



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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DATE: August 27, 2018

TO: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee, Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee and the Legislative Administrator

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Executive Summary of Legislative Report: SB 143 Campus Veterans Resource Grant Program Implementation

Overview

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) is pleased to submit this executive summary of the Legislative Report on the implementation of the Campus Veterans Resource Grant program created under [Senate Bill 143 \(2017\)](#) that provided \$1 million in grant funds to ODVA to be awarded to public universities and community colleges for campus veteran resource centers and programs, including campus veteran resource coordinators. SB 143 directs ODVA to prepare a legislative report on the implementation of the grant program and additional steps required to expand the program during the 2019-21 Biennium. In addition, SB 143 directs the Veterans Affairs' Advisory Committee to provide an additional Legislative Report.

Purpose of the Grant Program

The purpose of the Campus Veterans Grant Program is to expand veteran resource centers and programs to help veterans: 1) successfully transition from military service to college life; 2) succeed in college and complete educational goals; and 3) transition from college to the workforce and the community.

Uses of Grant Funds

SB 143 limited the use of funds to expanding and enhancing existing campus veteran resource centers to:

- Recruit and employ campus veteran resource coordinators who can serve as liaisons to provide advocacy, understanding and resource connections for veterans.
- Attract veterans to enroll in/attend programs at community colleges/public universities.
- Provide assistance, guidance and support to veterans in completing educational goals.
- Provide resources to college administrators, faculty, and staff to facilitate an understanding and appreciation of the strengths, unique challenges and needs of veterans.
- Refer campus veterans to local county veterans' service officers for benefits.
- Assist veterans in successfully transitioning to work and community life.

Implementation, Grant Awards and Outcomes

ODVA wrote rules and then issued a Request for Grant Proposals on October 10, 2017, with a submission deadline of November 21, 2017. An eight-member grant evaluation committee was formed that included three members of the ODVA Advisory Committee, two ODVA staff member, a member of the Oregon National Guard, one outside veteran, and a private university registrar. Fourteen of the 25 public universities and community colleges submitted grant proposals. Note that some community colleges do not have a large enough veteran enrollment to support a campus veteran program. ODVA hired a Campus Student Veteran Coordinator in November 2017.

The public universities and community colleges requested a total of \$1,109,851. The evaluation committee awarded \$1 million to 14 schools and Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs disbursed the funds on December 20, 2017.

Campus Veteran Resource Center Grant Program Funds Awarded		
School	Total Request	Total Award
Blue Mountain CC - Pendleton	\$81,000	\$50,500
Chemeketa CC - Salem	\$32,429	\$32,429
Clackamas CC - Oregon City	\$85,683	\$85,683
Eastern Oregon University – La Grande	\$33,732	\$33,732
Klamath CC - Klamath Falls	\$89,997	\$85,896
Lane CC - Eugene	\$100,000	\$100,000
Linn-Benton CC - Albany	\$98,900	\$92,900
Mt. Hood CC - Gresham	\$83,720	\$60,720
Oregon State University - Corvallis	\$98,251	\$78,251
Portland CC - Portland	\$100,000	\$85,000
Rogue CC - Grants Pass	\$100,000	\$100,000
Southwestern Oregon CC - Coos Bay	\$54,092	\$54,092
University of Oregon - Eugene	\$65,347	\$54,097
Western Oregon University - Monmouth	\$86,700	\$86,700
Total Amount Requested/Awarded	\$1,109,851	\$1,000,000

Although the program is only into its seventh month of operation, the schools have reported a number of positive outcomes, including:

- Two schools established new veteran resource centers (VRC); a third school is in construction.
- Eight schools completed upgrades to existing VRC's; two other schools are in progress.
- Four schools recruited and hired new Campus Veteran Outreach Coordinators.
- Two schools purchased and implemented training software to increase awareness of student veteran needs for staff and faculty members.
- Two schools started a new college entry course specifically designed for student veterans.
- Four schools hosted several outreach events which include job fair and career orientations.
- One school reported a 5% increase in student veteran enrollment since receiving grant funds.
- Four schools are jointly hosting a statewide student veteran conference in September 2018, with guest speakers and workshops to assist veterans through school and transition to the workforce.

ODVA Campus Student Veteran Coordinator

The ODVA Campus Student Veteran Coordinator has visited eight grant recipient campuses and two non-grant recipient campuses to work with the veteran service coordinators on best practices for student veteran engagement and reviewed grant implementation and outcomes. He is working with the VA Education Liaison Representative and Higher Education Coordinating Commission student veteran representatives to coordinate advising and training for public university and community college veteran service personnel. A statewide campus veteran coordinator workshop is scheduled for Spring 2019.

Expanding the Program: 2019-21 Biennium

Currently, provisions in Senate Bill 143 sunset the program on January 2, 2020. ODVA is proposing legislation to eliminate the sunset provision in order to continue the program. The Campus Veteran Grant Program already shows signs of great success. ODVA recommends funding for the 2019-21 biennium with the following priorities: veteran resource coordinators; projects and activities oriented toward transitioning to the workforce; innovative projects to enhance student veteran engagement; improvements or expansion of existing veteran resource centers (remodeling, equipment and furniture upgrades, etc.); and to allow eligible schools to apply for grant funds which did not apply during 2017-19 Biennium.

Full report: <https://www.oregon.gov/odva/Connect/Pages/Reports.aspx>

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