

Application Process for the Veterans' Nonprofit Capital Program (VNCP)



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- ➤ Welcome and thank you for reviewing this recorded presentation on the application process for the Division of Veterans' Services (or DVS) Veterans' Nonprofit Capital Program (or VNCP which is how the program will be identified through the presentation).
- > To those veterans watching this presentation, thank you for your service.

Before we begin, I would like to remind everyone listening to this recording that VNCP is expected to be highly competitive and it is anticipated that the full allotment of funds will be awarded during this Application cycle. The total number of awards will depend upon the number of Applications received as well as the score awarded to each Application based upon responsiveness to the criteria set forth in the Request for Grant Application or as it will be referred to throughout this presentation the RGA. Therefore:

- ➤ Veterans' organizations are strongly encouraged to review the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) as well as this recording/presentation for additional information prior to applying.
- ➤ Each veterans' organization may apply for one (1) VNCP award for one (1) project that may consist of multiple areas of their facility refer to the RGA for more information. If multiple applications are submitted by a veterans' organization only the first received will be considered.

- ➤ The RGA and this presentation does not set forth a preference for a particular project type.
- A veterans' organization seeking VNCP funds must print, complete, sign and submit one complete Application (in pdf format) in Grants Gateway. The Application template is located in the RGA. The Application uploaded into the Grants Gateway system, which will be discussed in this presentation, should include any backup documentation and should be uploaded on or before 4:00 p.m. on March 31, 2023.

It is the responsibility of each Applicant to see that Applications are uploaded prior **to 4:00 pm on March 31, 2023**. DVS will not consider Applications that are late due to delivery delays or technical difficulties on the part of the Applicant. DVS reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all Applications received in response to this RGA.
- Award any remaining funds under another RGA at a future date or be given to the next veterans' organization on the score list.

Once an award has been made, no major project modifications, grantee or location changes will be permitted.

To maintain a fair and open process all questions regarding this opportunity must be submitted to grants@veterans.ny.gov. It is a violation of the New York State Procurement Lobbying Law to directly contact personnel at DVS or its affiliates regarding this RGA prior to the announcement of the grant awards.



Objectives

- NYS Grants Management: Registration and Document Vault Prequalification
- · Review of the Request for Grant Applications (RGA)
- · Applying for the VNCP Opportunity
- · Vendor Responsibility Questionnaire (VRQ)
- VNCP Requirements

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- ➤ The objectives of today's presentation are to discuss various areas of the application process that will need to be addressed to apply for the VNCP opportunity as well as to share information on the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), Vendor Responsibility Questionnaire (VRQ) as well as the Minority & Women's Business Enterprise (MWBE) and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business (SDVOB) Requirements that may need to be abided by once awards are made.
- ➤ There are three areas that a veterans' organization will need focus on when applying for the VNCP opportunity:
 - First, an organization will need to register and obtain an exemption or receive a prequalified document vault in the Grants Gateway which is through NYS Grants Management.
 - Next, review the RGA; and
 - o Finally, apply for the VNCP opportunity in Grants Gateway.
- ➤ Once awards are made the organization's project must abide by the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), file a VRQ and may need to abide by MWBE/SDVOB requirements which will be discussed at the end of this presentation.



The first order of business should be to start the Document Vault process through Grants Gateway:

- As part of the application process all potential applicants must register with NYS Grants Management (website link located on this slide) and the organization must have a Grants Gateway document vault with a status of exempt, prequalified or prequalified/open throughout the process.
- ➤ If you are **not already registered** with NYS Grants Management, go to the NYS Grants Management website (link provided on this slide), select "Register Your Organization" and follow the instructions for registering your organization which includes completing and submitting the following forms to NYS Grants Management:
 - a Substitute W9 [if the organization doesn't already have a State Financial System (SFS) number],
 - o a Registration Form for Administrators; and
 - o an Organizational Chart.
- ➤ Once registered, the **Grantee Delegated Administrator** role will be setup a username and temporary password will be sent in separate emails (be sure to change the password within 24 hours) and start completing the document vault. When all the required sections of the document vault are complete, which we will go over shortly, the

- organization will submit their document vault for prequalification.
- ➤ Prequalification may not occur immediately. The Agency has a Prequalification Manual that provides guidance on what may or may not be approved in each of the required sections. This is why it is imperative to start this process immediately if you haven't done so already.



NYS Grants Management

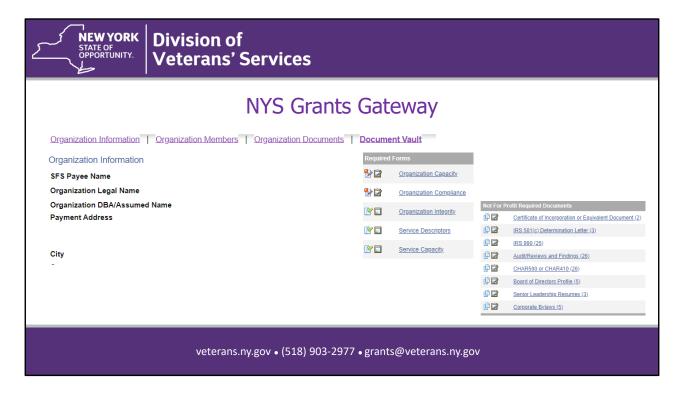
<u>Live Webinars</u> are held by NYS Grants Management Staff on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The times vary depending on the subject matter you are looking for.

Registration: Grants Gateway Registration Information (COVID 19 updates) – YouTube

Document Vault Prequalification: Get Prequalified: NYS Grants Gateway Document Vault – YouTube

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- > NYS Grants Management staff provide Registration and document vault prequalification assistance by providing Weekly live webinars and pre-recorded instructional videos.
- > website links to these live webinars and videos are noted on this slide.



