

FY20 Entrepreneurship Grant - Frequently Asked Questions

Our organization is not considered a registered 501(C)(3) or a 501(c)(6), are we eligible to apply?

No, the Entrepreneurship Grant funds are for nonprofit organizations that are registered as a 501(C)(3) or 501(c)(6).

Our organization is not registered with the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions (DFI/WDFI) but we are in good standing, are we eligible to apply?

The organization must be registered and in good standing with the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions (DFI/WDFI) by the application deadline of July 31, 2019.

Our organization is not based in Wisconsin but we operate in Wisconsin, are we eligible to apply?

If your organization is a registered 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6), and in good standing with WDFI, all grant funds are to benefit the veterans of the state of Wisconsin. If your application demonstrates that with clarity, you may apply for the grant.

How are the applications graded for consideration?

All applications are rated based on a 100 points system. The criteria and point system are located on the grant application.

Who makes the final determination for the grant, the reviewers or the department?

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs makes the final determination of all grant applicants based on the recommendations of Members of the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs.

Are there any similar grants that you offer for nonprofit organizations?

WDVA offers a Nonprofit Grant Program available to registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that offer assistance to veterans and/or their families. The announcement will be published on the WDVA website in August 2019. The eligibility requirements and the deadline to apply for the Grant will be listed at that time. The Nonprofit Grant is an annual grant and tentatively planned for the next fiscal year.

The Veteran Employment Grant is an incentive program to support businesses hiring honorably discharged veterans with a 50% or more service-connected disability. To learn more please go to the WDVA website and select the Benefits/Employment/Employer Resources tabs to learn more.

<https://dva.wi.gov/Pages/educationEmployment/EmploymentEmployers.aspx>

What is the amount that we can request for the grant?

For the grant period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, the maximum amount that an applicant can apply for is \$100,000; however, it is possible the amount will be capped to provide more organizations with assistance.

Does our organization have a better chance of being approved based on the amount requested?

There is no recommended amount to apply for and the amount applied for will not impact the approval or denial of the grant award. The amount requested should be in relation to the planned program.

We are a new organization and do not have an annual report, what are we supposed to submit?

Per the application, you can also submit other literature summarizing your program(s).

We are a new organization and do not have income statement and balance sheet for the most recent fiscal year.

Please submit your organizations business plan and full budget plan with your application.

The name of our organization has changed since we requested our nonprofit status from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Will we need to provide any additional documentation to reflect this?

Yes, per the application, a letter from the IRS is required as verification of your organization's tax status. The name on the IRS letter must match the name of the applicant on the application. It is not permitted to have another organization with proper status serve as a surrogate applicant or sponsor. You will need to provide the necessary documentation that the IRS considers your specific organization's (name on the application) status as a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6).

If our organization is awarded the grant, will the funds go directly to us or our head organization?

The funds will be dispersed to the "Applicant" of the application. A separate bank account for the funds will be required as stated in the terms and conditions of the application.

Can a veteran from out of state attend a training class given by an Entrepreneurship Grant recipient in Wisconsin?

The grantee is responsible for determining eligibility of veterans for the program(s). The attending veteran must meet requirements of State Statute Chapter 45.01 (12) and resides in the state.

Can a grant recipient use the funds for a different purpose or add another item after the grant has been received?

The grant funds you received must be used for the intended purpose as outlined in the original grant proposal, subsequently approved by DVA. Violation of this use may result in an obligation to return the full grant awarded.

Can the grant be used for employee salaries?

Grant funds are not to be used to supplant existing employee salaries. Grant funds can be used to hire staff to implement and put on program(s). Violation of this use may result in an obligation to return the full grant awarded.

Are the grant funds equally disbursed by the number of applications received?

The \$450,000 is to be pooled and awarded based on scoring criteria WDVA retains full discretion on the amount of any award determined including caps on awards to provide a wider distribution within the state.

Can the grant be used for start-up costs?

Yes, a nonprofit grant request/proposal could include (for the veteran) actual start-up costs, entrepreneurship training or technical assistance, etc.

Is there a preferred method you would like to receive the application?

No, you can mail/e-mail/personally deliver your application. WDVA recommends the application not be faxed due to transmittal issues/concerns and the printing quality. Please note if you select to hand deliver or mail, please include four copies of your application.

If I send it via postal mail, does it have to be there by/on the deadline?

No, as long as the application is postmarked before the application deadline of July 31, 2019.

The announcement lists an e-mail to send the application to, is there a person that I can send it to directly?

The e-mail address listed in the announcement is a general inbox address for Grant applications. This email address will ensure a timely delivery versus if you send it directly to WDVA employee.



If I forget to include anything with the application will you let me know?

The applicant will be notified of an incomplete application and will be instructed to resubmit a completed application. Please see application instruction sheet.

How do you know if you received my application?

WDVA will contact the individual listed on the application once we have received your completed application.