

VALOR Vet Pod
Clinical Counseling Services

Project Narrative

Geographic Service Area(s):

Statewide

Beneficiaries:

Veterans

If Veterans are selected, provide a definition for veterans that will be eligible to receive services.

The program accepts veterans of the Armed Forces, including State and National Guard, who did not receive a dishonorable discharge and who are facing criminal charges (misdemeanor or felony) in Texas. Eligibility for program participation is ultimately determined upon completion of a complete classification evaluation by CollinCounty CSCD and the VALOR treatment team.

Choose the discharge status (es) (Character of Service) that the organization will serve under the proposed project.

- Honorable
- General Under Honorable Conditions
- Other Than Honorable Conditions
- Bad Conduct
- Dismissed
- Uncharacterized

Describe any other restrictions on eligibility, if applicable (example: income level, disabilities, or referral from VA or other such organization).

The program accepts non-violent offenses and will consider, with pre-authorization from Collin County CSCD, assaultive charges on a case-by-case basis. All sexual offenses are ineligible. Veterans should have a mental health diagnosis such as (but not limited to) anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), or substance abuse/addiction, determined by assessment to be caused or exacerbated by their military service. If no diagnosis for PTSD, TBI, or substance abuse exists, the program requests the veteran be evaluated by a licensed professional. VALOR participation is up to 60 days in our Restorative Program, or up to 6 months in our Intensive Program.

Enter the estimated number of unduplicated Veterans, Dependents, and Surviving Spouses to be served by the Proposed Project.

Number of Veterans	52
Number of Dependents	0
Number of Surviving Spouses	0
Total Number of Clients to be Served	52
Number of Home Modifications to be Completed	0

Performance Reporting:

What type(s) of data collection tools will your organization use to document Beneficiaries receiving services (required performance measure) and any additional performance measures noted in Beneficiaries, as well as measure goals and outcomes?

Program staff are responsible for conducting pre- and post-program assessments (e.g., BDI-II, Hamilton Anxiety Scale, PCL-5, CAPS, PHQ-9, etc.) for each veteran. Attendance rosters are maintained for veteran-specific programming for each participant. In addition, veterans are provided with pre- and post-program surveys to ask participants what they hope to get out of the program, and at the end, what they learned. Data for each veteran, including case notes, progress reports, treatment plans, and other confidential information for each participant's case is maintained electronically in a web-based clinical program accessible only to program staff. The Clinical Director also maintains information in a secured Excel spreadsheet.

How will your organization consolidate the collected data to ensure that beneficiaries that are reported to the FVA are unduplicated?

The Program Coordinator is the primary point of contact for all programmatic reporting. All veterans detained in the VALOR program receive services, and beneficiaries can be reported based on admittance and release dates. In addition, the Program Coordinator documents treatment and counseling services provided to veterans from outside entities through invoice and payment tracking. Data for each veteran is maintained electronically in a web-based clinical program and through CALOR-specific excel tracking.

Project Eligibility:

The forms listed below are the only forms acceptable by TVC to determine Veteran, Dependent, and Surviving Spouse eligibility. Select the forms the organization will use to verify eligibility for each beneficiary that will be served under the proposed project.

Veteran

- DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty
- NGB-22, National Guard Report of Separation and Record of Service
- NA Form 13038, Certification of Military Service
- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) official letter or disability letter with character of service listed
- E-Benefits summary letter with character of service listed
- Honorable discharge certificate
- Uniform Services Identification Card
- State of Texas Issued Driver License with Veteran designation

Describe how the eligibility verification documents will be retained and maintained.

Note: Retention period must meet minimum requirements as defined in 2 CFR 200.333 of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.

As part of the VALOR application / transfer packet, Collin County CSCD requires that a copy of the one of the above checked eligibility documents be provided before proceeding through the application / transfer process. Documents will be maintained in digital (secure organization server) and/or hardcopy within a locked container in a limited or exclusion area or be under the physical control of an authorized individual and per UGMS and OMB guidelines for state and local governments. Program participant documentation is retained per Collin County's retention policy. Grant records will be maintained for a minimum of three years from the date of the final grant report.

Proposed Project Services

Describe the Proposed Project. The answers should be brief but specific.

Describe what services will be provided with grant funding.

