

## **NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

### **CHAPTER 274**

### **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

**FILING CAPTION:** Veterans Suicide Prevention Grant Program

**LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER COMMENT TO AGENCY:** 08/21/2026 5:00 PM

#### **HEARING(S):**

**DATE:** 08/17/2026

**TIME:** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

**OFFICER:** Mr Jay DeFillipo

#### **REMOTE HEARING DETAILS**

**MEETING URL:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4827514688?omn=82031842792>

**PHONE NUMBER:** 719-359-4580, Ext. 4827

**CONFERENCE ID:** 4827514688

#### **NEED FOR THE RULE(S):**

ODVA is required to adopt administrative rules governing the Veterans Suicide Prevention Grant Program, including application procedures and program criteria.

#### **DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE:**

HB 4132 - 2025 Legislative Session.

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2026R1/Measures/Overview/HB4132>

#### **STATEMENT IDENTIFYING HOW ADOPTION OF RULE(S) WILL AFFECT RACIAL EQUITY IN THIS STATE:**

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) anticipates that adopting these rules will strengthen racial equity by expanding access to suicide-prevention and workforce-development services for veterans across all racial and ethnic groups, including those who have historically faced systemic barriers. By requiring grant applicants to demonstrate their capacity to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion, the rules encourage programs that intentionally address racial disparities in mental-health access, service delivery, and economic opportunity. Prioritizing funding for community-based services further supports culturally relevant approaches that can more effectively reach racially diverse veterans, including those in rural, tribal, or underserved urban areas.

#### **FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT:**

The proposed \$400,000 grant is expected to have a positive fiscal impact by directing state funds toward programs that reduce suicide risk among veterans and strengthen their long-term economic stability. ODVA anticipates that the investment will increase the capacity of community-based organizations to deliver evidence-informed suicide-prevention activities, outreach, and support services. While the grant represents a moderate expenditure within ODVA's existing budget authority, it is not expected to create new administrative costs beyond routine grant management responsibilities.

authorized in the legislative language that established the program.

Economically, the grant is expected to generate benefits by improving workforce readiness and employment outcomes for Oregon veterans. Expanding access to training, career development, and culturally responsive support services can help reduce unemployment and underemployment among veterans, creating downstream economic gains for local communities. Strengthening suicide-prevention efforts also reduces broader societal costs associated with crisis response, hospitalization, and lost productivity. Overall, the grant is expected to produce long-term fiscal efficiencies and economic value by supporting veteran stability, community wellbeing, and workforce participation across the state.

#### COST OF COMPLIANCE:

(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). (2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); (b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s); (c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).

The rules are not expected to create significant economic effects for state agencies, local governments, or members of the public. ODVA will administer the \$400,000 grant within existing budget and staffing capacity, and organizations receiving a grant may experience positive fiscal impacts through expanded funding for suicide-prevention and workforce-development services for veterans.

Because eligible organizations are not classified as small businesses under state or federal definitions, no small businesses are subject to these rules. Compliance requirements for participating organizations are limited to grant-management activities such as submitting applications, maintaining service documentation, and completing required reports. These activities align with standard administrative practices and are not expected to require new professional services, equipment purchases, or additional staff. As a result, the overall cost of compliance for grant awardee is anticipated to be minimal.

#### DESCRIBE HOW SMALL BUSINESSES WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RULE(S):

Small businesses were not consulted on these rules because this is a competitive grant only available to local governments, other state agencies, the Tribes, non-profit organizations, etc. Small businesses, under state and federal definitions, are not eligible for this grant opportunity.

WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE RULE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTED? NO IF NOT, WHY NOT?The Agency already administers several grants within the veterans' space and is prepared to follow established guidelines based on agency experience for this grant.

#### CONTACT:

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**RULES PROPOSED:**

274-034-0100, 274-034-0200, 274-034-0300, 274-034-0400, 274-034-0500, 274-034-0600, 274-034-0700, 274-034-0800, 274-034-0900, 274-034-0950

**ADOPT:** 274-034-0100

**RULE TITLE:** Definitions

**RULE SUMMARY:** Provides definitions for Chapter 34

**RULE TEXT:**

As used in OAR chapter 274, division 34, unless the context of the rule requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