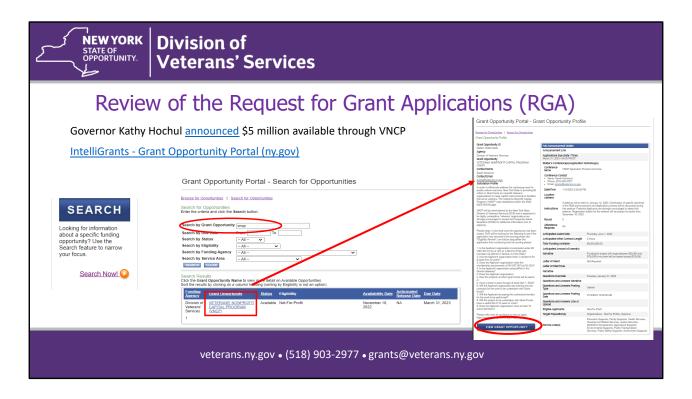
- ➤ Once the **Grantee Delegated Administrator** has received their login information, the status of the document vault will be in the initialized status. This means that the document vault needs attention, and the **Grantee Delegated Administrator** will need to log into Grants Gateway and complete the information in the:
 - Organization Information page
 - Organization Members page*; and
 - Then in the Document Vault**
 - Required Forms
 - Not For Profit Required Documents
- ➢ If the organization's document vault status is expired, meaning an organization had a document vault prequalified previously but it has since expired because the financial documents (IRS 990, Audit/Review and CHAR500 sections) are past due for upload, the Grantee Delegated Administrator should log into Grants Gateway, review each section and update any section necessary.
- ➤ Once the document vault is current and complete in either scenario the document vault must be submitted for prequalification. There should be a selection under the Not For Profit Required Documents that will allow you to do this and then an attestation is required to be agreed to before the document vault is sent to the prequalifying Agency.

- *The **Grantee Delegated Administrator** should deactivate any Organization Members that no longer belong to the organization and may also add Members here who can assist with the document vault.
 - Grantee Delegated Administrator who make changes to the document vault;
 - Grantee Contract Signatory an authorized officer who can bind the organization into the contract and can apply for opportunities.
- ** "Required Forms" section is informational to the prequalifying agency. Responses are required in each section under this area. Then in the "Not For Profit Required Documents" section, document uploads are required so please be prepared to upload:
 - Department of State stamped Certificate of Incorporation Papers with any amendments;
 - IRS Determination Letter;
 - IRS 990 (current);
 - Audit/Review (current) (varies depending on how large the organization is could be a balance sheet for small organization or an audited financial statement for a much larger organization);
 - CHAR500 (current) or CHAR410 w/Schedule E or a letter on organizational letterhead with Schedule E (char410SchE (1).pdf);
 - Board of Directors Profile (there is a template on the NYS Grants Management website under Helpful Resources; <u>Get Prequalified | Grants Management (ny.gov)</u>)
 - Senior Leadership Resumes for the top three senior leaders of the organization (also a template on the Grants Management website under Helpful Resources <u>Get</u> <u>Prequalified | Grants Management (ny.gov))</u>; and
 - Corporate Bylaws.



If an organization needs assistance with the Grants Gateway System, the NYS Grants Management's Help Desk information is provided in this slide and may also be found on the NYS Grants Management website (link is provided on this slide).

Please be aware that this Grants Gateway System is undergoing a transition to the State Financial System in the coming months. Information on this transition will be available to you on the NYS Grants Management website. This transition should not affect the VNCP opportunity.



While the Grantee Delegated Administer handles the Grants Gateway, the Members of the veterans' organization may want to review the RGA and formulate a plan for applying for the opportunity.

- > The RGA is available in two locations:
 - In Governor Kathy Hochul's VNCP announcement (website link provided in this slide); or
 - NYS Grants Management Opportunity portal (website link provided in this slide).
 - Search the Grant Opportunity Portal by selecting Search Now.
 - On the Search page, enter VNCP or Veterans' Nonprofit Capital Program in the "Search by Grant Opportunity" field.
 - In the search results, select Veterans Nonprofit Capital Program.
- The VNCP opportunity will open and provide details similar to the image on the right side of this slide.
 - Selecting the "View Grant Opportunity" will open the RGA.



Review of the Request for Grant Applications (RGA)

- Established in the 2022-2023 NYS Budget.
- \$5 million allocated to eligible veterans' organizations for eligible capital projects
- Grant Awards will range between \$25,000 to \$75,000
- At no time will an award exceed \$75,000

KEY DATES

Eligible Project Start & End Date Range	April 1, 2023 – April 1, 2027	
Issuance of RGA	November 11, 2022	
Webinar (application process)	January 12, 2023	
Recorded Video & PowerPoint		
Presentation (application process)	December 19, 2022	
Deadline for RGA Questions	January 31, 2023	
Post Responses to RGA Questions (not earlier than)	February 15, 2023	
Application Due By	March 31, 2023	
Awards Expected (not earlier than)	June 1, 2023	
Deadline for Reimbursement Submission & Processing	April 1, 2028	

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The VNCP Opportunity:

- Was established in the 2022-2023 NYS Budget.
- > \$5 million has been allocated for eligible veterans' organization to complete an eligible capital project.
- ➤ Grant awards will range between \$25,000 (which is the minimum amount an organization may request) and 75,000 (which is the maximum amount an organization may request).
- > At no time will any award exceed \$75,000.
- ➤ How many awards will be made will be dependent on the number of applications received and the scoring of the applications which is based upon responsiveness to the criteria outlined in Section 8 of the RGA.
- **Key Dates** for this opportunity are noted in the RGA and this slide
 - Questions must be submitted to grants@veterans.ny.gov no later than close of business on January 31, 2023.
 - o Responses to the questions will be uploaded no earlier than February 15, 2023.
 - Applications are due by March 31, 2023.
 - Awards will be expected no earlier than June 1, 2023.
 - If a veterans' organization is awarded a VNCP grant, the deadline for submitting for reimbursement under the fully executed contract will be April 1, 2028 as the

project must be completed by April 1, 2027.



Eligible Organizations

Veterans' organizations means any not-for-profit organization which is organized to do business within the State whereby either the membership consists of individuals who were members of the armed services or forces of the United States and/or which the main purpose of the organization is to benefit members of the armed services or forces of the United States.

Such organizations shall have been in existence in New York State for five years and are in good standing with the State.

Such organizations should be formally incorporated as a not-for-profit organization under the **Internal Revenue** Code section 501(c) which includes two subsections [501(c)(19) and 501(c)(23)] which provide for tax-exemption under section 501(a) for organizations that benefit veterans of the United States Armed Forces UNLESS the not-for-profit organization meets the same membership requirements as those registered as a 501(c)(19) and 501(c)(23).

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Eligible Organizations

Potential applicants should consult with their attorney, accountant and/or reach out to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to determine if they are eligible to apply for this opportunity. After the application submission deadline of March 31, 2023, an initial review of each application will be conducted to be sure the entity applying is eligible under the following provisions.

Veterans' organizations for purposes of this RGA means any not-for-profit organization which is organized to do business within the State whereby either the membership consists of individuals who were members of the armed services or forces of the United States and/or which the main purpose of the organization is to benefit members of the armed services or forces of the United States.

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meets the same membership requirements as those registered as a 501(c)(19) and 501(c)(23) which will be discussed shortly.

