Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SSG Fox SPGP)

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Webinar

Presenter name: Sandra Foley, LCSW
Presenter title: Director, SSG Fox SPGP
Agenda

I. Suicide Prevention from a National Perspective
II. VA’s Public Health Approach to Suicide Prevention
III. SSG Fox SPGP Program Overview
IV. Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Overview
V. NOFO Priority 1 – Renewal Applicants
VI. NOFO Priority 2 – New Applicants
VII. Application Submission
VIII. Application Review
IX. Resources
Suicide Prevention from a National Perspective
Suicide from a National Perspective

• Suicide is a national issue, with rising rates of suicide in the general population. In addition, suicide rates are higher, and are rising faster, among Veterans than among non-Veteran adults.
  • Societal factors, such as economic disparities, race/ethnicity/LGBTQ+ disparities, homelessness, social connection and isolation, and health and well-being, play additional roles in suicide risk.

• One suicide affects an estimated 135 surviving individuals.

• The Nation grieves with each suicide, necessarily prompting the collective tireless pursuit of evidence-based clinical interventions and community prevention strategies, which are critical to the implementation of VA's National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide.
There is Hope

To reach **all Veterans**, we need **all of you**.

Anchored in hope, we move forward with each of you, knowing we have much to learn and confident that **together we can make a positive difference** in the lives of Veterans around us.
Anchors of Hope

Hope is essential to life, and fostering hope is central to all suicide prevention efforts. Within the challenges faced in 2021, key areas of hope emerged, including:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Veterans Aged 75-Years-Old and Older</th>
<th>Recent Veteran VHA Users</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>From 2020 to 2021:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Suicide rates fell by 8.1% for Veteran men aged 75-years-old and older.</td>
<td>adjust for recent Veteran VHA users with diagnoses of sedative use disorder (-40.4%), depression (-32.9%), posttraumatic stress disorder (-27.6%), and anxiety (-26.9%).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Among male recent Veteran VHA users, suicide rates fell by 8.6% for those aged 75-years-old and older.</td>
<td><strong>From 2001 to 2021:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Among male Veterans not in VHA care who were aged 75-years-old and older, the suicide rate fell by 7.8%.</td>
<td>• Among recent Veteran VHA users between the ages of 55- and 74-years-old, the suicide rate fell by 2.2%.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>From 2001 to 2021:</strong></td>
<td><strong>From 2020 to 2021:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Suicide rates fell for recent Veteran VHA users with diagnoses of sedative use disorder (-40.4%), depression (-32.9%), posttraumatic stress disorder (-27.6%), and anxiety (-26.9%).</td>
<td>• Among male recent Veteran VHA users, suicide rates fell by 1.9% for those aged 18- to 34-years-old.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heavily Impacted Groups in 2021</td>
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<td><strong>Women Veterans</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• 24.1% increase in the age-adjusted suicide rate (compared to 6.3% among male Veterans)</td>
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<td><strong>American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Unadjusted suicide rate was 46.3 per 100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 51.8% increase in the unadjusted suicide rate from 2020–2021</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VHA Veterans</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Over 60% who died by suicide were not seen in VHA in 2020 or 2021</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Adjusted rates increased by 13.9% compared to 10.2% for other Veterans</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Homeless Veterans</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• 112.9 per 100,000 suicide rate was highest observed from 2001–2021</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Suicide rate increased 38.2% since 2020</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Suicide rate was 186.5% higher than for those not homeless</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Priority Group 5</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Had highest suicide rate at 57.1 per 100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Suicide rate increased 9.8% from 2020</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• No service-connected disability/Medicaid eligible</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Justice-Involved Veterans</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Suicide rate of 151.0 per 100,000 was the highest over this period</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Suicide rate increased 10.2% since 2020</td>
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</table>
VA’s Top Clinical Priority: Suicide Prevention

Data from the National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report informs VA’s strategic efforts, which are guided by the National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide (2018-2028), VA/DoD Clinical Practice Guideline (2019), and White House Strategy on Reducing Military and Veteran Suicide (2021).
Public Health Strategy

VA's public health strategy combines partnerships with communities to implement tailored, local prevention plans while also focusing on evidence-based clinical strategies for intervention. Our approach focuses on both what we can do now, in the short term, and over the long term, to implement VA’s National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide.

KEY TENETS

1. Suicide is preventable.
2. Suicide prevention requires a public health approach, combining clinical and community-based approaches.
3. Everyone has a role to play in suicide prevention.
VHA Programs Supporting the Public Health Approach Mission

I. Community Based Interventions for Suicide Prevention Program

II. Clinically Based Interventions for Suicide Prevention

III. Suicide Prevention Clinical Telehealth Program

IV. Suicide Prevention Coordinators

V. Veterans Crisis Line

VI. SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program
Community-Based Interventions (CBI) for Suicide Prevention

Focused Priority Areas

1. Identify service members, Veterans, and their families and screen for suicide risk
2. Promote connectedness and improve care transitions
3. Increase Lethal Means Safety and Safety Planning
Community-Based Interventions for Suicide Prevention (CBI-SP) serves as a unifying model, from national to community levels, for all community-based efforts to end Veteran suicide.

