



Veterans Center of North Texas

900 East Park Blvd Suite 155, Plano, Texas 75074
Office: 214-600-2966 Fax: 469-640-2150

May 9, 2020

Collin County Commissioners Court
2300 Bloomdale Road, Suite 419
McKinney, TX 75071

SUBJECT: Request for Corona Virus (COVID-19) Funds

Collin County Commissioners Court:

We appreciate the support we have received from the County in allowing us office space in the County Sub Courthouse Complex in Plano. From this location, we provide referral services and financial assistance to more than 1,000 area Veterans annually. Equally, we appreciate the opportunity to seek your financial support to respond to the increasing demands of serving larger numbers of our Veterans and their families during the COVID -19 pandemic.

Currently, we occupy about 586 sq ft of office space in Building 900. You recently approved a new office suite (#170) that will nearly triple our current office space. This new space will allow us to expand the services we offer to the more than 55,000 Collin County residents who are Veterans. We have experienced an increase of nearly 50% in requests for financial aid from homeless and near homeless Veterans and their families who facing eviction, foreclosure, loss of utilities, and/or loss of transportation. Most crucially, we are seeing more Veterans and their families seeking food and clothing assistance. The Veterans we see in our offices are in crisis situations, have lost their jobs, exhausted their savings and are suffering the horrific and destabilizing impacts of COVID – 19 pandemic.

The new space we will occupy on July 1 will allow us to expand our services at this critical juncture by increasing the number of Volunteers who can staff the office to provide referrals and direct assistance as well as develop case management programs to address the issues facing the Veteran and his or her family. We develop an action plan, including financial counseling, to help address the immediate crisis and stabilize the Veteran's situation. We follow up with additional resources to help the Veteran sustain a productive lifestyle that allows him or her to become contributing members of their communities...critical during this period of upheaval and loss.

We have estimated that the move to the new office suite will cost \$73,890 and ask that you favorably consider using COVID-19 funds to support all or part of this expense. This will allow us to continue to provide critical support and assistance to a larger Veteran population. Attached are the estimate for the move and an Executive Summary that outlines the role the Veterans Center plays in our community.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Hendricks
President & CEO
469-667-7750

Veterans Helping Veterans in a Veteran Friendly Environment



Veterans Center of North Texas

900 East Park Blvd Suite 155, Plano, Texas 75074
Office: 214-600-2966 Fax: 469-640-2150

May 9, 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WHO WE ARE: The Veterans Center of North Texas (VCONT) is an all-Volunteer non-profit organization founded in June 2014. We are 49 Veterans or persons close to Veterans who serve more than 1,000 Veterans and their families annually. Our Volunteers range in age from 17 to 83 and, for those who served on Active Duty, ranks from E-4 to O-9.

WHAT WE DO: We collaborate with nearly 200 Service Providers and Partners to provide no-cost referral services, in 10 service areas, to Veterans and their families. Additionally, we provide limited financial assistance to homeless, near-homeless, unemployed, and at-risk Veterans. These Veterans and their families are in crisis. Moreover, this year, we have agreed with the Veterans Court to help support the state-wide Project VALOR program with transportation, clothing and incidental expenses for VALOR graduates.

WHERE WE DO IT: Our offices are located in the Collin County Sub Courthouse Complex in Plano, TX. Our service area includes 7 North Texas Counties; however, when asked, we also serve Veterans and their families from other Texas counties and from cities outside Texas. There are 165,000 Veterans living in our service area.

WHY WE DO IT: Recent studies by the Bush Institute found that 65% of Veterans who need help have no idea where to go for aid. Moreover, many Veterans...due to their military background and training...are reluctant to ask for help when they need. We are a group of Veterans serving Veterans and we understand the unique circumstances and backgrounds of those we serve. Additionally, we have experienced an increase of 10% year-over-year in Veterans seeking financial assistance. In the past year, we provided financial assistance to Veterans in crisis to 88 males and 42 females. We also aided 6 Veterans whose gender was not recorded.

WHEN WE DO IT: Our office hours are 9 to 4:30, Monday-Friday or by appointment outside those hours. We are closed on Federal holidays and for Christmas. We take information by telephone, email, in-person visits and, when requested, we visit a Veteran's home or other location (hotel, shelter, etc.). We receive calls from throughout the State and from throughout the US...we never say "no" to a Veteran or his or her family seeking assistance.

HOW WE DO IT: We have two teams of Volunteer support: those who work in the office for 4 hours per week and those who work outside the office to provide specialized assistance (e.g., financial advisor, real estate advisor, employment advisor). All together, our Volunteers contribute more than 7,000 hours of time annually. Our Board of Directors meets quarterly or, if required, more often. Five of the 11 members of the Board actively volunteer in the office and counsel and assist Veteran clients.