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Eligible Organizations

"26 USC 501(c)(19) A post or organization of past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States, or an auxiliary unit or society of, or a trust or foundation for, any such post or organization—
(A) organized in the United States or any of its possessions,

(B) at least 75 percent of the members of which are past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States and substantially all of the other members of which are individuals who are cadets or are spouses, widows, widowers, ancestors, or lineal descendants of past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States or of cadets, and
(C) no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.

26 USC 501(c)(23) Any association organized before 1880 more than 75 percent of the members of which are present or past members of the Armed Forces and a principal purpose of which is to provide insurance and other benefits to veterans or their dependents."

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Section 26 of the US Code 501c19 states:

"A post or organization of past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States, or an auxiliary unit or society of, or a trust or foundation for, any such post or organization

- (A) organized in the United States or any of its possessions,
- (B) at least 75 percent of the members of which are past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States and substantially all of the other members of which are individuals who are cadets or are spouses, widows, widowers, ancestors, or lineal descendants of past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States or of cadets, and
- (C) no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.

Section 26 of the US Code 501(c)(23) states:

"Any association organized before 1880 more than 75 percent of the members of which are present or past members of the Armed Forces and a principal purpose of which is to provide insurance and other benefits to veterans or their dependents."

Potential applicants should consult with their attorney, accountant and/or reach out to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to determine if they are eligible to apply for this

opportunity. After the application submission deadline of March 31, 2023, an initial review of each application will be conducted to be sure the entity applying is eligible under the following provisions



Eligible Organizations

Veterans' organizations that are not specifically incorporated under 26 USC 501(c)(19) or (23) can still be eligible so long as their membership contains the following individuals:

- ✓ at least 75 percent of the members of which are past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States and substantially all of the other members of which are individuals who are cadets or are spouses, widows, widowers, ancestors, or lineal descendants of past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States or of cadets; OR
- ✓ more than 75 percent of the members of which are present or past members of the Armed Forces and a principal purpose of which is to provide insurance and other benefits to veterans or their dependents.

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Veterans' organizations that are not specifically incorporated under 26 USC 501(c)(19) or (23) can still be eligible so long as their membership contains the following individuals:

- at least 75 percent of the members of which are past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States and substantially all of the other members of which are individuals who are cadets or are spouses, widows, widowers, ancestors, or lineal descendants of past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States or of cadets; OR
- more than 75 percent of the members of which are present or past members of the Armed Forces and a principal purpose of which is to provide insurance and other benefits to veterans or their dependents.

It is highly recommended that potential applicants should consult with their attorney, accountant and/or reach out to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to determine if they are eligible to apply for this opportunity.



Eligible and Ineligible Projects

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Eligible Project Start & End Date Range

April 1, 2023 – April 1, 2027

VNCP funds may only be used for:

- > Design, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or expansion of an Eligible Facility;
- Purchase of equipment for an Eligible Facility, provided the equipment has a useful life of 10 years or more;
- > Certain construction soft costs including architectural, engineering & design.

There is no requirement that the project be shovel ready, with all plans and permits approved, by March 31, 2023.

Examples of eligible projects are located in Appendix A of the RGA.

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Eligible Projects are projects that have a start date of April 1, 2023 and are completed by April 1, 2027.

While a project may begin on April 1, 2023 and prior to VNCP awards being announced in June 2023, we strongly encourage organizations to start their projects <u>after</u> awards are made in June 2023 and a fully executed contract is provided to the organization. The reason being is that there is no guarantee of award or a fully executed contract will be provided to an organization as several reviews need to be undertaken prior to a contract being executed. Therefore, please keep this in mind and plan accordingly.

- Funds may be used for the items listed on this slide design, construction, rehabilitation or expansion of an eligible facility; purchase of equipment for an eligible facility provided the equipment has a useful life of 10 years or more; and certain construction soft costs (architectural, engineering and design costs associated with the project).
- ➤ Design may start before April 1, 2023, however, the costs associated with the design will not be reimbursable under VNCP.
- ➤ Costs will need to be incurred with a qualified professional someone who is authorized to do business in the State of New York; and is preferably not a member of the veterans' organization. Applicants must abide by the organization's policies, procedures, and bylaws throughout the process. This includes selecting vendors as MWBE/SDVOB

- requirements may need to be complied with which will be discussed later in this presentation.
- ➤ No requirement exists that the project be shovel ready, or that all plans and permits are approved by March 31, 2023.
- Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to repaving the parking lot, improvements to the walkway, renovating the restrooms or kitchen.
- Additional examples of eligible type projects can also be viewed in **Appendix A** of the RGA.
- Again, please keep in mind that equipment must have a useful life of 10 years or more. Examples include but not limited to fixed appliances (i.e., refrigerators, stoves) and fixed backup generators.



Eligible and Ineligible Projects

INELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDS

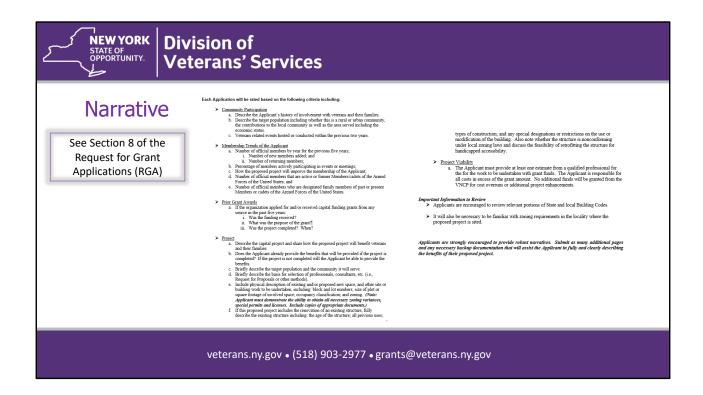
Ineligible uses of VNCP funds include, but are not limited to:

- > Working capital, including funds required to operate a facility, such as staff, rent, utilities and supplies.
- > Grant writing, administration, legal, insurance and other fees.
- > Long term debt, including financing of machinery or equipment
- > Lease payments
- General maintenance & repairs, including, but not limited to, routine painting, caulking and surface coating
- > Project management fees that are not clearly documented and tied to a specific task

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Now that we've gone over what types of projects may be eligible, what types of projects are ineligible:

- Funds may not be used towards costs outlined on this slide:
 - Vehicle purchases outlined in the FAQs.
 - Purchase of real property outlined in the FAQs.
 - Working Capital salaries, rent/lease payments, utilities, supplies, etcetera.
 - o Grant writing, administration, legal, insurance other similar type fees.
 - Long term debt (a loan that has a term of more than 1 year) including financing of machinery or equipment.
 - General maintenance and repairs (painting walls, roof repair, having the HVAC cleaned, repairing a pothole in the parking lot or a crack in the walkway are not considered capital).
 - Project Management fees that are not clearly documented and tied to a specific task.
 - Equipment that was purchased prior to April 1, 2023, or that has a useful life of less than 10 years. Examples include technology equipment (i.e., computers, monitors)



- ➤ When applying for the VNCP opportunity, please print, complete and have an authorized officer sign the VNCP Application that is provided in the RGA.
- An authorized officer should be someone who can bind the organization into a contract. If you are not sure who an authorized officer is, please check your bylaws or consult with your attorney.
- Make sure that all items in the VNCP Application are addressed and any documents are appended to the application including a **robust narrative**.
- The narrative should touch upon the criteria outlined in Section 8 of the RGA. The VNCP Application (which will include the information entered into Grants Gateway when applying for the opportunity) will be rated on the following scoring components:
 - o Completeness of the Application
 - o Project Eligibility, and
 - Financial Review.
- > The scoring components will be discussed shortly.

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Veterans' Services
Project Budget and Funding Requested VNCP funding between \$25,000 and \$75,000 TOTAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT BUDGET Complete the "Total Construction Project Budget" below, indicating all sources and uses of funds, including stroposed VNCP Grant as well as Applicant and other sources of funds, if applicable. * The Applicant must provide at least one current estimate from a qualified professional for the for the work to be underdoom with grant flower. * Applicant must demonstrate the ability to provide the remainder of the funds necessary to complete the Project if the total Project budget access the IVNCP and Authority and the Applicant ender the Project if the total Project budget access the IVNCP and Authority Authority and Authorit

A part of completing the VNCP Application is to complete a proposed project budget:

- The proposed Project Budget will need to be entered in the VNCP Application (as shown here) and when applying for the opportunity in Grants Gateway which we will be going over soon. Please be sure there is similarities between the two budgets.
- The Project Budget should identify all costs that will bring the project to completion and will be open/accessible to the public.
- The Project Budget should be backed up with a current estimate/quote from a qualified professional (someone who is authorized to do business in the State of New York).
- ➤ There is no match requirements for this grant program, however, please keep in mind Eligible Applicants must also demonstrate the ability to provide the remainder of the funds necessary to complete the project if the total project budget exceeds the VNCP award.
- ➤ There is no requirement that the excess funds have to be secured by April 1, 2023, however, the Applicant will need to demonstrate the ability to provide the remainder of the funds necessary to complete the project once the VNCP grant has been awarded.
- A financial analysis will be undertaken in connection with each VNCP Application as well as prior to a contract being issued.

Note: If the Applicant is uncertain if they will have the additional funds above the VNCP funding to complete the project, the Applicant may want to submit an Application for a

smaller award to fund a smaller project.

We are going to go over two examples:

First is the budget depicted on this slide and in the VNCP Application. The project is Roof Replacement which is the Use or it could have been listed as Renovation. The total cost of the project is \$28,000. The organization is requesting \$25,000 in VNCP funding and the organization has decided to pay for \$3,000 from funds available in the organization's bank account. When uploading the Application into the Gateway the organization will also need to provide proof that the \$3,000 is available for this specific project as denoted in the Project Budget. Depending on the policies and procedures and/or bylaws of the organization this could take the form of a Board resolution outlining where the funds would be coming from and a bank statement; or it could take the form of a letter from the organization's Treasurer stating where the funds would be coming from accompanied by a bank statement. As a reminder, applicants must abide by its policies, procedures, and bylaws throughout the process.

The next example is expansion of a facility. Because this is a multifaceted project the Uses can be in simple terms such as Design; Construction (which may include site development; construction, electrical, plumbing) and Other (which may fixtures, furniture and equipment). All of these Uses are required in order to complete the expansion of the facility even though some of the costs may not be eligible for reimbursement under VNCP. VNCP funds can be used on one Use or the funds could be split across the Uses; however, it is recommended that VNCP funds be used for only one Use. As a reminder, applicants must abide by its policies, procedures, and bylaws throughout the process.



Scoring

	Scoring Component	Maximum Points Available (100)	Points
1.	Completeness of Application	10	
2.	Eligible Project	60	
3.	Financial Review	30	

- · Each Application will be initially screened to verify that the veterans' organization is eligible
- Application must receive a minimum average score of 70
- residual funds remaining shall be awarded through another RGA opportunity or DVS may make an award to the next Applicant(s) receiving the next highest score(s).

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Each assigned Scorer will be scoring each component of the VNCP Application (including the information provided on Grants Gateway):

- Once it has been confirmed that the Applicant was eligible to apply for the VNCP Opportunity, Scorers will be assigned to conduct a review.
- ➤ The details for scoring each application will be provided to applicants on the DVS website New York State Division of Veterans Services | (ny.gov) along with this presentation.
- ➤ The Score Sheet provides further details on how each component will be reviewed and scored. The three components as noted on this slide are:
 - Completeness of Application 10 pts
 - ➤ Eligible Project 60 pts
 - > Financial Review 30 pts
- ➤ While some of the information provided in the Application will not be scored, if an Application is missing critical elements, it may be rejected without further notice to the Applicant.
- ➤ In order to receive an award, an Application must receive a minimum average score of 70.

➤ At a minimum, Gateway status will be confirmed prior to eligibility review, Application scoring, grant award, contract execution and all payment requisitions. Please be sure that your Grants Gateway document vault remains exempt or prequalified throughout the process.



Applying for VNCP

Document Vault:

Applying for Grant: Apply for a Grant: NYS Grants Gateway - YouTube

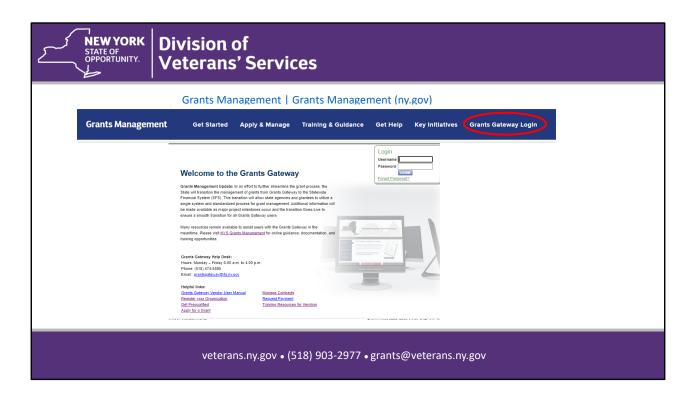
Grantee Contract Signatory Role needed to Apply