- **The Governor’s Challenge** is a collaboration with VA and SAMHSA where state policy makers partner with local leaders to implement a comprehensive suicide prevention plan.
- **Together With Veterans** focuses on Veteran-to-Veteran coalition building and Veteran leadership development for suicide prevention.
- **Community Engagement and Partnerships for Suicide Prevention (VISN Expansion)** focuses on facilitating and empowering communities to form diverse coalitions working to end Veteran suicide.

Outreach and Education provides VA S.A.V.E. Training, VHA facility partnerships, events, etc., through local suicide prevention coordinators (SPCs) and does not change their critical role.
Suicide Prevention 2.0 Vision for the Distance: Combining Community & Clinical Interventions

Community-Based Prevention Strategies
- Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISN)-Wide Community Prevention (community coalition building)
- Together With Veterans (Veteran-to-Veteran building)
- Governor’s/Mayor’s Challenge (state-driven suicide prevention planning)

Clinically Based Interventions
- Evidence-based psychotherapies & interventions implemented through clinical video telehealth
  - Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Suicide Prevention (CBT-SP)
  - Problem-Solving Therapy for Suicide Prevention (PST-SP)
  - Dialectical Behavior Therapy
  - Safety Planning Intervention

Foundation of Adequate Mental Health Staffing
(7.72 outpatient mental health full-time equivalent employees/1,000 Veterans in outpatient mental health)
### SAFETY PLANNING INTERVENTION (SPI)

**Purpose**
- Collaborative development of a patient-centered, prioritized list of warning signs, coping strategies, and resources to use during a suicidal crisis.

**Modality & Frequency**
- 1-2 individual sessions.

**Length**
- 45-60 minutes, or as needed.
- May meet multiple times to continue working on the safety plan.

### COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL THERAPY FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION (CBT-SP)

**Purpose**
- Develop alternative ways of thinking and behaving while building hope, increasing awareness for reasons for living, and improving self-efficacy to manage suicidal crises.

**Modality & Frequency**
- Weekly/bi-weekly individual therapy; one-month follow-up contact.

**Length**
- 12-14 sessions.

### PROBLEM-SOLVING THERAPY FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION (PST-SP)

**Purpose**
- Improve the Veteran’s ability to cope with stressful life experiences by learning and applying problem-solving strategies.

**Modality & Frequency**
- Weekly individual therapy.

**Length**
- 6-12 sessions.

### DIALECTICAL BEHAVIOR THERAPY (DBT)

**Purpose**
- Combine cognitive-behavioral techniques with acceptance strategies. Focus on building skills in mindfulness, emotion regulation, interpersonal effectiveness, and distress tolerance.

**Modality & Frequency**
- Weekly individual therapy & skills group.
- Phone coaching, as needed (including how to use the VCL after hours).

**Length**
- 6-12 months.
Availability of SP 2.0 Clinical Telehealth in the U.S.

- All 18 VISNs
- 139 VA Health Care Systems within the U.S.

https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/map.asp?dnum=1
Free, Confidential Support 24/7, 365

- Veterans
- Service members
- Family members
- Friends

*can also text 838255 or chat via https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/
VA Suicide Prevention Coordinator (SPC) Role

• A network of over 600 SPCs and/or suicide prevention case managers (SPCMs), clinically trained and located at each VA facility, serve as subject matter experts in preventing Veteran suicide.

• As part of VA’s public health model, SPCs are responsible for identifying, case managing, and supporting high-risk Veterans within facilities, and coordinating strategies to increase the awareness and adoption of suicide prevention best practices within the community.

• The Suicide Prevention Coordinator Program is the only nationwide program where crisis line callers can choose to receive follow-up linkage to services and resources after a crisis.

• SPCs provide education to staff in VA medical centers to enhance providers’ readiness for Veterans who may report suicidal thoughts.
Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox
Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SSG Fox SPGP)
Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program

• Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SSG Fox SPGP) was established by §201 of the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Improvement Act.

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

• SSG Fox SPGP is in the second year of the three-year pilot.

• This NOFO is for the third year of services.
Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SSG Fox SPGP)

• SSG Fox SPGP provides resources to strengthen local community capacity to:
  • Conduct outreach to identify eligible Veterans and families,
  • Provide them with suicide prevention services, and
  • Connect them to resources within the community and VA to prevent Veteran suicide.

• The program places emphasis on eligible individuals at risk of suicide who are not currently receiving health care furnished by VA.
Program Status

On an expedited timeline prioritized by the VA Secretary, on 9/19/22 VA awarded $52.5 million to 80 community-based organizations (grantees) in 43 states, D.C., and American Samoa. Grantees began providing services in January 2023.

On 9/20/23 VA awarded $52.5 million for the second year of the SSG Fox SPGP. 80 grantees (77 renewal, 3 new) received 1-year awards across 43 states, D.C., American Samoa, and Guam. Twenty-one grantees serve Alaska Natives and tribes including Navajo Nation, Cherokee Nation, and Choctaw Nation. A full list of grantees is available at [https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/ssgfox-grants/](https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/ssgfox-grants/).

