

**AGENDA
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS'
AFFAIRS**

Meeting Material Available on the web at:
<https://floridavets.org/leadership/public-notice/2024-public-notices/>

MEMBERS

**Governor Ron DeSantis
Attorney General Ashley Moody
Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis
Commissioner Wilton Simpson
December 17, 2024
9:00 A.M. (EDT)
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida**

**Contact: Roy Clark, Director of Legislative & Cabinet
Affairs (850) 782-4304**

ITEM	SUBJECT	RECOMMENDATION
1.	Respectfully request the approval of and authority to publish Notices of Proposed Rule in the Florida Administrative Register, for rules relating to the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs Dental Grant Program, and further request approval to file and certify with the Secretary of State for final adoption under Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, if the substance of the proposed rule remains unchanged upon reaching the date applicable for final adoption. (ATTACHMENT 1)	RECOMMEND APPROVAL

Notice of Proposed Rule

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

RULE NO: RULE TITLE

55-15.001: Definitions

55-15.002: Purpose

55-15.003: Program Description

55-15.004: Veteran Eligibility Requirements

55-15.005: Grantee Application Requirements

55-15.006: Grantee Workplan Requirements

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: To help Florida veterans gain greater access to routine dental care

SUMMARY: Florida Veterans Dental Care Grant Program

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COSTS: No Statement of Estimated Regulatory Cost was prepared. Any person who wishes to provide information regarding a statement of estimated regulatory costs or provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days of this notice.

SPECIFIC AUTHORITY: 295.157(5) FS.

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 295.157 FS.

IF REQUESTED WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE, A HEARING WILL BE SCHEDULED AND ANNOUNCED IN FAW.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS: Dennis Baker, (850) 782-4302

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS:

55-15.001 Definitions.

For the Purposes of this rule, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Grantees" means Organization(s) receiving grant funding under this rule.
- (2) "Awardees" means Such dental practices, or individual dentists selected by the Grantees to provide services through the Veterans Dental Care Grant Program.
- (3) "Program" means Veterans Dental Care Grant Program.
- (4) "FVF" means the Florida Veterans Foundation.
- (5) "Veteran" means the same as the definition located in section 1.01(14), F.S.
- (6) "FDVA" means the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs.
- (7) "FBD" means the Florida Board of Dentistry.
- (8) "VA" means the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Rulemaking Authority 295.157(5) FS. Law Implemented 295.157 F.S. History-New XX-XX-XXXX.

55-15.002 Purpose.

Section 295.157, F.S., establishes the Veterans Dental Care Grant Program. The Program seeks to help Florida veterans enjoy greater access to routine dental care. The Florida Legislature found that veterans are not afforded dental care after serving in the U.S. Armed Forces unless they are totally and permanently disabled or have a direct service-connected injury impacting their oral health. The program will expand access to such services through a regionally responsive network of dental care providers throughout Florida.

Rulemaking Authority 295.157(5) FS. Law Implemented 295.157 FS. History-New XX-XX-XXXX.

55-15.003 Program Description.

(1) The FVF will oversee the operation of the Program, which is subject to an appropriation by the Legislature and will serve veterans during the annual funding period. To administer the Program, the FVF will award grants to eligible nonprofits with experience providing veterans with dental care. Any organization that receives funding shall only contract with dental practices or individual dentists currently licensed and in good standing with the FBD.

(2) The FVF, in consultation with the FDVA, a not-for-profit organization that provides charitable dental care, and a dentist in good standing with the FBD, will select Grantees based on a prospective Grantee's ability to facilitate covered services through Awardees to eligible veterans living in one or more of Florida's numerous regions.

(3) The FVF will ensure that Program grant funds are allocated proportionately based on the geographic distribution of the state's veteran population. Therefore, the FVF will seek to select one or more eligible nonprofit organizations with experience in providing dental care to veterans based on their geographic service area or their demonstrated abilities to provide dental care to the required areas of Florida.

(4) Grant applications under the Program will be awarded until funds for the appropriated year are expended.

Rulemaking Authority 295.157(5) FS. Law Implemented 295.157 FS. History-New XX-XX-XXXX.

55-15.004 Veteran Eligibility Requirements.

To qualify for services under the Program, veterans must provide documentation showing that they meet the following requirements:

(1) Must have been issued a DD-214, NGB 22, or Certificate of Discharge.

(2) Must reside in Florida.

(3) Must be at a 300% Poverty Level or below as defined by the federal government, which can be found online at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty>, at the time of their application.

(4) Must be less than 100% service-connected disabled.

(5) Must not have a direct service-connected injury impacting their oral health.

Rulemaking Authority 295.157(5) FS. Law Implemented 295.157 FS. History-New XX-XX-XXXX.

55-15.005 Grantee Application Requirements.

Organizations applying to be a Grantee will be required to do the following:

(1) Submit their Florida Veterans' Foundation Dental Program Grant Application (Form DPA24-1012) incorporated herein by reference to the FVF no later than a date set by FDVA. The documents needed to apply for Grantee status can be downloaded from the FVF Website, <https://www.helpflvets.org/>, and then emailed back to the FVF at fvf@fdva.fl.gov.

(2) Demonstrate that they can facilitate dental care services, including dental maintenance and disease elimination, diagnostics, and dental hygiene for veterans through qualified prospective Awardees.

(3) Coordinate with pertinent organizations to assess veteran dental needs in their geographic area of responsibility.

Rulemaking Authority 295.157(5) FS. Law Implemented 295.157 FS. History-New XX-XX-XXXX.

55-15.006 Grantee Workplan Requirements.

To receive a distribution of grant funds, Grantees must have completed the following requirements:

(1) Submitted their Florida Veterans' Foundation Dental Program Grant Application (Form DPA24-1012) as revised, based on the award amount offered to Grantee, and incorporated herein by reference to the FVF online no more than thirty (30) days after notice of award. The documents needed to apply for grant funding can be downloaded from the FVF Website, <https://www.helpflvets.org/>, and then emailed back to the FVF at fvf@fdva.fl.gov.

(2) Received confirmation from the FVF that they can facilitate dental care services including dental maintenance and disease elimination, or diagnostics and dental hygiene for veterans through qualified prospective Awardees.

(3) Coordinated with pertinent organizations that veteran dental needs in their geographic area of responsibility still need to be addressed.

Rulemaking Authority 295.157(5) FS. Law Implemented 295.157 FS. History-New XX-XX-XXXX.

NAME OF PERSON ORIGINATING PROPOSED RULE: Roy Clark

NAME OF SUPERVISOR OR PERSON WHO APPROVED THE PROPOSED RULE: Bob Asztolas

DATE PROPOSED RULE APPROVED BY AGENCY HEAD: December 4th, 2024

DATE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT PUBLISHED IN FAR: _____, 2024