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Now that the organization has:

- o the VNCP Application prepared with any necessary backup documentation; and
- The Grants Gateway Document Vault is exempt or prequalified Document Vault how does the organization apply for the VNCP opportunity?
- NYS Grants Management provides a video on how to apply for an opportunity (the link is noted in this slide), however, please be aware that the video does not go over the specifics of applying for this VNCP Opportunity rather it is a generic video.
- ➤ The next several slides we will be discussing what steps are necessary to apply specifically for the VNCP opportunity
- ➤ We previously discussed during this presentation that the **Grantee Delegated Administrator** will need to add a **Grantee Contract Signatory** (this role is necessary so that an organization may apply for opportunities (not just the VNCP opportunity) and **should be someone who can bind the organization into a contract**).
- ➤ You may refer back in this presentation on how to do this or reach out to NYS Grants Management's Help Desk.
- > Please be aware that there are multiple ways to navigate the system. What will be

discussed in this presentation is one way. If you find another way to navigate the system, it isn't necessarily wrong.



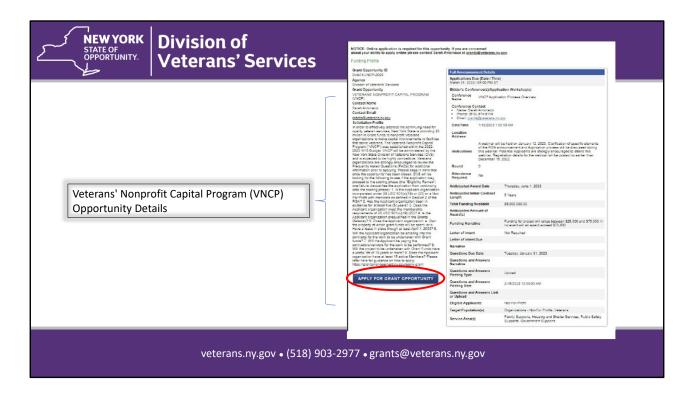
To apply for the VNCP opportunity, the organization's **Grantee Contract Signatory** will:

- ➤ Open the NYS Grants Management website (link provided in this slide) and select **Grants Gateway Login**.
- > The **Grantee Contract Signatory** will enter their username and permanent password.
 - Any time an Organization Member role is assigned to a member a username and temporary password is sent in two separate emails – the temporary password will need to be changed within 24 hours of receiving that temporary password.
 - If the Organization Member did not change the temporary password or has forgotten their password they may need to select "Forget Password". If this function is used, the system will send the Organization Member a new temporary password which will need to be changed to a permanent password within 24 hours.



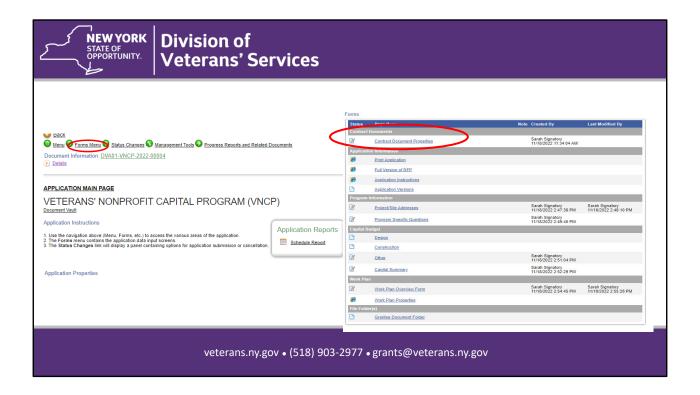
Once the **Grantee Contract Signatory** is logged into Grants Gateway, a welcome page will open similar to the image on the left of this slide.

- ➤ The Grantee Contract Signatory will want to navigate and select View Opportunities under View Available Opportunities.
- ➤ This will navigate the Grantee Contract Signatory to a search screen.
- ➤ In the search screen the Grantee Contract Signatory will search for the VNCP opportunity (using the acronym VNCP should be sufficient as noted in this slide)
- ➤ When the results appear, **select the VNCP program**.



When the VNCP opportunity opens the details of the opportunity will be made available (as depicted in the image on this slide) and the **Grantee Contract Signatory** should now see the **"Apply for Grant Opportunity"** selection.

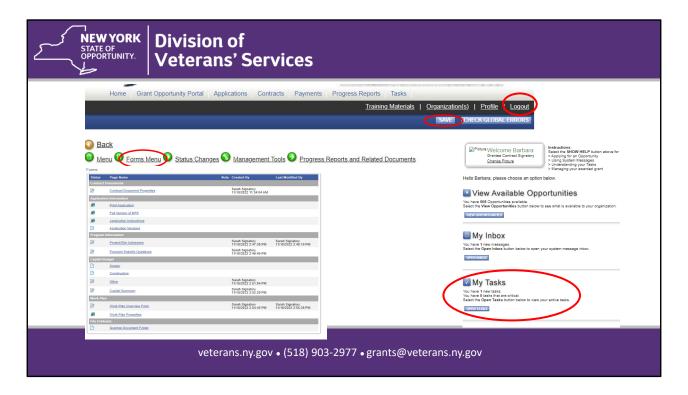
- ➤ If you are not seeing "Apply for Grant Opportunity" it is because the Organization Member is logged in using the wrong role (i.e., Grantee Delegated Administrator is signed in instead of the Grantee Contract Signatory).
 - The Grantee Delegated Administrator can check what roles have been assigned by logging into Grants Gateway and reviewing the Organization Member page.
 - It is here that the Grantee Contract Signatory may be added, and the selected individual should be an authorized officer of the organization (someone who can bind the organization into a contract).
- The **Grantee Contract Signatory** must select "Apply for Grant Opportunity" to begin the application process in Grants Gateway.



When selecting the "Apply for Grant Opportunity", the "Application Main Page" will open which will look like the image on the left side of this slide.

- > The **Grantee Contract Signatory** will select "**Forms Menu**" at the top of the page.
- The window that opens will say **Forms** at the top of the page, but not all the Forms listed are actionable.
- Some **Forms** listed on this page will have information, some "forms" you will need to enter information and/or upload documents to and other "forms" you will do nothing with.

The "Contract Disbursement Properties" is a "form" where nothing will be needed at this time.