SSG Fox SPGP service goals:
- Reduce suicide risk, mitigate risk factors and maximize protective factors, and improve:
  - Mental health status
  - Well-being
  - Financial stability
  - Social support
SSG Fox SPGP Eligible Individuals

Individuals eligible to receive services from SSG Fox SPGP include persons at risk for suicide who are:

• Veterans under title 38 (38 U.S.C. 101(2))
• Former service members who were discharged from the armed forces under conditions that were not honorable but also not dishonorable or by court martial (38 U.S.C. 1720I(b))
• Certain Veterans and members of the armed forces eligible for Readjustment Counseling Services from VA (38 U.S.C. 1712A(a)(1)(C)(i) through (iv))
Risk of Suicide, Defined

- Risk of suicide is defined as exposure to, or the existence of, any of the following factors, to any degree, that increase the risk of suicidal ideation and/or behaviors:
  
  1. Health Risk Factors
     - Mental health challenges, substance use, serious or chronic health conditions or pain, and traumatic brain injury
  
  2. Environmental Risk Factors
     - Prolonged stress, stressful life events, unemployment, homelessness, recent loss, and legal or financial challenges
  
  3. Historical Risk Factors
     - Previous suicide attempts, family history of suicide, and history of abuse, neglect, or trauma

- Once suicide risk factors are identified, the degree of risk is determined utilizing a VA-provided tool.
Grant Authorized Suicide Prevention Services

- Outreach to identify eligible individuals, with an emphasis on those who are at highest risk for suicide or who are not receiving health care or other services furnished by VA
- Baseline mental health screening for risk (required for all grantees or participants ages 18+)
- Education on suicide risk and prevention to families and communities
- Clinical services for emergency treatment
- Case management services
- Peer support services
- Assistance in obtaining VA benefits
- Assistance regarding other benefits provided by the federal government, a state or local government, or an eligible entity
Grant Authorized Suicide Prevention Services (cont’d)

- Assistance with obtaining services relating to emergent needs, such as health care services, daily living services, personal financial planning and counseling, transportation services, temporary income support services, fiduciary and representative payee services, child care, and certain legal services
- Nontraditional and innovative approaches and treatment practices as determined appropriate by VA, in consultation with appropriate entities
- Other suicide prevention financial assistance (e.g., payments to a third party not to exceed $750 per participant in any one-year period for expenses related to gaining or keeping employment, or lethal means safety and secure storage, etc.)
- Other suicide prevention services as set forth in the NOFO or approved by VA (demonstrating evidence-informed interventions for improving mental health status and well-being and reducing the suicide risk of eligible individuals and their families)
Nontraditional and Innovative Services

Examples from approved programs:

- Adaptive Performance
- Art Therapy, Creative Arts, Music Therapy
- Equine Therapy
- Family Support Circles
- Food Security
- Healing Touch Therapy
- Mindfulness
- Moral Injury Education
- Resilience Strength Training

- Native:
  - Ho'oponopono (Hawaiian)
  - Ninelines Rites of Passage Ceremony
  - Native: Risking Connections (Hawaiian)
  - Alaska Native Cultural and Resilience Gathering

- Outdoor Recreation
- Service Dog Programming
- Warrior PATHH
- Water Sports and Yoga
Grantee Coordination with VHA

- Grantees are required by law to coordinate with local VA Medical Center to offer/facilitate clinical mental health referrals
  - Grantees guided to establish local contacts and processes necessary for clinical referrals: eligibility/enrollment, mental health clinic, ER, etc.

- Grantees notify local VA SPC of any Veteran or Active-Duty Service member (ADSM) with suicidal behavior within the past 90 days.

- Grantees trained on SPC and CEPC roles understand that SPC is not the main/sole mental health referral pathway.
NOFO Overview
NOFO Overview

• The NOFO informs renewal and new applications for suicide prevention services grants.

• Awards for suicide prevention services will fund operations beginning on September 30, 2024.

• $52.5 million available for suicide prevention services grants for FY24 services.

• Priority 1: Renewal awards available for current grantees in good standing and who have demonstrated sufficient progress to date. Applicants may apply for amount equal to or less than current award.

• Priority 2: New applicants may apply (maximum of $750,000 per eligible entity).
  • Available funding limited to funds remaining after Priority 1 allocations.
NOFO Overview

• Copies of the application can be downloaded from the SSG Fox SPGP website at mentalhealth.va.gov/ssgfox-grants/

• For detailed program information and requirements, see part 78 of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (38 CFR part 78)

  • Applicants are strongly encouraged to review before submitting questions, as many frequently asked questions are detailed in the regulation.

• Questions should be referred to the SSG Fox SPGP via email VASSSGFoxGrants@va.gov.

• Applications must be submitted electronically following instructions found at mentalhealth.va.gov/ssgfox-grants/
NOFO Priority 1 – Renewal Applicants
Renewal Application Considerations

• The renewal application must remain consistent with current approved grant elements.
• Grantee must demonstrate substantial compliance with grant agreement.
• Grantee must consistently meet program targets including:
  1. Appropriate service provision and expenditure of funding.
  2. Timely compliance with data submission requirements.
  3. Satisfactory resolution of grievances and critical incidents as needed.
• Current grantees may request an amount equal to or less than their current award (this will not be considered a substantial change to the program concept).
• Grantees must have active SAM.gov accounts.
• VA reserves the right in any year to make adjustments (e.g., to funding levels) as needed within the intent of the NOFO based on a variety of factors, including the availability of funding.
Renewal Application Sections

Overview

• Grant amount requested (must be equal or less than current approved grant amount)
• Community partners (subcontractors)
• Number of projected eligible individuals to be served
• Geographic area served
• Compliance with threshold requirements

Application

• Section A: Program Outcomes - Maximum 55 points
• Section B: Cost Effectiveness - Maximum 20 points
• Section C: Compliance with SSG Fox SPGP Goals and Requirements - Maximum 25 points
• Exhibit I: Applicant Budget Template
Renewal Application Section A: Program Outcomes, Maximum 55 Points

Suicide Prevention Service and Program Evaluation

• Provide examples and data demonstrating how your program improved the financial stability, mental health status, well-being, and social supports for eligible individuals enrolled in your program during the grant award period.

