

Summary Information About Proposed Changes to Division 17

Why was this rulemaking process started?

The grantmaking process currently requires the review of the grant applications by a parks and recreation grant committee. The expertise of the committee is in parks and recreation which in many cases does not relate to proposed grant projects. The proposed changes would allow the grant review committee to include experts in memorials, restoration, and veterans issues in addition to accessibility and park design.

Also, the current grant program limits siting of memorials funded by the grant to only local-government-controlled property. This has limited several proposed memorial projects from applying for the funds.

What are the major changes that are being proposed?

- Changes the requirements for the grant review committee participants.
- Allows memorial projects funded by the grant to be sited on public property that is owned by a government entity other than the project applicant, when an agreement with the two entities is in place. These sites may include State-, Federal- and Tribal-owned properties. Only local governments may apply for grants.

Why are only local governments eligible to apply for Veterans and War Memorial Grant funds?

The source of funds for the grant program permits only local governments to receive grant funds.

What are the agreement requirements between the local government and the public property owner?

The agreement between the local government and the property owner will require that the memorial be maintained at that location for at least 25 years.

Will these changes have any fiscal impact?

OPRD staff examined these proposals and determined there will be no cost impacts on local governments, the public and most state agencies participating in these programs. More projects may be eligible for funding, which may increase the competitive nature of the grant program.

Will these changes improve the grant programs to support the repair and installation of memorials?

The changes in the review committee will improve the quality of projects selected for funding and ensure the funds serve the purpose for which the program was intended. The changes to memorial siting will improve the ability for the program to repair more existing memorials.