

**VALOR FY2024-2025 Grant**

**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 accepts offenders with assaultive offenses and will be reviewed, considered, with pre-authorization on a case by case basis from Collin County CSCD, after thorough review of offense reports and criminal history only if veteran has not received a conviction. All sexual offenses and dishonorable discharges are eligible. Veterans should have a mental health diagnosis determined by assessment. In no diagnosis exists, the program requests veteran be evaluated by a licensed professional.

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

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Number of Veterans                           | 40        |
| Number of Dependents                         | 0         |
| Number of Surviving Spouses                  | 0         |
| <b>Total Number of Clients to be Served</b>  | <b>40</b> |
| Number of Home Modifications to be Completed | 0         |

## **Performance Reporting:**

### **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.

### **Will your organization collect and verify authorized beneficiary eligibility documents as prescribed by the RFA?**

Yes

### **Describe how the eligibility verification documents are securely maintained (example: In locked filing cabinet or electronically on your organization's server).**

Documents will be maintained in digital (secure organization server). Grant records will be maintained for a minimum of three years from the date of the final grant report.

## **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.**

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, 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 9% 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 41,000 veteran residents according to the US Census Bureau 2018 Quick Facts. While the number of veterans has actually decreased 6% in Collin County since 2010, the number of veterans jailed has increased by 385% over the same time period. In FY 2010, 90 unduplicated veterans were detained in the Collin County jail; in FY 2018, there were 437. On average, 24% of veterans are detained multiple times during the year.

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 become 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              |

**Project Principal Participants**

List the principal participants in the organization as defined in the RFA.

| 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             | 3                 | Mr. Hill serves as the executive officer and signing authority for Collin County.   |
| Judge, 296 <sup>th</sup> District Court | John Roach, Jr                | Y             | 15                | Judge Roach serves as the elected official supervising the overall direction and progress of the VALOR program. He hosts each VALOR graduation inside the 296th District courtroom. |
| 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<br>Dallas, TX 75247                | (214) 743-1200 | Milvetpeer.net                                     |
| Collin County Veteran Services                         | 900 E. Park Boulevard<br>Suite 150<br>Plano, TX 75074    | (972) 881-3060 | www.collincountytx.gov/veterans/Pages/default.aspx |
| Veterans Center of North Texas                         | 900 E. Park Boulevard<br>Suite 155<br>Plano, TX 75074    | (214) 600-2966 | veteranscenterofnorthtexas.org                     |
| Texas Legal Services Center                            | 2101 S. IH 35 Frontage<br>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<br>Suite 250<br>McKinney, TX 75069 | (972) 542-3381 | twc.texas.gov                                      |
| US Dept of Veterans Affairs – Dallas VA Medical Center | 4500 S. Lancaster Road<br>Dallas, TX 75216               | (214) 857-2252 | VA.gov   |
| Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Metrocare    | 16160 Midway Road<br>Suite 218<br>Addison, TX 75001      | (469) 680-3500 | CohenVeteransNetwork.org                           |

## **Marketing and Outreach**

**Will your organization conduct outreach events/interactions to promote grant-funded services?**

Yes

**Describe the organizations outreach plan.**

Plan for outreach but not limited to: New flashes, blogs, websites, fliers, business cards, posters, and oral presentations, video within County, District Courts and State of Texas.

**Will your organization conduct marketing to mass audiences promoting grant-funded services?**

Yes

**What marketing technique will your organization be using to promote grant funded services?**

Social media, Flyers and Brochures, Broadcast Media.

**Will beneficiary satisfaction of grant-funded services be measured?**

Yes

**Will this include a satisfaction survey after all services have been provided?**

Yes

## **Financial Information**

**Does your organization have a maximum allowable amount per client?**

No

**Does your organization have the ability to sustain this project without FVA Funding?**

No

**Does your organization use software to record accounting transactions and manage financial book keeping?**

Yes

**What software does your organization used to record accounting transactions?**

Munis