- (1) “Agreement” means a legally binding grant agreement between the Department and the applicant that contains the terms and conditions under which the Department is providing grant funds from the Request for Grant Proposals (RFGP).
- (2) “Applicant” means an organization that has submitted a proposal to the Department.
- (3) “Asset” means non-capital assets tangible or intangible property used in organization operations having a useful life beyond a single year and an initial cost (inclusive of ancillary charges) of less than \$5,000.
- (4) “Authorized Representative” means a person authorized by the applicant to make all representations, attestations, and certifications required in the grant proposal and to submit a proposal on behalf of the applicant.
- (5) “Capital Assets” means tangible and intangible property that have initial estimated useful life beyond a single year and have an initial cost of at least \$5,000 and does not include items below \$5,000.
- (6) “Capital Improvement” means an action that increases the useful life of a capital asset or adapts a capital asset to a new use.
- (7) “Department” OR “ODVA” means the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs.
- (8) “Evaluation Committee” means a committee selected by the Department to evaluate and score eligible grant proposals and make recommendations to the Department Director for approval.
- (9) “Grant Program” means the Veteran Suicide Prevention Grant Program.
- (10) “Policy” means specific guidelines used by the Department in the decision-making process.
- (11) “Proposal” means a grant proposal submitted to the Department in response to the Request for Grant Proposal (RFGP.)

(12) “Quasi-Public Agency” means a publicly chartered body that provides a public service and is controlled by a government appointed board.

(13) “Recipient” means an applicant that was selected as a recipient of grant funds by the Department and that enters into a written agreement with the Department to receive funds from the grant program.

(14) “Supplant funds” means to use grant funds to replace funds that were previously appropriated by another entity for the same purpose.

(15) “Veteran” has the meaning given in ORS 408.225

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 406.005(4), ORS 406.030, HB 4132 (2026)

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: HB 4132 (2026)

ADOPT: 274-034-0200

RULE TITLE: Eligibility Requirements

RULE SUMMARY: Establishes eligibility for grant.

RULE TEXT:

The following are eligible organizations and entities:

(1) Tribal, regional or local governments; or other state agencies under programs established under state or federal law;

(2) Oregon quasi-public agencies;

(3) Oregon intergovernmental entities formed under ORS 190;

(4) Private non-profit organizations designated as a 501(c)(3), 501(c)(19) or 501(c)(23) tax exempt organizations that demonstrate in their grant proposal proof of:

(a) Current (active) business registration with Oregon Secretary of State Corporation Division;

(b) Registration with the Charitable Activities Section of the Oregon Department of Justice Oregon and the most recent Oregon Form CT-12 report filed with the Department of Justice; and

(c) At least a one-year operational history.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 406.005(4), ORS 406.030

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: HB 4132 (2026)

ADOPT: 274-034-0300

RULE TITLE: Purposes of Grant Funds

RULE SUMMARY: Establishes purpose and uses of the grant.

RULE TEXT:

(1) The Department shall develop and implement a grant program for veteran suicide prevention and workforce training and preparation.

(2) The purpose of the grant program is to help veterans with suicide prevention and transition to the workforce and business community.

(3) Grant funds may be used only for purposes set forth in ORS 2026 Laws (HB 4132)

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 406.005(4), ORS 406.030, HB 4132 (2026)

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: HB 4132 (2026)

ADOPT: 274-034-0400

RULE TITLE: Grant Proposal Requirement

RULE SUMMARY: Establishes requirement for grant proposals

RULE TEXT:

- (1) Under the grant program, the department shall award grants through a request for proposal process to entities involved in pairing suicide prevention with workforce training and preparation.
- (2) The Department shall prioritize awarding grants to entities that provide opportunities for veterans to participate in the veterans' local communities.
- (3) The Department shall announce deadlines and RFGP requirements for grant program funding. RFGPs submitted after the deadline set by the Department may only be reviewed at the discretion of the Department.
- (4) Applicants interested in receiving funds under the grant program must submit a proposal to the Department in a format prescribed by the Department that includes:
  - (a) Proof that the applicant meets the eligibility requirements;
  - (b) Measurable goals and outcomes;
  - (c) The estimated completion date for each goal's objective;
  - (d) A detailed budget of projected funding needs;
  - (e) Demonstrated capacity to address and improve equity, diversity, and inclusion in their services to veterans; and
  - (f) Demonstrated capacity to administer any funds awarded under this section in compliance with the requirements of this grant and all applicable federal and state laws; and
  - (g) Demonstrated capacity to complete the proposed work by the specified date in the agreement.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 406.005(4), ORS 406.030, HB 4132 (2026)

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: HB 4132 (2026)

