



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

October 15, 2021

Dear State Historic Preservation Officer,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, through the Homeless Programs Grant and Per Diem Program (GPD), provides financial assistance to states and community organizations that serve Veterans experiencing homelessness. For the federal regulations which implement the program, please see 38 CFR § Part 61.

In Spring 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act included funding for capital grants to states and community organizations to build or renovate facilities for Veterans. The improvements must result in less congregate and more individual unit style housing, thereby improving personal safety and reducing risks associated with close quarters living. Grants support new construction of transitional housing, additions to existing buildings, and other activities to reduce the risk of infection. Due to the federal funding, each of the projects is a federal undertaking subject to consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Through this memorandum, GPD is issuing a program-wide authorization for grant applicants to initiate NHPA consultation with State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) and other parties, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(4). Effective immediately, GPD applicants may consult with SHPOs and other stakeholders to initiate the review process established under 36 CFR § 800 and to carry out some of its steps. Specifically, GPD applicants are authorized to gather information to identify and evaluate historic properties, and to work with consulting parties to assess effects. This memorandum is a follow-up to the GPD's recent notification letter to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP).

GPD remains the responsible federal agency for this program, and for all determinations and findings. Applicants must notify GPD whenever:

- The applicant or SHPO believe that the criteria for adverse effect pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5 apply to the project;
- There is a disagreement between the applicant and SHPO about the area of potential effects, identification and evaluation of historic properties, and/or the assessment of effects;
- There is an objection from a consulting party or the public regarding its involvement in the review process established by 36 CFR Part 800, findings and determinations, or implementation of agreed-upon resolution; or
- There is the potential for foreclosure or anticipatory demolition as defined under 36 CFR § 800.9(b) and (c).

GPD will participate in consultation if any of the above circumstances arise. GPD also remains responsible for consultation with federally-recognized tribes.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached at (813) 979-3570, or via email at jeffery.quarles@va.gov.

Best Regards,

Jeffery Quarles
Director, Grant and Per Diem Program
Department of Veterans Affairs

Enclosure: October 13, 2021 ACHP letter



October 13, 2021

Jeffery L. Quarles, MRC LICDC
Director, Grant and Per Diem Program
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
10770 N. 46th St. Suite C-200
Tampa, FL 33617

REF: *Applicant Authorization for VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program
Nationwide
ACHP Project Number: 017527*

Dear Mr. Quarles:

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) appreciated receiving correspondence from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regarding its intent to issue a program-wide authorization for the VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program (GPD) applicants "to gather information to identify and evaluate historic properties, and to work with consulting parties to assess effects," pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.2(c)(4). This letter serves as the ACHP's acknowledgement of receipt of this notification.

As indicated in your letter, VA remains legally responsible for all findings and determinations, and remains responsible for its government to government relationships with Indian tribes. Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.2(c)(4), VA is also responsible for providing notice to all State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) of this authorization. Please inform us once VA has notified all SHPOs/THPOs of this authorization. We would appreciate a copy of the notice for our records.

Should any grant applicant require assistance with the Section 106 process, please make them aware of the ACHP's [Section 106 Applicant Toolkit](#) on our website. This toolkit is designed to provide information and guidance on the Section 106 process to parties who are the recipients of, or are applying for federal licenses, permits, assistance, or approvals.

Should you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact Ms. Angela McArdle, VA Liaison, at (202) 517-0221 or by email at amcardle@achp.gov and please reference the ACHP Project Number above.

Sincerely,

Jaime Loichinger
Assistant Director, Acting
Federal Property Management Section
Office of Federal Agency Programs