Honor Grants FAQ

* If my organization previously received Honor Grant funding, are we eligible to apply again? What if it is for a different veteran program?
  + At this time, organizations that have received Honor Grant funding in the past are **not** eligible for additional Honor Grant funding.
* Do we need to have been providing the specific service we are looking to apply for funding?
  + You are eligible to apply for program funding to support the expansion of your organization’s capacity, which may include the introduction of a new service with program funds.
* In the written application, applicants are required to address areas where their organization was negatively impacted by COVID-19. How does an applicant demonstrate this?
  + In your organization’s written application, please explain how your organization’s resources – including staff – were expended, potentially beyond your organization’s existing capacity. Paint a detailed narrative of what happened during the pandemic.
* We are a 501(c)(3), 509(a)(3) Type III. Are we eligible to apply?
  + Yes, all 501(c)3 organizations are eligible to apply.
* Can national organizations with offices in Cook County apply for the grants?
  + Local offices in Cook County are eligible to apply if the organization explains how program funding will be employed for the benefit of Cook County veterans.
* Is there some kind of help for smaller organizations on ways to apply? Could we do even smaller grants?
  + The Cook County Department of Veterans Affairs is available to answer any questions during the application period. Please email us at [Veterans.Affairs@CookCountyIL.gov](mailto:Veterans.Affairs@CookCountyIL.gov) if you need help applying for the Cook County Honor Grant. The Department of Veterans Affairs plans to award 10 grants of $10,000 each; this is the smallest grant total provided under the Honor Grant program.
* What if my organization has submitted an application but has not heard a response?
  + The application period will end on June 30. A review panel will then score each application and all successful applicants will be notified of their awards by the end of August 2023. If you have submitted an application, you should receive an automated email acknowledging that we have received your application.
* Do we need to have existing veteran-specific programming, or are we eligible as long as we have programming that serves veterans, and will serve veterans specifically with this funding opportunity?
  + Yes. If your current programming serves veterans and you are looking to expand programming or introduce new programming, you are eligible to apply.
* Services we provide to veterans are delivered in Cook County, but not all the veterans we serve reside in Cook County. Can we apply for program support to help all the veterans we serve, or only for those who live in Cook County?
  + The Honor Grant will be provided to nonprofit organizations with a presence in Cook County serving veterans in Cook County, but we are not going to exclude organizations that also serve veterans beyond Cook County. So as long as you are serving Cook County veterans with program funding, you are eligible to apply.
* Can organizations apply for a separate grant for all several subordinate organizations? For example, can an organization distribute $10,000 to ten subordinate organizations under a $100,000 grant award? Would this scenario present a conflict of interest?
  + Organizations are eligible to apply and distribute grant funds to subordinate organizations, so as long as the distributed funds are explained in the application and budget. We ask that you disclose conflicts of interest, if any exist, and to disclose organizations that you will be collaborating with under your Honor Grant proposal.
* What document do I need to provide to show financial hardship?
  + We ask you in the application to attest that you have experienced negative economic impacts during the COVID-19 pandemic. You may also explain how you have experienced negative economic impacts during the pandemic in the written components of the application.
* Do grants that apply for support for education and job placement programming need to apply for support for either education or job placement or can an application fund both?
  + Organizations competing for an Honor Grant that provides support for veteran education and job placement can provide separate programming, or programming that provides both education and job placement, and qualify for the grant.
* Does an organization need to be registered in SAMS.gov to receive a Unique Identify ID (UEI)?
  + Organizations who have already registered in SAM.gov have already been assigned a UEI and can find their UEI by logging into their SAM.gov profile. If you have not yet registered in SAM.gov, we advise doing so as soon as possible to apply for the Honor Grant. You may consult the General Services Administration website for more information on obtaining a UEI, but no other source of obtaining a UEI outside of SAMS.gov is apparent. Organizations without a UEI will be ineligible to receive an Honor Grant.