Grant funding will be utilized to provide veteran-specific programming and treatment services in the Collin County Intermediate Sanctions Facility (ISF) or Collin County jail for veteran offenders who need a supervised, intensive, and structured treatment program in order to succeed. Following intake interview and assessments, an individualized treatment plan will be developed to comprehensively address each veterans' needs. VALOR participants will be provided with a handbook, welcome folder, program schedule, and a copy of their service plan. Additionally, they will be given a journal, any workbooks currently being used, and access to the veterans' library for required and/or optional reading.

Veterans will participate in programming based on their daily service plan. Programming / treatment may include Seeking Safety, Moral Reconciliation Therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, Thinking for a Change, art / music therapy, anger management, peer mentoring, agricultural and vocational rehabilitation, alcohol / drug treatment, PTSD / trauma counseling, Resilient Warrior, yoga / mindful meditation, emotional regulation, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Wellness Recovery Action Plan, and others. Veterans will attend group and individual therapy sessions, complete homework assignments, implement new coping skills, and create re-entry plans based on what they learn throughout the program's duration. At the end of the program, veterans will receive a certificate of completion, celebratory graduation materials and coin, backpack with certain therapy and transition necessities and attend a commencement ceremony.

Where will clients receive services: List addresses of all offices and if services are available on-line and/or over the phone.

All services will be provided either inside the Collin County Community Correctional Facility located at 4800 Community Avenue McKinney, Texas, 75071 or the Collin County Jail located at 4300 Community Avenue McKinney, Texas 75071. In most cases, services will be provided in person; however, some services may also be offered online, such as e-benefits through the VA or Texas Workforce Solutions.

When will the services be available to clients? Indicate the hours of operation for the facilities to include days and time.

The Collin County Community Correctional Facility is a 24-hour, 7-day per week operational facility. VALOR program begins with a 0430-0500 reveille daily and is comprised of specified block scheduling until 2230 lights out each day. The Clinical Director, Clinician, and Case Manager are available 24/7 for crisis intervention.

Describe how beneficiaries will be provided with project services. Include how the beneficiary requests services and how long it will take for requested services to be provided.

The VALOR program is an in-custody facility offering treatment alternatives for veteran offenders who are facing probation revocations or incarceration throughout the state of Texas. Program candidates may be identified from various sources including the originating court (to include a county Veterans Court), defense attorneys, prosecutors, supervision officers, Sheriff's Office personnel, detention facilities, or even family and friends. Currently incarcerated veterans may be identified through searches conducted in Veterans Re-Entry Search Service (VRSS) and may be approached by personnel from probation, law enforcement, and/or VALOR team members about transferring into the program. Potential candidates complete application packets, which are reviewed by CSCD and Sheriff's Office personnel, as well as VALOR team members. Approval for participation is generally made within a week, but transfer in to the program could be a matter of days to weeks, depending on bed availability and coordination of transfer between counties. Once in the dorm, a medical review and intake interview will be conducted, along with additional mental health and substance abuse assessments, and a treatment plan will be created based on the veteran's needs. Services begin

immediately. Progress is monitored and adjustments are made as needed. There are two available tracks for VALOR participation: up to 60 days in our Restorative Program or up to 6 months in our Intensive Program. The track is most often determined by either the originating Judge or CSCD.

Need Identified

What is the community need(s) or existing service gap(s) that the Proposed Project will address?

More than 20 million men and women living in the US have served in the US military. Many of these veterans were deployed to engage in combat operations, spending long periods being hyper-vigilant in high stress situations. Combat zone duty can result in injuries both to the body and psyche including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injuries (TBI), orthopedic injury and/or amputations, which are all conditions that can derail emotional control and lead to interpersonal conflicts and/or other erratic behaviors resulting in job loss, divorce, and strained relationships. Unfortunately, decades of research has shown that veterans can have a difficult time of readjusting to civilian life and have been shown to have higher than normal prevalence of mental health and substance abuse issues, which frequently result in illegal, violent, and/or risky behaviors resulting in increased contact with the criminal justice system and incarceration.

A Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics study released in December 2015 showed that a higher percentage of detained veterans (55%) than nonveterans (43%) has been diagnosed with some form of mental disorder. Veterans need to be provided with educational and therapeutic services as alternatives to spiraling deeper into the criminal justice system. Unfortunately, many jails and prisons are unable to offer adequate mental health treatment to the incarcerated.

How were community need(s) or gap(s) in service identified? Describe the methods used to identify the need in the service area.