• Provide a description of the suicide prevention services provided to eligible individuals enrolled in your program during this grant award period. Provide data regarding any measured outcomes of the effectiveness of the services.

Outreach

• Provide a description of the types of outreach conducted to engage eligible individuals and their families into your program during this grant award period.

• What percentage of eligible individuals enrolled in your program were not previously receiving services with VA?
Renewal Application Section A: Program Outcomes, Maximum 55 Points (cont’d)

Participant Satisfaction

• Describe how your program received and responded to feedback from eligible individuals in your program (e.g., VA participant survey, exit interview, internal survey, etc.).

• Provide examples of feedback you have received regarding the satisfaction level of eligible individuals enrolled in your program.

• Describe any changes your program made as a result of feedback from eligible individuals.

Program Implementation and Progress

• Specify the average time between eligibility screening and intake, start of suicide prevention services, and average length of enrollment in the program (this should cover the total time from enrollment to exit).

• Provide the date of service delivery implementation. Describe any programmatic or organizational delays associated with onset of suicide prevention services delivery.
Renewal Application Section A: Program Outcomes, Maximum 55 Points (cont’d)

Coordination with VA and Community

• How have you coordinated SSG Fox SPGP services with other suicide prevention programs/initiatives in the area you currently serve?
• Describe your coordination and referral process with the local VA.
Renewal Application Section B: Cost Effectiveness, Maximum 20 Points

Cost Per Eligible Individual
• Provide an estimate of the average total grant cost per eligible individual for this grant award period.

Program Budget and Expenditures
• Provide an explanation as to whether your program was implemented in accordance with your approved budget. Explain any major deviations or variances from the original budget.
Renewal Application Section C: Compliance with SSG Fox SPGP Program Goals and Requirements, Maximum 25 Points

SSG Fox SPGP Program Goals
• Describe how your program was implemented in accordance with VA’s goals SSG Fox SPGP.
  • (As described in 38 CFR part 78, and the Notice of Funding Opportunity)

Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Guidance
• This section requires certification by an authorized representative of the applicant organization.
• Certify that your program was administrated in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and guidance.

Grant Agreements
• Certify that your program was administered in accordance with your Suicide Prevention Services Grant Agreement.
Renewal Application Exhibit I: Budget

- Multiple tabs
  - Budget Instructions; Budget; Budget Narrative

- Budget
  - Complete yellow cells. Other cells are linked and will auto populate.
Renewal Application Exhibit I: Budget (cont’d)

Budget Narrative

• Provide budget detailed narrative explanations within the VA-provided Excel template in the Budget Narrative tab.
• Justifications are required for all line items, including administrative direct and indirect costs.
Renewal Exhibit I: Budget (cont’d)

General guidance
- Download **SSG_Fox_SPGP Budget Template_Renewal** from UDPaaS system
- Save as **FAIN_ Budget Template_Renewal**
- Do not attempt to unlock or modify this workbook
- Select Organization Name and FAIN from the drop-down list
- Only yellow cells can accept data
- Other cells are locked but are linked and will prepopulate as needed
- Complete all tabs
- Upload **FAIN_ Budget Template_Renewal**
NOFO Priority 2 – New Applicants
New Application Considerations

- Available funding limited to funds remaining after Priority 1 allocations
- Priority 2 applicants must be an eligible entity
  - Eligible entities generally include:
    - Incorporated, nonprofit private institutions or foundations with a governing board
    - A corporation wholly owned or controlled by a nonprofit organization with a governing board
    - 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
    - State or local governments
- Priority 2 applicants may apply (maximum of $750,000 per eligible entity)
New Application Considerations (Cont’d)

- Applicants must have active SAM.gov accounts
- VA reserves the right in any year to make adjustments (e.g., to funding levels) as needed within the intent of the NOFO based on a variety of factors, including the availability of funding.
- VA anticipates announcing grant awards in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2024.
New Application Considerations (cont’d)

VA may prioritize the distribution of suicide prevention services grants to:

- Rural communities
- Tribal lands
- Territories of the United States
- Medically underserved areas
- Areas with a high number or percentage of minority Veterans or women Veterans
- Areas with a high number or percentage of calls to the Veterans Crisis Line
New Application Overview Section

• Overview
  • Grant amount requested
  • Community partners (subcontractors)
  • Number of projected eligible individuals to be served
  • Geographic area served
  • Compliance with threshold requirements
New Application

• Application
  • Section A: Background, Qualifications & Past Performance of Applicant - Maximum 30 points
  • Section B: Program Concept & Suicide Prevention Services Plan - Maximum 30 points
  • Section C: Quality Assurance & Evaluation Plan - Maximum 15 points
  • Section D: Financial Capability and Plan - Maximum 15 points
  • Section E: Area Linkages and Relations - Maximum 10 points
  • Exhibits:
    • Exhibit I – Applicant Organization Chart
    • Exhibit II – Key Personnel Resumes and Hiring Criteria
    • Exhibit III- Applicant Budget Template
    • Exhibit IV – Eligible Entity Verification
    • Exhibit V – Letters of Coordination
New Application: Section A, Maximum 30 Points