- The **Grantee Contract Signatory** may go in and out of the different "forms" by going back and forth utilizing the **Forms Menu** which is at the top of each page.
- > Selecting Forms Menu will bring the Grantee Contract Signatory back to the full list of Forms as shown in the previous slide.
- ➤ It is highly recommended that you save each form, when applicable, so nothing is lost even if you are not done with that form. The save option is located on the blue ribbon. Please double check each section in the Forms Menu to be sure all information has been entered and documents uploaded as the organization intended prior to submitting the application.
- ➤ If the Application has already been started and the **Grantee Contract Signatory logs out**, the **Grantee Contract Signatory may return** to the application in process by **logging back into Grants Gateway**, however, this time the application that had been started will now be located under **My Tasks**.



With the **Grantee Contract Signatory logged** in:

"Contract Disbursement Properties" is a "form" where nothing will be needed at this time.

Application Information (this area is informational only – no saving necessary):

- ➤ The **Print Application** there is nothing needed here as the Application is a template in the RGA or can be found under the Application Instructions.
- The **Full Version of RFP** (RFP is the equivalent of the RGA) is another location where the RGA can be viewed.
- The **Application Instructions** is where **the Application Criteria** can be viewed.
- Then **Application Versions** there is nothing needing to be done in this "form".
- ➤ Once the **Grantee Contract Signatory** is done reviewing the Application Information area, return to the **Forms Menu** where we will now move onto the next area of **Forms**.



Next go to the **Program Information** section.

Project/Site Addresses form requires information to be entered. When the **Project/Site Addresses** form opens, the **Grantee Contract Signatory** will:

- ➤ Enter the Name/Description which should be consistent in the VNCP Application as well as the other Forms in Grants Gateway.
- > Project Statewide should default to "No" and remain "No" as the organization's project should be for one location.
- Even though the address, city, county, zip code and Regional Council are not required fields (required fields are denoted by the red asterisk), it is helpful for reporting purposes to have this information completed. If this information is missing in Grants Gateway, this could potentially reduce the points a scorer gives for the Completeness of Application since the Application consist of uploading information/documentation to this site including the VNCP Application.
- ➤ The **Regional Council** is a NYS Regional Council based on the county where the project will be located. The **Regional Council listing** can be found at the website link noted on this slide. Review the Regional Council listing and locate the County in the listing where the project will be located. This Regional Council is what should be entered into the Regional Council field (i.e., a veterans' organization has a project that will be completed in Albany County will belong to the Capital District Regional Council; Capital District is

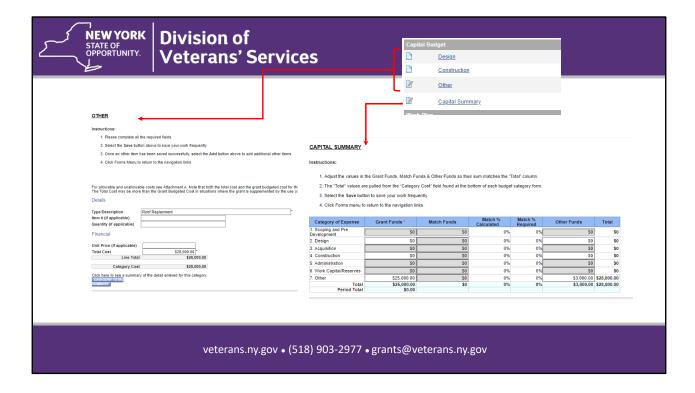
what should be selected in the Regional Council field).

➤ When done entering information in this form, please **save** your work and proceed to the **Program Specific Questions.**

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Division of Veterans' Service	NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Veterans' Services		
Project/Site Addresses Project/Site Addresses Program Specific Questions	Instructions: 1. Please complete all the required fields. 2. Select the Seve button above to save your work frequently. 2. Select the Seve button above to save your work frequently. 2. Select the Seve button above to save your work frequently. 2. Select the Seve button above to save your work frequently. 2. Select the Seve button above to save your work frequently. 2. See Section 8 of the Request for Grant Applications (RGA) located under the Forms Menu under the Application Instructions 1. Organization Prequalified or Exempt in Grants Gateway * Ves 2. Upload a Completed and Signed Application in a Non-Secured PDF Format (Application is Located in the Forms Menu under Application Instructions) 1. Upload * 1. Organization Prequalified or Exempt in Grants Gateway * 1. Upload * 1. Organization Instructions 2. Upload * 2. Organization in a Non-Secured PDF Format as Described in the Application Instructions Located in the Forms Menu under Application Instructions 2. Upload * 2. Organization Instructions 3. Upload * 4. Upload * 4. Upload * 4. Upload * 5. Upload * 6. Organization Doesn't Plan on Occupying 100% of the Project Facility Attach an Explanation Here in a Non-Secured PDF Format Upload * 6. Upload * 6. Organization Doesn't Plan on Occupying 100% of the Project Facility Attach an Explanation Here in a Non-Secured PDF Format Upload * 6. Upload * 6. Organization Doesn't Plan on Occupying 100% of the Project Facility Attach an Explanation Here in a Non-Secured PDF Format Upload * 2. Organization Doesn't Plan on Occupying 100% of the Project Facility Attach an Explanation Here in a Non-Secured PDF Format Upload * 6. Upload * 6. Organization Doesn't Plan on Occupying 100% of the Project Facility Attach an Explanation Here in a Non-Secured PDF Format Upload * 6. Upload * 6. Organization Doesn't Plan on Occupying 100% of the Project Facility Attach an Explanation Here in a Non-Secured PDF Format Upload * 6. Organization Instructions		
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Next the **Grantee Contract Signatory** will open the **Program Specific Questions. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE GRANTS GATEWAY APPLICATION PROCESS.**

- ➤ **Project Title** should be the same Project Description used in the Project Location/Address form (again a reminder to be consistent in the VNCP Application and the Grants Gateway).
- ➤ Provide responses to items 1-4 and 6 and upload the requested documents accordingly.
- ➤ If the veterans' organization is not exempt or prequalified in Grants Gateway when you get to this point, it may be beneficial to wait until the Document Vault is exempt or prequalified to complete this section as it is required that organizations be exempt or prequalified throughout the process including applying for the opportunity. Document Vault status will be verified routinely from the time the application is submitted until the organization has been awarded and subsequently has fully drawn on the grant award.
- ➤ #5 is only required if the organization is not planning to occupy 100% of the project facility, meaning there are other organizations that do business in the facility (i.e., the veterans' organization owns a small strip mall and a flower shop leases a portion of the facility).
- ➤ When each item is entered in this form, it is strongly recommended that the Grantee Contract Signatory save the document so that information/documentation is not lost.
- Navigate back to the Forms Menu.