ADOPT: 274-034-0500

RULE TITLE: Minimum/Maximum Amounts and Funding Criteria

RULE SUMMARY: Establishes the minimum and maximum amounts that are able to be requested

RULE TEXT:

- (1) Applicants may not apply for grant amounts below the minimum of \$25,000 or above the maximum of \$150,000 allowed for this grant program.
- (2) ODVA may award a grant amount in part or in full of the proposal budget.
- (3) Funding dates will be specified in the Request for Grant Proposal.
- (4) When determining which grant proposals to fund, the Department shall make funds available statewide.
- (5) ODVA may:
  - (a) Award funds to the highest ranked Proposals.
  - (b) Consider the total amount of available grant funds and the total dollar amount requested in all grant proposals, when making the determination about a grant award amount.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 406.005(4), ORS 406.030, HB 4132 (2026)

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: HB 4132 (2026)

ADOPT: 274-034-0600

RULE TITLE: Evaluation Committee, Grant Review and Scoring Process

RULE SUMMARY: Establishes an Evaluation Committee, Grant Review and Scoring Process

RULE TEXT:

- (1) The Department will select an evaluation committee.
- (2) Each applicant's proposal shall be reviewed and scored by members of the evaluation committee.
- (3) The evaluation committee will score each proposal based on the rubric designed by the Department.
- (4) The evaluation committee will make recommendations to the Director of ODVA. The Director will have final approval of awards.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 406.005(4), ORS 406.030, HB 4132 (2026)

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: HB 4132 (2026)

ADOPT: 274-034-0700

RULE TITLE: Grant Administration

RULE SUMMARY: Establishes Grant Administration

RULE TEXT:

The Department shall administer the grant program.

(1) The Department and recipient shall execute a written agreement, prior to the disbursement of funds.

(2) The Department will prepare the agreement.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 406.005(4), ORS 406.030, HB 4132 (2026)

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: HB 4132 (2026)

ADOPT: 274-034-0800

RULE TITLE: Disbursement of Grant Funds

RULE SUMMARY: Directs how grant funds are dispersed

RULE TEXT:

- (1) An agreement must be fully executed before funds may be disbursed.
- (2) The Department will disburse funds on a reimbursement basis, after substantiation of allowable costs and expenses.
- (3) The Department will provide guidelines for proper documentation of allowable costs and expenses.
- (4) The Department may hold a percentage not to exceed five percent of the total award until all final project reports are submitted to the Department.
- (5) The Department may require recipients to hold a percentage of their grant award in reserve for a period of time during the grant period, based on the Department's availability of funding, or other budgetary factors.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 406.005(4), ORS 406.030, HB 4132 (2026)

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: HB 4132 (2026)

ADOPT: 274-034-0900

RULE TITLE: Record Keeping and Reporting Requirements

RULE SUMMARY: Establishes requirements for record keeping and reporting

RULE TEXT:

- (1) A Quarterly report is due within 30-days after the end of each quarter, each recipient shall provide a program report to the Department containing the information required by the agreement as well as data on measurable outcomes as stated in the proposal and identified in the agreement.
- (2) A final report is due within 60-days after the end of the grant period. Each recipient shall provide a final program report to the Department containing the information in House Bill 4132 (2026) as well as final data on measurable outcomes as stated in the proposal, and a final budget report as identified in the agreement.
- (3) Recipients must separately account for all moneys received from the Veteran Suicide Prevention and Workforce Development Grant Program in project accounts in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.
- (4) Recipients must keep an inventory log of all assets purchased with grant funds. The log shall include the serial number of any electronic item, (e.g. cell phone, printer, etc.).
- (5) The Department shall provide templates for the quarterly, final and budget reports.
- (6) Recipients must keep all original documentation on file for at least five years after the grant project period has closed.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 406.005(4), ORS 406.030, HB 4132 (2026)

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: HB 4132 (2026)

ADOPT: 274-034-0950

RULE TITLE: Retention and Disposal of Assets

RULE SUMMARY: Establishes Retention and Disposal of Assets

RULE TEXT:

(1) Any asset purchased under this grant shall remain an asset in service to veterans by recipient for at least three years.

(2) Any capital asset purchased under this grant shall remain an asset in service to veterans by recipient for at least five years.

(3) If the recipient should discontinue providing services to veterans prior to the above retention schedule, then the recipient must notify the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs in writing at least 30 days in advance. ODVA will determine the disposition of assets purchased with grant funds in consultation with the recipient.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 406.005(4), ORS 406.030, HB 4132 (2026)

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: HB 4132 (2026)

