a lower proportion of Asian, American Indian, and Latino clients. The department is actively seeking out ways to capture data provided by the veteran data system to better inform how to serve clients and help internal departments and community partners.

Community Participation Level and Impact

Veterans Service has not previously included community input regarding the use of these funds. With the addition of a Race and Health Equity Liaison, the department is expanding their scope of outreach to improve how community input is included in future decision making.

☒ Inform

☐ Consult

☐ Involve

☐ Collaborate

☐ Empower

Fiscal Impact

The funding from this annual grant is included in the Veterans Services proposed 2022-2023 budget.

County Manager Comments

No additional comments.

Last Previous Action

None.

Attachments

1. Grant Agreement
2. Grant Agreement Processing Instructions