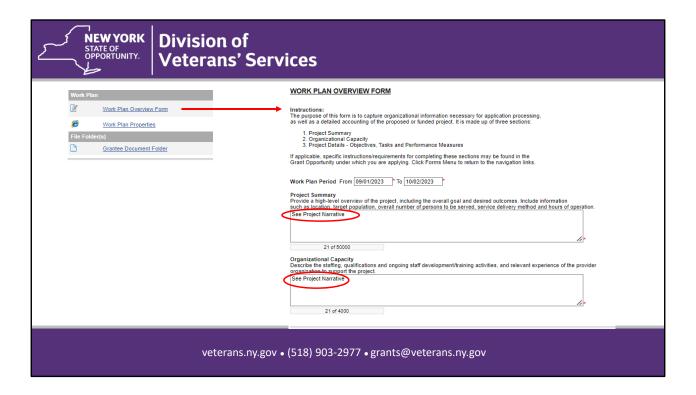


Next is the **Capital Budget** section – as previously noted, the proposed Project Budget entered in the VNCP Application will also need to be entered in this area.

- Choose the Use in the Capital Budget area (Design, Construction and/or Other) when entering the proposed Project Budget. Each Use will load a page similar to the image shown on this slide.
 - If a project consists of costs associated with all three uses then select each use separately (Construction, Design and Other) and enter the Type Description and the total cost for each Use. Be sure to save the data after entering the information into each section.
 - If the proposed project consists of one Use, then select the use that best describes the proposed Use. Enter the Type Description and the total cost for the use. Then save the data after entering the information into this section.
 - Each project will be different, refer back to the Application Project Budget when entering this information and use your best judgement on what Uses need to be selected in this area.
- ➤ Once each Uses has been selected, data entered and saved, the **Grantee Contract Signatory will next open the Capital Summary** form.
- ➤ The **Capital Summary** is where the organization will **identify the funding sources** (Grant Funds or Other Funds) for each task(s). The form will auto calculate once the form is **saved**.

In the **example** we have been utilizing through this presentation "Roof Replacement" could be entered into either the Construction or Other task because it is an upgrade or renovation to the facility.

- ➤ In this example "Other" was selected.
 - o Roof Replacement was then entered into the Type Description; and
 - \$28,000 was be entered as the Total Cost.
 - Since these are the only two required fields (denoted by the red asterisk), the information was saved; and the Grantee Contract Signatory returned back to the Capital Budget main screen.
- Next open the Capital Summary. This is where the Grantee Contract Signatory will enter the remaining details of the proposed Project Budget.
- ➤ When the Capital Summary window opens it will identify the total cost under each task, again in this scenario the task of "Other" shows a total of \$28,000 (the amount previously entered in the Other form).
- The **Grantee Contract Signatory** will now enter how much is being requested under the **Grant Funds** next to the task of Other in the white cell in this case it is \$25,000.
- ➤ Then the **Grantee Contract Signatory** will enter how much the organization is willing to fund under **Other Funds** (white cell on the same row as the task Other) in this case \$3,000.
- ➤ Once the **Grantee Contract Signatory** has identified all of the funding sources, **save** the data and return back to the **Forms Menu**.
- ➤ As a reminder, the Capital Summary should match the proposed Project Budget in the VNCP Application and the VNCP Application should provide information about the availability of other funding.



After the Capital Summary is completed, return to the **Forms Menu**:

- ➤ The Grantee Contract Signatory will now open Work Plan Overview Form and enter the Work Plan Period (anticipated start and end dates of the project which should be between April 1, 2023 and April 1, 2027).
- ➤ In the **Project Summary and the Organizational Capacity questions**, you may provide a response in the boxes provided or note in the boxes that you've provided to these questions Project Narrative.
- ➤ Be sure to **save** after the information has been entered and navigate back to the **Forms**Menu.
- ➤ There is nothing the applicant needs to do in the **Work Plan Properties** form at this time.



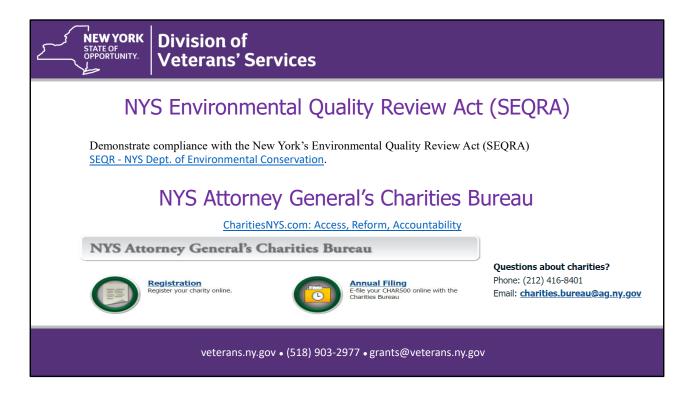
Once the **Grantee Contract Signatory** has completed all required forms, you may return to **Main Menu** and submit the application.

To submit the application the Grantee Contract Signatory will:

- Select Status Changes
- > Then under **Application Submitted** select **Apply Status**.
- > The **Grantee Contract Signatory** will either Agree or Not Agree to the attestation.
- Agreeing (which is only recommended after double checking all entries in Grants Gateway) to the attestation, the organization is attesting that the organization will comply with MWBE requirements (which is inclusive of SDVOB), there are no false statements and that the Grantee Contract Signatory is authorized to submit the application.
- ➤ Applications must be uploaded by March 31st an organization may only upload one Application. If more than one Application is submitted by an organization, the Application submitted the earliest will be considered.
- ➢ If an organization wishes to cancel the submission of their Application, the Grantee Contract Signatory may do so by selecting Status Change (prior to March 31, 2023) and under Application Canceled select Apply Status. If an organization cancels the Application submitted, the Application will no longer be usable. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that the Grantee Contract Signatory double check all sections prior to submitting an Application.

J	ch will outline	р	

➤ Awards will be made no earlier than June 1, 2023. An award letter will be sent



While **not** a **part** of the **VNCP** Application process, we did want to make veterans' organizations aware of certain requirements once an award has been made.

- In order to receive any State funding, prospective projects have to demonstrate their compliance with the New York's Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). There is a link in this slide that will provide some insight into what will be necessary. This may also require sign off by NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation. I want to reiterate SEQR compliance is not necessary during the VNCP Application process but rather during the review process once an award has been made. Staff will provide guidance to the veterans' organization regarding this review.
- In addition, any veterans' organization awarded under VNCP will be required to register with the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau (website link is provided on this slide).
- ➤ If you need assistance, the Charities Bureau contact information is located on this slide.