Background, Qualifications, Experience, and Past Performance of Applicant and Any Identified Community Partners

• General overview of the applicant’s mission and organizational history
• Applicant’s organizational experience in administering programs similar in size and scope
• Staff qualifications
• Organizational qualifications and past performance, including experience with Veterans’ services
New Application: Section B, Maximum 30 Points

Program Concept and Suicide Prevention Services Plan

- Need for program
- Outreach and screening plan
- Program concept
- Program implementation timeline
- Coordination with VA
- Ability to meet VA’s requirements, goals, and objectives for SSG Fox SPGP
- Capacity to undertake program
New Application: Section B (cont’d), Maximum 30 Points

Non-Traditional, Innovative, and Other Suicide Prevention Services

• Provide a clear description of the services.
• Summarize and cite the literature supporting the evidence for effectiveness.
• State the goal of the intended services with an indication of how those goals can be measured.
• Describe the plan to measure the proposed outcomes and evaluate the effectiveness of the services provided.
• Include in the proposed evaluation methodology whether the grantee is already providing the services. If the grantee is already providing services, any existing data should be included in the application to demonstrate the effectiveness. Existing data can include outcomes, participant exit interviews, participant self-report, and participant satisfaction surveys.
Quality Assurance & Evaluation Plan

• Demonstrate clear, realistic, and measurable goals of SSG Fox SPGP’s aim of reducing and preventing suicide among Veterans.

• Demonstrate a clear plan to regularly monitor the quality of the suicide prevention services provided to participants.

• Describe the process by which the applicant will remediate non-compliant aspects of the program, if and when they are identified.

• Demonstrate that the program management team has the capability and system established to provide timely and accurate reports to VA at the set frequency.
New Application: Section D, Maximum 15 Points

Financial Capability Plan

• Describe financial controls in place to ensure that program funds are used appropriately.
• Specify all sources of funds to be used to operate the proposed program.
• Verify program is cost-effective and can be effectively implemented.
New Application: Budget Workbook

- **Multiple tabs:** Budget Instructions; Budget; Budget Narrative

- **Budget:** Complete yellow cells. Other cells are linked and will auto populate.
New Application: Budget Workbook (cont’d)

Budget Narrative

• Provide budget detailed narrative explanations within the VA-provided Excel template in the Budget Narrative tab

• Justifications are required for all line items, including administrative direct and indirect costs
New Application Budget (cont’d)

General guidance

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• Save as **Organization Name_ Budget Template_New_Applicant**
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• Only yellow cells can accept data
• Other cells are locked but are linked and will prepopulate as needed
• Complete all tabs
• Upload **Organization Name_ Budget Template_New_Applicant**
Area Linkages and Relations

• Provide evidence of established linkages with the federal government; state, local, or tribal governmental agencies; or private entities to provide additional services to participants.

• Demonstrate successful past working relationships with public and/or private institutions providing services to Veterans and/or individuals at risk of suicide.

• Establish that applicant has knowledge of and presence in the area or community in which the proposed program will be operated.

• Describe how linkages to the local area or community are expected to enhance the effectiveness of the proposed program.
New Application: Section F

Applicant Certifications and Assurances

• Compliance
• Accuracy of application information
• Non-delinquency
• Debarment
• Reports and record retention
• Fiscal control
• Civil rights
• Lobbying
New Application: Section G and Exhibits

Reference for Citation

• All literature that has been cited needs to be listed as a reference here and correspond via a numbering system for identifying the location within the document of the in-text citation.

Exhibits

I. Applicant organizational chart
II. Key personnel resumes and hiring criteria for proposed staff
III. Program budget (complete attached Microsoft Excel applicant budget template)
IV. Documentation that demonstrates your organization is one of the required eligible entities. (i.e., Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, 501c3, etc.)
V. Optional: Letters of coordination from area suicide prevention initiatives where services are proposed, relevant memoranda of understanding (MOUs) demonstrating area linkages, and/or partnership agreements.
Grant Writing Best Practices: Make the reviewer's job easier!

• Follow exact format and submission requirements.
• Submit your application complete and on time.
• Label each section and sub-section clearly, use exact language from the NOFO and application.
• Use NOFO and scoring criteria terms (Section 78.25 of Final Rule) to describe past experience, proposed program, and need.
• Provide citations and references for all statistics.
• Cross-reference information provided in earlier/later sections to avoid redundancy and keep under page limit; summarize key points and then refer to other section for details.
Grant Writing Best Practices:

• Be specific. Answer the who, what, when, how, and where for your past experience and any proposed plans.

• Don’t assume the reader understands the issue, problem, or the target population’s needs.

• Don’t philosophize or argue with the NOFO and application’s assumptions.

• Be ambitious, but don’t promise more than you can deliver – your plan will seem unrealistic and not well thought-out.

