



## Cook County Department of Veterans Affairs Honor Grants | Frequently Asked Questions

- **My nonprofit organization is a 501(c)(3), 509(a)(3) Type III. Are we eligible to apply?**
  - Yes, all 501(c)3 organizations are eligible to apply.
- **Do nonprofit organizations have to currently offer the specific service they are seeking grant funding for?**
  - Nonprofits are eligible to apply for program funding to support the expansion of your organization's capacity. If your current programming serves veterans and you are looking to expand programming or introduce new programming, you are eligible to apply.
- **In the written application, applicants are required to include how 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.
- **Can national organizations with offices in Cook County apply for Honor Grants?**
  - Local offices in Cook County are eligible to apply if the organization explains how program funding will be used for the benefit of Cook County veterans.
- **What if my organization submitted an application but has not received a response?**
  - The application period ends on September 30. A review panel will then score each application and all successful applicants will be notified of their awards before November 10. Please submit all application materials through the webform at the bottom of the Honor Grants webpage: [cookcountyil.gov/honorgrants](https://cookcountyil.gov/honorgrants). After submitting an application, an automated email will be sent acknowledging that we have received your application. If you did not receive an automated email, please email us at [veterans.affairs@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:veterans.affairs@cookcountyil.gov).
- **Not all veterans my organization serves 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?**
  - Honor Grants will be provided to nonprofit organizations with a presence in Cook County serving veterans in Cook County, but we will not exclude organizations that also serve veterans beyond Cook County. If 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 organizations in the application to attest that they have experienced negative economic impacts during the COVID-19 pandemic. An explanation of how an organization has experienced negative economic impacts during the pandemic can be included in the written components of the application.
- **Will grants be awarded for a program that supports both education and job placement? Or can I apply for funding for a program that supports one or the other?**
  - Either. Organizations applying for an Honor Grant that provide 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 SAM.gov to receive a Unique Identify ID (UEI)?**
  - Organizations who have already registered in [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) have already been assigned a UEI and can find their UEI by logging into their SAM.gov profile. 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.
- **Who can applicants contact with questions?**
  - The Cook County Department of Veterans Affairs is available to answer any questions during the application period. Please email [veterans.affairs@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:veterans.affairs@cookcountyil.gov) if you need help applying for Honor Grants.