

**Alabama Department
of
Veterans Affairs**



**REQUEST
for
PROPOSALS**

**Feasibility Study of
Alabama Homeless Veterans Program
February 2012**

Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs

Alabama Homeless Veterans Program

Feasibility Study

The **Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA)** is seeking to hire a consultant to conduct a **Feasibility Study related to establishing a formal State Homeless Veterans Program for meeting the needs of homeless Veterans in Alabama.** For the purpose of the study, a Homeless Veteran is a person who served in the United States Armed Forces and who has met the definition of a “homeless individual” codified as part of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (P.L. 100-77) and the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act as enacted as part of the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009 (P.L. 1122). Specifically, a homeless veteran is defined as:

- A veteran who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
- A veteran who has a nighttime residence that is a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including hotels paid for by a government entity, congregate shelters, and transitional housing; an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or a public or private place not design for, nor ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings).
- A veteran or his/her family member(s) who will imminently lose their housing within a period of 14 days by an eviction, whether it is their own housing or are sharing with others, and who have no subsequent permanent housing and lack the resources needed to obtain other permanent housing.

The Alabama Homeless Veterans Program Feasibility Study would provide the following: Data Collection, Application, Conclusions and Recommendations.

I. Data Collection

The feasibility study would collect data pertaining to Alabama Homeless Veterans that include:

- Number of sheltered and unsheltered Alabama Homeless Veterans.
- Demographic characteristics of homeless veterans: Age, Gender, Race, Marital Status, Wartime/Peacetime (Era Served to include those who have served in support of the War on Terrorism since September 11, 2001); Employment Pattern over the Previous Three Years; Domestic Abuse; Incarceration over the Past Three Years; Mental Health and Substance Use Issues.
- Geographic locations of Alabama Homeless Veterans.
- Causes and trends of Alabama Homeless Veterans.

- Needs of Alabama Homeless Veterans with a focus on:
 - Permanent Housing
 - Mental and Medical Health Care
 - Rehabilitation
 - Education/Training
 - Employment/Job Placement
 - Counseling
 - Referral
 - Substance Abuse Treatment
 - Domestic Abuse Services
 - Incarceration/Legal Assistance
 - Other Outreach Services
- Identify State, Federal, Faith and Community-based programs that offer services to homeless veterans in the following areas: Transitional Housing, Emergency and Permanent Housing; Mental Health; Medical Care; Financial Assistance; Rehabilitation; Education; Training; Employment; Counseling; Domestic Abuse; Incarceration Assistance; Substance Abuse Treatment; and other Outreach Support Services.
- Extent to which homeless veterans are accessing services from State, Federal and Faith and Community-based programs.
- Needs that are met and needs that are unmet by the current services available and accessed.

II. Application

Phase II of the State Homeless Veterans Program Feasibility Study will apply the data collected in Phase I of the study to determine the services that would be required to fill gaps of existing homeless veterans' services, the resources needed for administering a State Homeless Veterans Program, and associated cost for implementing such a program to achieve the expected results. Phase II of the State Homeless Veterans Program Feasibility Study will address the following:

- Needed unmet services.
- Target group of homeless veterans with unmet needs.
- Demand for services based on unmet needs.
- Delivery of homeless veterans services that are unmet.
- Administrative cost for personnel, equipment and facilities to support and achieve the purpose of a State Homeless Veterans Program to meet unmet needs.

- Ability to meet the expected outcome for a State Homeless Veterans Program to deliver unmet needs based on current and future personnel, resources and budgetary constraints.

III: Conclusion and Recommendations

Phase III of the State Homeless Veterans Program Feasibility Study will answer the following questions:

- Is there a substantial demand for a State Homeless Veterans Program?
- What would a State Homeless Veterans Program accomplish?
- What would be the end result of a State Homeless Veterans Program?
- Will a State Veterans Homeless Program in any way duplicate or otherwise compete for funds and/or clients with programs doing similar work in the State or communities?
- Are the obstacles to developing a State Homeless Veterans Program insurmountable?
- Does the development of a State Homeless Veterans Program provide synergy or other benefits for the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs and /or other State or community programs?
- How would a State Homeless Veterans Home Program function?
- What is the cost to administer a State Homeless Veterans Program in regard to Personnel, Equipment, and Facilities?
- What State, Federal and community engagement is required from a State Homeless Veterans Program that will meet the delivery of services to Alabama Homeless Veterans and their families?

Background Information:

The State of Alabama has a total veterans' population of approximately 407,000 veterans based on 2011 veterans' population data provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Of that number, over 1,500 veterans are homeless according to a 2008-2009 study conducted by the Alabama Governor's Homelessness Interagency Council. The objective of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Erick Shinseki is to end homelessness among America's veterans by 2015. The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs is partnering with Secretary Shinseki to fulfill the mandate of eliminating veterans' homelessness with the department's current and projected available resources. The ADVA is pursuing the Feasibility Study to determine if a formal State Homeless Veterans Program should be established to achieve the objective of ending or mitigating homelessness among Alabama Veterans without duplicating or degrading existing State or Federally funded services and programs that will accomplish the stated objective and if such a program is affordable and sustainable.

Contact Information:

Any questions regarding the Feasibility Study may be directed to Robert M. Horton, Jr., Public Information Officer for the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs. He may be reached by phone at (334) 242-5084, (334) 467-4271, or by e-mail at Robert.Horton@va.alabama.gov.

Please submit your proposal to:
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ATTN: Robert M. Horton, Jr.
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770 Washington, Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104

Proposals will be received not later than **March 5, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.** Proposals must include a plan for accomplishing the purpose of the Feasibility Study as described above. The proposal must include a time projection for the Feasibility Study as well as cost factors. The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs request that examples of similar work performed by the firm to be included in the proposal.

