

VA



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News Release

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

VA Grants Will Expand Transportation in Rural West Texas Areas *Veterans to Have Easier Access to Health Care*

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the White House Rural Council today announced the award of eleven grants, totaling \$2,180,563.94, which will improve access to health care for Veterans living in highly rural areas. The Texas Veterans Commission has been awarded one of these grants which will help serve local Veterans in the Presidio, Kent and Fisher Counties.

“Access may be particularly difficult for Veterans living in highly rural and remote areas, and VA will use innovative strategies, like those in this program, to ensure those Veterans receive the service and care they have earned through their service to our Nation,” said Elizabeth Lowery, associate director of the El Paso VA Health Care System.

The grants will assist 325 Veterans in West Texas by providing \$150,000 to fund transportation services for Veterans to and from VA medical centers and other facilities that provide VA care. The grants are part of a program authorized by Congress to help state Veterans Service Agencies (SVSAs) and Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) operate or contract for transportation services to transport Veterans to VA medical centers and other facilities that provide VA care.

In July 2013, VA began accepting applications for grants to help state Veterans Service Agencies and VSOs operate or contract for transportation services to transport Veterans to VA medical centers and other facilities that provide VA care.

“VA is committed to ensuring that all Veterans, including those who live in rural and remote areas, have access to the health care they have earned through service to our country,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. “These grants will play a critical role in expanding access to VA healthcare for Veterans.”

Other organizations who have been awarded grants include:

- Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (\$250,000) benefiting over 8,200 Veterans;
- American Legion Post 12 (\$50,000 for one county in Idaho.) benefiting over 468 Veterans;
- American Legion Rocky Boy Post 67 (\$49,557 for one county in MT) benefiting over 600 Veterans;
- American Legion Post 142 (\$200,000 for four counties in TX) benefiting almost 400 Veterans;
- Maine Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. (\$50,000 for one county) benefiting 1,100 Veterans;
- Nevada Department of Veterans Services (\$50,000 for two counties) benefiting 775 Veterans;
- Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (\$300,000 for six counties) benefiting 2,200 Veterans;
- Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (\$100,000 for 2 counties) benefiting over 1,350 Veterans;
- Robert Tovsrud VFW Post 757 (\$50,000 for one county) approximately benefiting 177 Veterans;
- Texas Veterans Commission (\$931,006 for 19 counties) benefiting over 2,000 Veterans.

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