

## **VSO GRANT PROGRAM**

It is the Veteran Service Officer's intent to provide lifetime advocacy to our Veterans and their families or the survivors of Veterans. Conceptualize assisting Veterans with a variety of VA benefits at the Federal, State and County levels. The main objective is providing quality vs. quantity services by assisting Veterans in the most expedient manner possible. Informing Veterans to seek the guidance of an accredited service officer to help them navigate the VA system for their benefits. Funding is needed to provide the following services to our Veterans

### **OUTREACH**

Outreach is established to benefit The Veteran population at VA medical centers, outpatient clinics, courthouses, Legislative offices and VFW's posts.

The purpose of outreach to ensure that Veterans and their families are made aware of benefits eligibilities and receive assistance with completing the required applications. We have three primary methods to achieve this.

#### **Satellite Offices**

We currently have 30 service officers providing services to 12 regional areas across the state to Veterans and their families. This means that we have one SO providing services to multiple counties. Thus, reducing our effectiveness and potential outreach possibilities.

Establish representatives of VSO's presence in more local representative offices.

Increase the number of service officers in remote areas.

#### **Home Visits**

We aid disabled Veterans by providing home visits and meeting with them to accommodate their special needs.

#### **Veteran's Convenience**

The flexible scheduling is key to assisting our Veterans in remote areas and emergency situations. This is not an 8am – 5pm job! When the need arises to assist a Veteran, we travel to them if required. We provide a free service to all types of Veterans to include Student Veterans, Incarcerated Veterans, Veterans Treatment Court, and Homeless Veterans

## **PROGRAMS**

We are often invited to attend Veterans activities and functions throughout the year.

Increase the networking between Veteran organizations and community & government organizations.

We provide services that assist the Veteran in every facet of their life. Financial, educational and employment opportunities.

## **FUNDING**

Funding is important for us to continue to receive professional training and provide services to all our Veterans.

We receive annual training in Annapolis MD by the Veterans National Service and it is a three-tier program offered to our accredited service officers and claims consultant. The training is based on their level of expertise and work location. We are also looking at training at the State level to provide state benefits to our Veterans. This requires our SO's to travel and get overnight accommodations for the training.

Vetrapec – Veteran data management system is a costly program to have installed but is very much needed at all locations to provide efficient and quality service to our Veterans.

Funding for salaries needs to be increased to keep quality experienced SO's. More often than not we lose quality SO's due to state regulated funding and in addition we do not receive any medical, dental or vision benefits.

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