Currently, Texas has the second largest population of veterans, with 10% of the total prison population being veterans, many of whom are repeat offenders because of a failure to reintegrate after military service. Collin County alone has more than 41,918 veteran residents according to the US Census Bureau 2019 Quick Facts. While the number of veterans has increased in Collin County since 2010, the number of veterans has increased by 385% over the same time period.

Recognizing the increase in veterans facing felony charges in his District Court, Judge John Roach Jr. implemented a Veterans Treatment Court in 2013, which has since grown to encompass five (5) counties in a regional treatment court for veterans. Through interactions and networking to assist community-based justice-involved veterans, it has been apparent that there is also a need to provide veteran-specific mental health and substance abuse services for detained veterans in an effort to help rehabilitate and reintegrate them back into civilian society.

How does the Proposed Project address the identified need(s) or gap(s) in the service area?

Through the VALOR program, veterans have the opportunity to learn new coping skills, heal past trauma wounds through group and individual counseling, and establish safety and control in their lives. Housing justice-involved veterans together, dormitory style, mimics the unit structure familiar to veterans and surrounds them with others who are not only suffering with similar mental illnesses, substance abuse issues, and unhealthy coping mechanisms, but also who understand the sacrifice of military service. Putting them together allows them to bond as a unit, helping them to begin healing by being open and vulnerable and assisting one another. Veteran-specific programming is offered by qualified treatment providers, who have experience working with veterans or are veterans themselves, providing an integrative and holistic approach for re-entry. VALOR staff will provide continuing care recommendations, linkages, and coordination for appropriate agencies / organizations to ensure continued support services upon the participants' successful program completion.

How is the Proposed Project unique from other similar services that may be available in the proposed service area? Be specific with details about what sets your Proposed Project apart.

The VALOR program is aligned with the existing SCORE (Sheriff’s Convicted Offender Re-entry Effort) program operated as a collaborative effort between the Collin County CSCD and the Sheriff’s Office. However, this program does not include any veteran-specific services. The VALOR program utilizes the existing infrastructure, housing veterans together as a unit while adding programs and treatment services to address the specific criminogenic needs of detained veteran offenders.

Goals and Outcomes

Title	Sub Title	Question	Target Outcomes
Clinical Counseling Services	Project Specific Goals	How many clients reported improved quality in life?	52
	Project Specific Performance	How many veterans will be provided with clinical counseling?	52

Goal Tracking

Describe how the organization will determine if the anticipated outcomes above are met.

Program staff will be responsible for conducting intake and assessments for each veteran upon program entry. Clinical assessments, such as BDI-II, Hamilton Anxiety Scale, PCL-5, CAPS, PHQ-9 or others deemed necessary, will be scored and utilized for service planning and treatment goals. Upon program completion, the veteran will complete the same battery of assessments. Pre- and post-program scores will be compared to illustrate programmatic effects upon the veterans. Attendance rosters will be maintained for veteran-specific programming for each participant. In addition, veterans will be provided with pre- and post-program surveys to ask participants what they hope to get out of the program, and at the end, what they learned.

Project Principal Participants

List the principal participants in the organization as defined in the RFA. Principal Participants must include: Project Coordinator, Financial Coordinator, Executive Director and any other key stakeholders in the organization totaling 5. Indicate which principal(s), if any, are Veterans. Résumés are to be included for each Principal Participant and should describe applicable experience by position.

Title	Name of Principal Participant	Veteran (Y/N)	Years in position	Roles, Responsibilities, and Qualifications
Collin County Auditor	Linda Riggs	N	3	Mrs. Riggs ensures that all federal, state, local, and funding agency fiscal policies are followed and maintains all grant financial documentation.
Collin County Judge	Chris Hill	N	4	Mr. Hill serves as the executive officer and signing authority for Collin County.
Judge, 296 th District Court	John Roach, Jr	Y	15	Judge Roach serves as the elected official supervising the overall direction and progress of the VALOR program.
VALOR Program Coordinator	Brennan Jones	Y	3	Ms. Jones serves as the direct conduit between Texas veterans’ courts and the VALOR program and is the liaison between VALOR team members and the Judge.
VALOR Clinical Director	Misty Ely	Y	3	Ms. Ely serves as the clinical conduit between the North Texas Regional Veterans Court and VALOR. She identifies judicial requirements that may interfere with treatment plans.

