FREE GUIDE

Veteran Grants and Funding Guide (Free PDF)

A dated guide that separates what veteran-owned businesses and veteran-serving nonprofits can look for, with scam warning signs, a fit worksheet and a search log.

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> This guide covers two different searches: funding for a business owned by a veteran, and grants for a nonprofit that serves veterans. The sources and the rules are different, so the guide keeps them apart. A funder's or agency's own current instructions always come first.

Checked November 2026. Programs and rules change, so confirm on the official site.

Which search is yours

- ☐ I own, or am starting, a for-profit business and I am a veteran. Use Part A
- ☐ We are a nonprofit, or a group working with one, that serves veterans or their families. Use Part B

Part A. Veteran-owned businesses

Start with an honest picture. SBA.gov says the Small Business Administration does not provide grants for starting and expanding a business. It says SBA grants go to nonprofits, resource partners and educational organizations, with a small number of programs for specific purposes such as research and development. Most of what SBA.gov describes for veterans is training, counseling, help with federal contracting and loans.

What SBA.gov describes	What it is	Is it a grant to my business
Boots to Business	Entrepreneurship training that is part of the Department of Defense Transition Assistance Program. Boots to Business Reboot extends it to veterans of all eras	No. It is training
Veterans Business Outreach Centers	Centers that offer business plan workshops, concept assessments, mentorship and training	No. It is counseling and training
Veteran entrepreneurship training programs	Specialized training that SBA funds for service members and veterans, including programs for women veterans and service-disabled veterans	No. SBA funds the training provider
SBA loan programs and Lender Match	Loan programs and a tool for finding lenders. SBA.gov also lists the Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan program	No. Loans are repaid
Veteran small business certification	SBA certifies veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses so they can compete for certain federal contracts	No. A contract is payment for goods or services

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Other places a business owner can look, as categories only:

- Your state and local economic development offices, which sometimes run their own small business programs
- Business plan competitions and private small business grant contests. Read the rules and who runs them before you enter
- A lender or a free business counselor who can explain loan options in plain terms

Which of these I will follow up on:

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Part B. Nonprofits serving veterans

Federal agency grants

The Department of Veterans Affairs funds some services through community organizations. VA's website describes these two programs:

- **Supportive Services for Veteran Families.** VA says these grants go to organizations to provide housing stability services to low-income veteran families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
- **Grant and Per Diem.** VA says this program awards grants to community-based organizations to offer transitional supportive housing

These are large, competitive federal programs with detailed requirements. Read the current funding notice before deciding to apply. Other federal agencies also fund work that reaches veterans, in areas such as employment, health and housing. Search Grants.gov with words like "veteran" plus your service area, and read the full notice for anything that looks like a match.

State and local government

- [ ] Checked our state veterans affairs agency for grant programs
- [ ] Checked county and city veteran services offices
- [ ] Asked which local agencies pass federal funds to community groups

Foundations and corporate giving, as categories

- Community foundations in your area, some of which hold funds for veterans or military families
- Private and family foundations whose stated priorities include veterans, or the service you provide (housing, mental health, employment, legal aid)
- Corporate giving programs, especially companies with veteran employee groups or a location near you
- Veterans service organizations and their local posts or chapters, which sometimes make small grants or partner on projects

Many funders do not have a "veterans" category. A housing funder may fund veteran housing. Search by the service as well as by the population.

Describing veteran impact respectfully and with evidence

- [ ] We describe veterans as people with skills and goals, not as broken or as heroes
- [ ] We avoid assuming every veteran has the same needs, service history or diagnosis
- [ ] Every figure has a source and a year, and local figures come first
- [ ] We explain how veterans helped shape the program (advisory group, staff, surveys)
- [ ] Stories are used only with written consent, and details that could identify someone are removed unless they agreed
- [ ] We say how we confirm veteran status and how we protect that information
- [ ] We name our working relationships with VA facilities or other veteran providers, backed by letters
- [ ] Outcomes are things we can measure, such as housing kept or jobs started, not general gratitude

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A sentence about who we serve, written to this standard:

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Scam warning signs

Treat any offer of "free grant money" with caution. The Federal Trade Commission's consumer site, ftc.gov, says the following about government grant scams.

Warning sign	What the FTC says
You are contacted out of the blue about a grant	The government will not get in touch unexpectedly about grants
You are told to pay a fee to get a grant	No government agency will contact you to demand that you pay to get a grant
You are told to pay by gift card, cash reload card, wire transfer or cryptocurrency	That is always a scam
A caller asks for your Social Security or bank details to see if you "qualify"	Government agencies will not call, text, email or message you on social media to ask for them
The caller uses an official-sounding agency name or number	Scammers fake caller ID and invent agency names
You are offered "free money" for personal needs	Real government grants require an application and are for a specific purpose

The FTC says Grants.gov is the place to find the list of federal grants, and it is free. Report a scam to the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.

Fit worksheet

Complete one for each opportunity before you spend time on it.

Opportunity or program:

Source and date checked:

Question	Yes or no	Notes
Are we an eligible type of applicant (business, nonprofit, public agency)		
Is it a grant, a loan, a contract or training		
Does it fund our location		
Does it fund the work we plan to do		
Can we meet the registration and reporting requirements		
Is there enough time before the deadline		
Is it free of every scam warning sign above		

Decision (apply, ask a question first, or pass):

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Search log

Date	Source checked	Search words	What we found	Type (grant, loan, contract, training)	Next step

Want help with this? The Complete Grant Architect is a free 16-week grant writing course, and you can hire a grant writer for your next proposal. Both are at subthesis.com.

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