• Don’t surprise the reader (e.g., staff positions should not appear in a budget if they haven’t been discussed in other narrative or application sections).
Application Submission
Accessing Application

• Apply using the online application tool available at: UDPaaS - VHA
  • Priority 1: Renewals applicants should use existing UDPaaS login
  • Priority 2: New applicants – one of two options:
    • Agencies with other VHA grants - use existing UDPaaS login
    • New to VHA grants - register for new account
# UDPaaS Registration: New Users

## VHA GRANTS

### Registration Options

To register your Organization, please select:

1. **Charitable Organization** registration if you are a nonprofit registered with the IRS.
2. **Eligible Entities that are Not Charitable Organizations** registration if you are:
   - City/township government
   - County government
   - State government
   - Tribal organization
   - Public/Indian housing authority
   - Consumer Cooperative
   - Any other eligible entity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Charitable Organizations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eligible Entities that are Not Charitable Organizations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome to the VHA Grant Programs Portal

Please click on the Organization Profile shortcut below to complete your organization information before starting an application.

**Organization and Contact Profile**

- Organization Profile
- User Profile
- Change Password

**Applications and Grants**

Click any of the program shortcuts to open their corresponding pages.

- Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grants (SPGP Grants)
- Grant and Per Diem Program (GPD Grants)
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF Grants)
- Legal Services for Homeless or At-Risk Veterans Grants (LSV Grants)
# Accessing Application Link(s)

## Notice of Funding Opportunity

These are the current opportunities that are available for applicants to apply:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>03/01/2023 23:59</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Renewal SSG Fox SPGP</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Renewal SSG Fox SPGP</td>
<td>Active</td>
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Renewal Application Link

These are the current opportunities that are available for applicants to apply.

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Renewal Application Link

VHA GRANTS

Renewal SSG Fox SPGP

Overview

Name
Renewal SSG Fox SPGP

Description
This is an opportunity to apply for Renewal of Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SGG Fox SPGP) grants. This application is for current SSG Fox SPGP Grantees only. Only one application will be accepted per Organization. Only 1 draft per Organization can be created.

Open Date
02/07/2023 13:04

Due Date
03/01/2023 00:00

Apply Now
Review your organization contact information. If incorrect, click on the link and it will allow you to update it directly within your organization profile.
UDPaaS: Overview

Community Partner (Subcontractor)

- Are you a State or Local Government or an Indian Tribe?
  - Yes
  - No

- Are you proposing to make grant funds available to community partners? Per 38 CFR 78, only State or local governments or an Indian Tribe are able to use grant funds to enter into an agreement with a community partner under which the grantee may provide funds to the community partners for the provision of suicide prevention services to eligible individuals and their families.
  - Yes
  - No

Suicide Prevention Services Grant Funds

- Suicide Prevention Funds Requested
  - Amount of suicide prevention services grant funds requested under this NOFO. (must be less or equal to current approved award.)
    - $800,000.00

Eligible Individuals

- Projected Eligible Individuals to be served
  - An eligible individual is defined as an individual at risk of suicide per the screening tools provided by VA and one of the following: (1) A Veteran as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101, (2) an individual described in 38 U.S.C. 1720(b) or (3) an individual described in 38 U.S.C. 1712(a)(1)(C)(i) through (iv)
UDPaaS: Application

VA-SSG-21-22-SP
APPLICATION
EXTERNAL ATTACHMENTS

Section A: SSG Fox SPGP Program Outcomes

The information requested below should be typed into the boxes following each question.
In scoring this section of the application, VA will award up to 55 points.

SUICIDE PREVENTION SERVICE AND PROGRAM EVALUATION

*1. Provide examples and data demonstrating how your program improved the financial stability, mental health status, well-being and social supports for eligible individuals enrolled in your program during the grant award period:

*2. Provide a description of the suicide prevention services provided to eligible individuals enrolled in your program during this grant award period. Provide data regarding any measured outcomes of the effectiveness of the services.

OUTREACH

*1. Provide a description of the types of outreach conducted to engage eligible individuals and their families into your program during this grant award period.

Save Draft | Submit
# UDPaaS: Suicide Prevention Services

## Suicide Prevention Services

Instructions: For each service respond with yes or no whether the service will be provided directly by your organization or via referral to a community partner. Note: Baseline Mental Health Screening is only provided directly by the grantee. Healthcare and Daily Living Skills are only provided via referral.

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UDPaaS Exhibit I: Application Budget Template

Exhibit I: Applicant Budget Template

Applicant Budget Template (Microsoft Excel File)

The one-year program budget must be completed in the Microsoft Excel template provided. Please click the link below to download the budget template. Follow the embedded directions for the completion of the proposed program one-year budget. Upon completion of the budget worksheet, use the upload field to incorporate it into the application.

Download Microsoft Excel Budget template

* Completed Budget Summary

Upload Budget File

File Name

Test_upload.xlsx

Size: 8.5 KB  Date: 04/13/2022 19:13
UDPaaS: Application Preview

VHA GRANTS

VA-SSG-21-22-SP

Type: Renewal SSG Fox SPGP

Organization Legal Name: Test VA Organization

Primary Contact: SPGP Test Applicant

Program Name: Office of Mental Health and Suicide Preventions

Application Submission Deadline: 06/10/2022 23:59

Application Summary: Preview
By submitting this application, the applicant certifies that the facts stated and the certifications and representations made in this application are true, to the best of the applicant’s knowledge and belief after due inquiry, and that the applicant has not omitted any material facts. The undersigned is an authorized representative of the applicant.
New Application Materials

• Apply using the online application tool available at: UDPaaS -
Accessing the New Application

Welcome to the VHA Grant Programs Portal

Please click on the Organization Profile shortcut below to complete your organization information before starting an application.