Veterans Helping Veterans in a Veteran Friendly Environment

Estimated Expenses for moving VCOUNT office. May-July 2020

Construction

- Cut two window openings and reframe for safety glass reception windows - \$2500.
- Cost of two safety glass reception area windows and installation - \$4600.
- Cost of building reception area counter - \$3800.
- Converting entry door to buzzer entry door - \$1750.
- Painting 1400 sq. feet of office space - \$2550.
- Electrical. Additional convenience and switch boxes - \$2000.
- Plumbing. Converting two bathrooms to offices - \$3200.
- Flooring for bathrooms - \$1850.
- Converting overhead lighting for bathrooms and two offices - \$1800.
- Installing electrical for bathroom conversions - \$1200.
- Cost of and changing bathroom doors to office doors - \$1800.
- General labor, 2 men for 2 days at \$100 an hour = \$3200.
- Provide and install internet wiring from main communications distribution locker to our communications locker. 120 ft. extension - \$6400.
- Provide and install CAT 5 wiring and boxes from our distribution locker to 8 work stations - \$2700.
- Provide and install 8 Voice over Internet Protocol {VOIP} telephones - \$2400.
- Provide and install wireless router and a VPN device - \$1650.
- Move and install 2 ton monument advertising stone - \$2000.
- **Subtotal \$ 47,800**

Furniture

- 10 office chairs - \$2780.
- Conference room table - \$2800.
- 10 conference room chairs - \$ 2500.
- 8 office desks - \$4200.
- 8 guest interview chairs - \$1250.
- 8 bookshelves \$ 1600.
- 10 surge protectors - \$200.
- 4 -4 drawer locking cabinets - \$1200.
- 6 heavy duty storage shelves - \$2400.
- 4 cross cut paper shredders - \$800.
- 8 office lamps - \$1600.
- **Subtotal \$21,330.**

Utility/Break room

- Refrigerator - \$880.
- Microwave - \$400.
- Coffee maker \$200.
- Set of 10 small plates, serving dishes and silverware - \$500.
- **Subtotal \$ 1980.**

- **Grand Total \$ 73,890.00**



Veterans Center of North Texas

900 East Park Blvd Suite 155, Plano, Texas 75074
Office: 214-600-2966 Fax: 469-640-2150

May 9, 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WHO WE ARE: The Veterans Center of North Texas (VCONT) is an all-Volunteer non-profit organization founded in June 2014. We are 49 Veterans or persons close to Veterans who serve more than 1,000 Veterans and their families annually. Our Volunteers range in age from 17 to 83 and, for those who served on Active Duty, ranks from E-4 to O-9.

WHAT WE DO: We collaborate with nearly 200 Service Providers and Partners to provide no-cost referral services, in 10 service areas, to Veterans and their families. Additionally, we provide limited financial assistance to homeless, near-homeless, unemployed, and at-risk Veterans. These Veterans and their families are in crisis. Moreover, this year, we have agreed with the Veterans Court to help support the state-wide Project VALOR program with transportation, clothing and incidental expenses for VALOR graduates.

WHERE WE DO IT: Our offices are located in the Collin County Sub Courthouse Complex in Plano, TX. Our service area includes 7 North Texas Counties; however, when asked, we also serve Veterans and their families from other Texas counties and from cities outside Texas. There are 165,000 Veterans living in our service area.

WHY WE DO IT: Recent studies by the Bush Institute found that 65% of Veterans who need help have no idea where to go for aid. Moreover, many Veterans...due to their military background and training...are reluctant to ask for help when they need. We are a group of Veterans serving Veterans and we understand the unique circumstances and backgrounds of those we serve. Additionally, we have experienced an increase of 10% year-over-year in Veterans seeking financial assistance. In the past year, we provided financial assistance to Veterans in crisis to 88 males and 42 females. We also aided 6 Veterans whose gender was not recorded.

WHEN WE DO IT: Our office hours are 9 to 4:30, Monday-Friday or by appointment outside those hours. We are closed on Federal holidays and for Christmas. We take information by telephone, email, in-person visits and, when requested, we visit a Veteran's home or other location (hotel, shelter, etc.). We receive calls from throughout the State and from throughout the US...we never say "no" to a Veteran or his or her family seeking assistance.

HOW WE DO IT: We have two teams of Volunteer support: those who work in the office for 4 hours per week and those who work outside the office to provide specialized assistance (e.g., financial advisor, real estate advisor, employment advisor). All together, our Volunteers contribute more than 7,000 hours of time annually. Our Board of Directors meets quarterly or, if required, more often. Five of the 11 members of the Board actively volunteer in the office and counsel and assist Veteran clients.

Veterans Helping Veterans in a Veteran Friendly Environment