Partnerships

List agencies and/or organizations that the organization partners with to assist in serving Beneficiaries as part of the Proposed Project.

Name of Partner Organization	Address	Telephone	Website
Military Veteran Peer Network	1380 River Bend Drive Dallas, TX 75247	(214) 743-1200	Milvetpeer.net
Collin County Veteran Services	900 E. Park Boulevard Suite 150 Plano, TX 75074	(972) 881-3060	www.collincountytx.gov/veterans/Pages/default.aspx
Veterans Center of North Texas	900 E. Park Boulevard Suite 155 Plano, TX 75074	(214) 600-2966	veteranscenterofnorthtexas.org
Texas Legal Services Center	2101 S. IH 35 Frontage Austin, TX 78741	(512) 637-5419	tlsc.org/veterans
North Texas Art Therapy Association			ntata.org
Guitars for Vets			guitars4vets.org
Texas Workforce Commission	1701 Eldorado Parkway Suite 250 McKinney, TX 75069	(972) 542-3381	twc.texas.gov
US Dept of Veterans Affairs – Dallas VA Medical Center	4500 S. Lancaster Road Dallas, TX 75216	(214) 857-2252	VA.gov
Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Metrocare	16160 Midway Road Suite 218 Addison, TX 75001	(469) 680-3500	CohenVeteransNetwork.org

How will the organization ensure that it is able to reach and provide services to the Number of Clients to be Served as listed in the Beneficiaries section.

Clients are referred to VALOR from various sources including the originating court (to include other Veterans Courts), defense attorneys, prosecutors, supervision officers, Sheriff’s Office personnel, detention facilities, or even family and friends. Currently incarcerated veterans may be identified through searches conducted in Veterans Re-Entry Search Service (VRSS) and may be approached by personnel from probation, law enforcement, and/or VALOR team members about transferring into the program. Outreach activities include continuous information dissemination (“news flashes”, blogs, websites, and oral presentations) at specialty court and veteran-specific conferences and organizations, community service organizations, legal defense representatives/bars, and county and district courts of law throughout the State of Texas. The Veterans Court Judge and VALOR’s Program Coordinator and Clinical Director also attend local, state, and national mental health and/or veteran-specific events and speak at various conferences and summits in order to educate and disseminate information regarding the VALOR program.

Sustainability after the Grant

If the organization is awarded an FVA grant, would the Proposed Project continue after the grant period ends if the organization does not receive additional FVA funding?

- Yes No

If yes, describe how the Proposed Project will continue. Include what other funding will be available to the organization and what other organizations will be partnering or working to carry on the work of the ProposedProject after the grant period ends.

Without grant funding, counseling and treatment will be limited. The program staff positions will likely be terminated. Termination of the positions will impact the range of veteran-specific activities available to participants. While loss of TVC funding will greatly impact the program, the VALOR pod will continue to operate as part of a collaborative effort between the North Texas Regional Veterans Court, Collin County CSCD, and the Sheriff’s Office, which provides bed space, food, uniforms, correctional and medical staff, and some course instruction. Veteran-specific treatment and materials will be limited to volunteers, such as chaplains, peer coordinators, and local community partners providing services at no cost. Additionally, the program will network universities to identify potential recent graduates needing supervision hours to provide some group and individual therapies, as able. The program could also potentially hold fundraisers or request donations for supplies and reference manuals.

If your organization has received FVA funding in the past for the Proposed Project, describe why you are applying for a grant again.

While the Collin County Sheriff’s Office provides for the basic living aspects of the detained veterans, FVA funding is utilized to pay for the program staff who provide essential administrative, eligibility, and intake functions and the critical veteran-specific programming that would otherwise not be available.

Fiscal Management

What software does your organization used to record accounting transactions?

Munis

Policies

Does your organization have written accounting policies and procedures for the following? Awarded organizations will be asked to provide copies of applicable policies and procedures to FVA.

	YES	NO
A. Procurement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Vendor Payments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Payroll	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Grants Administration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Cash Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Travel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. Capitalization and Equipment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Assessment

Indicate if each statement is true or false for your organization.

	TRUE	FALSE
A. There has been no staff turnover or reorganization in the past 6 months.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
B. The organization uses a Chart of Accounts.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Time sheets are approved and signed by supervisory personnel.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. An A-133 Single Audit has been performed in the past 2 years.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Travel receipts are submitted for travel reimbursement requests.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>