Organization and Contact Profile

- Organization Profile
- User Profile
- Change Password

Applications and Grants

Click any of the program shortcuts to open their corresponding pages.

- Grant and Per Diem Program (GPD Grants)
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF Grants)
- Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grants (SPGP Grants)
- Legal Services for Homeless or At-Risk Veterans Grants (Lsv Grants)
Accessing the New Application link

VHA GRANTS

**SPGP Applications and Grants**

To start an application, please go under Notice of Funding Opportunity list and select the appropriate grant type to apply for.

To view and/or edit existing applications, see Draft, Submitted and Under Review applications under Applications list.

To view existing grants, see Approved grants under Grants list.

To view existing tasks, see under Tasks list.

For technical questions or issues, please contact VASSSFOGrants@va.gov for further assistance.

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**Notice of Funding Opportunity**

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New Application Link

Initial SSG Fox SPGP

Overview

Name
Initial SSG Fox SPGP

Description
This is an opportunity to apply for Initial Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SSG Fox SPGP) grants. Only 1 application can be saved and submitted per organization.

Open Date
Please note that the open date for applications is listed in Eastern Time (ET).
02/07/2023 14:50

Due Date
Please note that the deadline date and time for applications is in Eastern Time (ET).
03/01/2023 23:59

Apply Now
UDPaaS: Executive Summary

Review your organization contact information. If incorrect, click on the link and it will allow you to update it directly within your organization profile.
Background, Qualifications, Experience, & Past Performance of Applicant and Any Identified Community Partners (30 maximum points)

In scoring the application, VA will award up to 30 points based on the applicant’s responses to questions in this section.

Background and Organizational History

a) Provide a general overview of the applicant’s mission and organizational history, including:
   (i) Number of years in operation;
   (ii) Total number of employees;
   (iii) A description of services provided (past and present);
   (iv) Geographical areas in which those services are provided;
   (v) Types of programs operated (past and present); and
   (vi) Organizational competencies and/or areas of expertise.

b) Describe the applicant’s (and any identified community partner’s, if applicable):
   (i) Organizational experience in administering programs similar in scope and/or to the proposed program and history of complying with agreements and not defaulting on financial obligations.
   (ii) Include organizational structures with clear lines of reporting and defined responsibilities (this may be submitted through Section G, Exhibit 8).
UDPaaS: Suicide Prevention Services

Suicide Prevention Services

Instructions: For each service respond with yes or no whether the service will be provided directly by your organization or via referral to a community partner. Note: Baseline Mental Health Screening is only provided directly by the grantee. Healthcare and Daily Living Skills are only provided via referral.

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</tbody>
</table>
UDPaaS: Application Preview

test-1234555

Type: Initial SSG Fox SPGP

Organization Legal Name: SPGP Test Organization

Primary Contact: SPGP Test Applicant

Program Name: Office of Mental Health and Suicide Preventions

Application Submission Deadline: 06/10/2022 23:59

Application Summary: Preview

INSTRUCTIONS  OVERVIEW  APPLICATION  EXTERNAL ATTACHMENTS
UDPaaS: Submit Application

**Signature**

By submitting this application, the applicant certifies that the facts stated and the certifications and representations made in this application are true, to the best of the applicant’s knowledge and belief after due inquiry, and that the applicant has not omitted any material facts. The undersigned is an authorized representative of the applicant.

**Applicant Name:**
SPGP Test Organization

**Name and Title:**
SPGP Test Applicant
test

**Signature**

test

**Applicant Signature**

**Date**

7-30-2023

[Save Draft] [Submit]
Application Submission Tips

• Ensure active Unique Entity Number (UEI)
• Answer application questions and use data
• Save frequently - there is a system 15-minute session inactivity time out
• Answer questions fully noting 1,500-word limit per text box
  • Responses over 1,500 words will be flagged by UDPaaS system and submission will be prohibited
• Describe program’s impact on suicide prevention
• Please allow ample time for application submissions and any technology challenges.
• Prepare any required attachments prior to submission:
  • Budget template
  • Organizational chart
  • Key personnel resumes and hiring criteria for proposed staff
  • Eligible entity type verification documentation
  • Letters of coordination, MOUs (optional)
• VA cannot make exceptions for late submissions.
• The online form automatically closes at 11:59 p.m. ET on April 26, 2024.
Application Review
Application Threshold Requirements

Threshold Requirements:

• Application is submitted on time and is complete. The UDPaaS portal will close automatically at 11:59 PM ET on April 26, 2024 and submissions will not be allowable past the deadline. There are no exceptions to the deadline.

• Any additional information or documentation requested by VA is provided within the time frame established by VA.

• Application is completed in its entirety.

• All currently approved suicide prevention services, geographic area, and budgets should remain consistent within the renewal application.

• Applicant must agree to comply with the requirements of 38 CFR part 78.

• Applicant must not have an outstanding obligation to the federal government that is in arrears, and must not have an overdue or unsatisfactory response to an audit.

