

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



Feasibility Study Relating to the Alabama G.I. Dependents' Scholarship Program

February 2012

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
FEASIBILITY STUDY RELATING TO THE
ALABAMA G.I. BILL DEPENDENTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The **Alabama Department of Veterans' Affairs ("ADVA")** is seeking to hire a firm to conduct a **Feasibility Study relating to the Alabama G.I. Bill Dependents' Scholarship Program ("the Program")**. The Program, which is codified at Ala. Code §§ 31-6-1, *et seq.*, provides scholarships for the dependents of eligible disabled Veterans to attend state-funded institutions. The Program is funded through the Education Trust Fund ("ETF") and is operated by the ADVA. Under current law, eligible Veterans must have a service-connected disability of 20% or higher and entered military service from the State after one year of residency, or they must be 100% service-connected disabled and be a resident of the State of Alabama for at least 5 years immediately preceding the application. The information collected from the Feasibility Study would be used to determine what impact (fiscal and administrative) to the Program if it expanded eligibility requirements to include Veterans who have disability ratings of 70-90%, who did not enter military service from the State of Alabama, and who have resided in the State for a certain number of consecutive years. The results from the Feasibility Study should be reported to the ADVA in 4 to 6 months to respond to inquiries and to prepare legislation, if appropriate, for the 2013 Legislative Session.

This project should proceed in the following sequence:

I. Data Collection:

Collect data concerning Veterans in the following areas:

- Number of Veterans who are currently permanent residents of the State of Alabama and who list as a "home of record" a state other than Alabama:
 - Number of Veterans from the above group, who have been permanent residents for a period of 5 consecutive years, 10 consecutive years, and 15 consecutive years.
 - Number of Veterans from the above residency groups who have a service-connection disability rating between 70-90%.
- Average number of Veterans' dependents who would be eligible under the above categories, with a breakdown of the number of children and spouses/widow(er)s.

II. Application:

Once data is collected, the study should then apply that data to the following areas, in the light of the availability of resources associated with proposed changes in eligibility:

- Financial costs per student for each of the above residency categories.
- Projected financial costs per student over the next 5-10 years in each residency category, based on historical tuition increases.
- Financial impact on the ETF and projected impact in the next 5-10 years.

- Financial cost of additional ADVA employees to handle the growth (number of employees, salaries/benefits, equipment, training).
- Other necessary costs associated with the proposed changes, such as the cost of updated computer system to accommodate proposed changes and additional storage for scholarship records.

Background Information:

The Program is a premiere scholarship program that provides scholarships for the dependents of eligible disabled Veterans to attend state supported education institutions (i.e., college, university, community college, trade school). In recent years, interest in revising the residency requirements for Veterans and their dependents to permit more students to participate in the Program has increased. The ADVA historically has been cautious of changing the eligibility requirements because it does not have qualitative information regarding the number of Veterans and dependents affected and the fiscal and administrative consequences. The Feasibility Study would provide necessary data for the ADVA to make an educated decision about whether such an expansion is warranted and possible.

Contact Information:

Any questions regarding this project may be directed to Willie E. Moore, Assistant Commissioner for Education Services for the Alabama Department of Veterans' Affairs. He may be reached by phone at (334) 242-5077 or by email at willie.moore@va.alabama.gov.

Please submit your proposal to:

Attn: Willie E. Moore, Assistant Commissioner
Alabama Department of Veteran Affairs
RSA Plaza Suite 470
770 Washington Ave
Montgomery, AL 36104

Proposals will be received no later than **Monday, March 5, 2012, at 4:00 PM/CST**. Proposals must include plan for accomplishing all portions of the study. The proposal must include time projection for the Feasibility Study as well as cost factors. Examples of similar work performed should be included in the proposal.