Vendor Responsibility Questionnaire (VRQ)

Awardees may need to complete and maintain a Vendor Responsibility Questionnaire (VRQ)

Information on filing a VRQ can be located on OSC's Website File Your Vendor Responsibility Questionnaire | Office of the New York State Comptroller

If additional assistance is needed OSC's Help Desk Information:

Email: ITServiceDesk@osc.ny.gov

Phone: 1-866-370-4672

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- ➤ In accordance with the New York State Comptroller guidelines, if a veterans' organization receives VNCP funding, they may also be required to submit and maintain a Vendor Responsibility Questionnaire ("VRQ") information on the VRQ is located at the website link provided on this slide.
- > Unfortunately, there are no videos or tutorials on the VRQ.
- Assistance on the VRQ is available by reaching out to OSC's help desk.
- ➤ The completion and review of a VRQ may be necessary as part of the review process once an award is granted.



Prevailing Wage; Minority and/or Women Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE); and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business (SDVOB)

Since the maximum VNCP grant award is \$75,000, it is expected that VNCP contracts will not require the utilization of prevailing wage.

SDVOB Goal is 6%

MWBE Goals:

☐ 18% - Minority-owned Business Enterprise (MBE) participation;

□ 12% - Women-owned Business (WBE) participation; and

on any grant award in excess of \$25,000 for commodities and services and \$100,000 for construction.

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Prevailing Wage

 Given that the maximum VNCP grant award is \$75,000, it is expected that VNCP contracts will not require the utilization of prevailing wage.

MWBE/SDVOB

- VNCP projects that would expend more than \$25,000 on equipment or services, (i.e., architect or engineering, appliance purchases), may be tasked with abiding by the State's MWBE/SDVOB requirements which is 18% Minority-owned Business Enterprise; 12% Women-owned Business; and 6% Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business.
- At a minimum, all VNCP recipients would be expected to use good faith/best efforts in utilizing MWBE/SDVOB contractors and vendors (which will be discussed on a future slide). It's imperative the organization document what has been done to meet the requirements.

NOTE: that the receipt of VNCP funds in no way waives any existing procurement requirements a veterans' organization may have within its bylaws or under any rules, regulations, policies or procedures outside of this grant opportunity.



MWBE Contractors

It is recommended that veterans' organizations:

- o search the MWBE database on the Empire State Development's (ESD) website;
- o solicit firms:
 - from the database;
 - conduct outreach through publications
- o structure the contract such that MWBE firms are utilized.

At a minimum, all VNCP recipients would be expected to use good faith/best efforts in utilizing MWBE contractors and vendors (which will be discussed on a future slide). It's imperative the organization document what has done to meet the requirements.

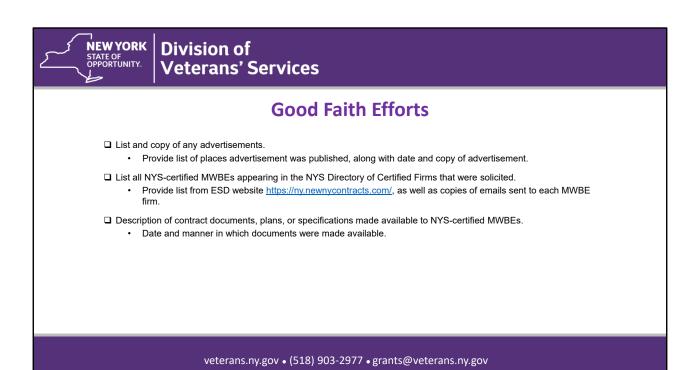


SDVOB Contractors

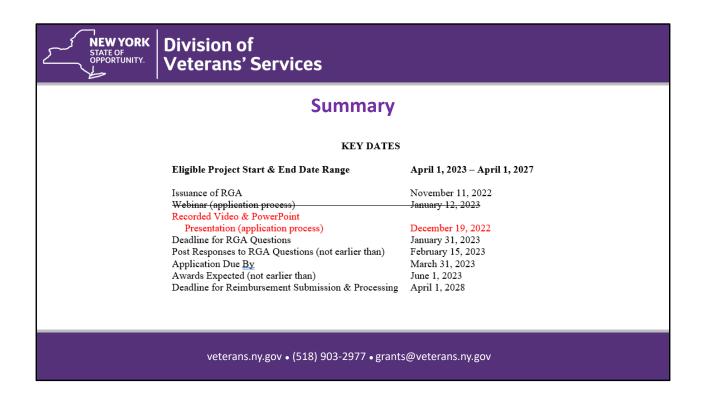
It is recommended that veterans' organizations:

- o search the SDVOB database on the Office of General Services (OGS) website;
- o solicit firms:
 - from the database;
 - conduct outreach through publications
- o structure the contract such that SDVOB firms are utilized.

At a minimum, all VNCP recipients would be expected to use good faith/best efforts in utilizing SDVOB contractors and vendors (which will be discussed on a future slide). It's imperative the organization document what has done to meet the requirements.



If the organization is unable to reach the MWBE/SDVOB goals (18% Minority-owned Business Enterprise; 12% Women-owned Business; and 6% Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business), the organization must retain such good faith/best efforts documentation for auditing purposes.



In summary:

- The Grantee Agency Delegated Administrator should start the Grants Gateway Document Vault process as soon as possible.
- The veterans' organization should Review the Request for Grant Applications (RGA) to determine the organization's eligibility and whether the project being considered is also eligible.
- Be sure the organization has a **Grantee Contract Signatory role assigned to an authorized officer as an Organization Member in Grants Gateway.**
- The **Grantee Contract Signatory** should gather the necessary information/documentation to complete the application, then subsequently visit and upload the application into the Grants Gateway as described in this presentation.
- ➤ It is the responsibility of each Applicant to see that Applications are uploaded prior to 4:00 pm on March 31, 2023. DVS will not consider Applications that are late due to delivery delays or technical difficulties on the part of the Applicant. DVS reserves the

right to:

- Reject any or all Applications received in response to this RGA.
- Award any remaining funds under another RGA at a future date or be given to the next veterans' organization on the score list.
- When applying for the opportunity keep in mind organizations must abide by SEQRA and filing with the NYS Attorney General's Charities Bureau; and may be required to abide by MWBE/SDVOB.
- As a reminder this is an open competitive procurement. Any specific questions about the opportunity, eligibility, etcetera will need to be submitted during the Questions and Answers period to grants@veterans.ny.gov. Questions submitted by January 31, 2023, and responses will be posted to Grants Gateway no earlier than February 15, 2023.
- The VNCP awards will be announced no earlier than June 1, 2023.
- Veterans' organizations awarded a VNCP grant will receive an award letter outlining the next steps.