• Applicant must not be in default by failing to meet the requirements for any previous federal assistance.
Application Review

• Priority 1 applications must meet the following requirements to be considered for suicide prevention services grant funding:
  • Receive at least 60 cumulative points and receive at least one point under each of the categories.
  • Be in good standing and have demonstrated sufficient progress in the first year of award.

• Priority 2 applications will be reviewed if funding remains after Priority 1 allocations:
  • Receive at least 60 cumulative points and receive at least one point under each of the categories.
  • Demonstrate the ability to provide or coordinate suicide prevention services.
  • VA funding is highly competitive. A qualifying score does not guarantee funding.
Application Review

• **Priority 2 applications will only be considered if there are available funds remaining after Priority 1 allocations.**

• Additional Application Review Considerations for Priority 2 Applications:
  • Materials submitted after the deadline will not be considered
  • VA may prioritize the distribution of Priority 2 suicide prevention services grants to:
    • Rural communities
    • Tribal lands
    • Territories of the United States
    • Medically underserved areas
    • Areas with a high number or percentage of minority Veterans or women Veterans
    • Areas with a high number or percentage of calls to the Veterans Crisis Line
For more information about the SSG Fox SPGP, visit [mentalhealth.va.gov/SSGFox-Grants](mentalhealth.va.gov/SSGFox-Grants) or contact [VASSGFoxGrants@va.gov](VASSGFoxGrants@va.gov).
Resources
VA Annual Report Resources

**Veteran Suicide Data and Reporting**
To view all collective resources for the 2023 Annual Report, visit the data page. All other links will take you directly to the products listed.

**National Data Appendix**
The data presented here is meant to accompany the annual report.

**State Data Appendix**
The data presented here is meant to accompany the annual report.

**Report FAQs**
This document focuses on frequently asked questions about the annual report.

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**2023 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report**

**Methods Report**
This document provides background regarding the methods used by VA’s Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention to assess suicide mortality among Veterans. This represents a supplement to information included in the annual report.

*State Data Sheets*
The 2021 state data sheets present the latest findings from VA’s ongoing analysis of suicide rates and include the most up-to-date state-level suicide information for the United States.

*This link will take you to the general Suicide Prevention Data page. You must scroll halfway down the page and click on "View Individual State Data Sheets" to view data for each U.S. state, island, and territory.*
VA Tools and Resources for Veterans and Supporters

**Make the Connection**: VA’s premier mental health literacy and anti-stigma website highlights Veterans’ real, inspiring stories of recovery and connects Veterans and their family members and friends with local resources.

**Reach Out**: Get support designed specifically for you. Family members or friends can find resources that are designed for the Veterans in your life.

**Safety Planning**: Information on safety planning and a template for developing a safety plan. A safety plan is a written list of coping strategies and sources of support that at-risk Veterans can use before or during a suicidal crisis.

**VA Mental Health**: VA’s repository of mental health resources, information, and data materials.
VA Tools and Resources for Veterans and Supporters

**VA S.A.V.E. Training:** Training designed to teach anyone who interacts with Veterans how to recognize warning signs of crisis and what to do to help a Veteran who may be at risk.

**VA Suicide Prevention:** Explore suicide prevention resources to build networks of support among community-based organizations, Veterans Service Organizations, health care providers, and other members of your community that strengthen protective factors for Veterans.

**VA Resource Locator:** This tool can help Veterans find local mental health and suicide prevention resources, including their local suicide prevention coordinator.

**Veterans Crisis Line:** A free, anonymous, confidential resource available to Veterans in crisis, as well as concerned family members and friends. Dial 988 then Press 1, chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat), or text to 838255.
Follow us on social media to stay up to date on our programs and initiatives.

@deptvetaffairs
@veteransmtc

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Make the Connection

@DeptVetAffairs
@veteranshealth
The Suicide Risk Management Consultation Program (SRM) provides free consultation and resources for any provider in the community or VA who serves Veterans at risk for suicide.

Request a consult: srmconsult@va.gov

#NeverWorryAlone

www.mirecc.va.gov/visn19/consult
Postvention Resources

Uniting for Suicide Postvention (USPV):
https://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn19/postvention/
CDC Resource List

- Data sources: [https://www.cdc.gov/suicide/resources/data-sources.html](https://www.cdc.gov/suicide/resources/data-sources.html)
- Transforming Communities: [https://theactionalliance.org/sites/default/files/transformingcommunitiespaper.pdf](https://theactionalliance.org/sites/default/files/transformingcommunitiespaper.pdf)
- Healthy People 2030: [https://health.gov/healthypeople](https://health.gov/healthypeople)
- National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention community-based prevention priority: [https://theactionalliance.org/sites/default/files/agenda.pdf](https://theactionalliance.org/sites/default/files/agenda.pdf)
CDC Resource List (cont’d)


- Emergency Department Surveillance of Nonfatal Suicide-Related Outcomes funded states: [https://www.cdc.gov/nssp/news.html](https://www.cdc.gov/nssp/news.html)

- Overdoses Data to Action recipients: [https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/od2a/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/od2a/index.html)


- CDC EvaluAction: [http://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/evaluaction](http://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/evaluaction)

- CDC Framework for Program Evaluation in Public Health: [www.cdc.gov/eval](www.cdc.gov/eval)


- Practical Strategies for Culturally Competent Evaluation: Evaluation Guide: [https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/program_eval/cultural_competence_guide.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/program_eval/cultural_competence_guide.pdf)