

# Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## Frequently Asked Questions

The new Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SSG Fox SPGP) will enable VA to provide resources toward community-based suicide prevention efforts to meet the needs of Veterans and their families through outreach, suicide prevention services, and connection to VA and community resources. In alignment with VA's National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide (2018), this grant program will assist in further implementing a public health approach that blends community-based prevention with evidence-based clinical strategies through community efforts. The grant program is part of the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019, signed into law on October 17, 2020.

### What organizations are eligible for the grant program?

Organizations that will be able to qualify include incorporated private institutions or foundations; a corporation wholly owned or controlled by an incorporated private institution or foundation; Indian tribes; community-based organizations that can effectively network with local civic organizations, regional health systems, and other settings where eligible individuals and their families are likely to have contact, or state or local governments.

### What services will the SSG Fox SPGP provide?

Grants will be awarded to organizations that provide or coordinate suicide prevention services for individuals and their families that are eligible, including:

- Baseline mental health screening for risk
- Education on suicide risk and prevention to families and communities
- Provision of clinical services for emergency treatment
- Case management services
- Peer support services
- VA benefits assistance for eligible individuals and their families
- Assistance with obtaining and coordinating other benefits provided by the federal government, a state or local government, or an eligible entity
- Assistance with emergent needs relating to health care services, daily living services, personal financial planning and counseling, transportation services, temporary income support services, fiduciary and

representative payee services, legal services to assist the eligible individual with issues that may contribute to the risk of suicide, and child care

- Nontraditional and innovative approaches and treatment practices, as determined appropriate by VA
- Other services necessary for improving the mental health status and well-being and reducing the suicide risk of eligible individuals and their families as VA determines appropriate

### Who are "eligible individuals?"

The term "eligible individual" includes a person at risk of suicide who, in general, served in the active military, naval, or air service and was discharged therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable as described in 38 U.S.C. 101(2), former Service members with other than honorable discharge status described in 38 U.S.C. 17201(b), and those who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations under 38 U.S.C. 1712A(a)(1)(C)(i)-(iv).

### How much has Congress allocated to the SSG Fox SPGP?

Congress has authorized \$174 million to be appropriated to carry out the SSG Fox SPGP. Organizations can apply for grants worth up to \$750,000 and may apply to renew awards from year to year throughout the length of the program.

### When will the SSG Fox SPGP be implemented?

The time line for the program is fiscal years 2021-2025. Certain regulatory, financial, and administrative tasks must be completed before grants are awarded.

# Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program

## Frequently Asked Questions

---

### **Will the SSG Fox SPGP prioritize award distribution to special populations?**

VA may prioritize grant awards to organizations that focus on areas with limited access to medical services, in rural communities, on tribal lands, in U.S. territories, in areas with a high number or percentage of minority Veterans or women Veterans, or in areas with a high number or percentage of calls to the Veterans Crisis Line.

### **Is the SSG Fox SPGP the same as or part of the PREVENTS National Grant Program?**

No, the SSG Fox SPGP is not a PREVENTS National Grant Program and not tied to nor led by PREVENTS. The SSG Fox SPGP is a stand-alone VA grant program specifically created pursuant to Section 201 of the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019, and in collaboration with the [PREVENTS Office](#) as part of the work group to develop the regulations. The proposed PREVENTS National Grant Program is a separate initiative being developed by the PREVENTS Office to develop a coordinated, interagency federal mechanism to support, provide resources for, and facilitate the implementation of successful evidence-informed mental health and suicide prevention programs at the state and local levels as outlined in more detail in the [PREVENTS Roadmap](#) and [Supplemental Materials](#) released in June 2020. For more information about the proposed PREVENTS National Grant Program, contact [WeArePREVENTS@va.gov](mailto:WeArePREVENTS@va.gov).

### **When and how can I apply for the SSG Fox SPGP?**

Once the Final Rule for the SSG Fox SPGP is complete, VA will publish a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) with instructions on how to apply. Applications will be available on the SSG Fox SPGP [website](#).

### **Who is Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox?**

SSG Fox SPGP honors Veteran Parker Gordon Fox, who joined the Army in 2014 and was a sniper instructor at the U.S. Army Infantry School at Ft. Benning, GA. Known for a life of generosity and kindness to others in need, SSG Fox died by suicide on July 21, 2020, at the age of 25.

### **How can I find more information on the SSG Fox SPGP?**

For more information, visit [www.mentalhealth.va.gov/SSGFox-Grants](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/SSGFox-Grants).