

06/01/2022

Dr. Kathryn Nichol
President, CEO
Veterans Health Administration
810 Vermont Ave NW
Washington DC., Washington, United States, 20420

RE: Grants for Transportation in Highly Rural Areas

Dear Dr. Nichol,

The Oklahoma City Vet Center is pleased to present this this proposal for your review. We look forward to partnering with you to provide a transportation program for rural areas for our veterans who live farther away from the office. Oklahoma City Vet Center has over 50 veterans who live too far away from the Vet Center to get treatment. The objective for the Oklahoma City Rural Transportation program is to give these select veterans the resources to reach our office here in Midtown Oklahoma City.

During the last year, we have been piloting the Oklahoma City Rural Transportation program with a small number of veterans living in rural towns, and have seen dramatic improvements to quality of life. Most of the veterans in the program were able to get the therapy and medication they needed to thrive post-discharge. We accomplished this by using a bill-to Uber account to get the veterans from point A to point B.

We have seen measurable success, and we are now seeking to expand our Oklahoma City Rural Transportation program to address the needs of all of our rural veterans. Our proposal requests \$35,000 in funding to obtain adequate amounts of transportation from point A to the Oklahoma City Vet Center, using transportation services like Uber.

We appreciate the Veterans Health Administration taking an interest in helping our veterans improve their quality of life by helping them get to our registered veteran's centers. Please give me a call at XXX-XXX-XXXX if you require any further information or have any questions concerning this proposal.

Thank you,

Jamal Barham
Veteran's Affairs Coordinator
Oklahoma City Vet Center
6804 N. Robinson Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK, 73116

Oklahoma City Rural Transportation program for veterans located in rural towns

Submitted to: Veterans Health Administration

Date: June 1, 2022

Jamal Barham
Veteran's Affairs Coordinator
Oklahoma City Vet Center
6804 N. Robinson Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK, 73116

Oklahoma City Rural Transportation for veterans in rural towns

Project Abstract

The Oklahoma City Vet Center in Oklahoma is seeking a grant to expand our Oklahoma City Rural Transportation program with the objective of helping local veterans reach our Oklahoma City office. The objective is, by the end of the year, to give every veteran outside of the Oklahoma City area at least 1 ride to and from our Oklahoma City office. The Oklahoma City Rural Transportation program is based on the latest research on safe and effective methods of transportation. Funding the amount of \$35,000 is requested for the creation of a transportation treasury and the creation of a department specifically for the Oklahoma City Rural Transportation program.

Statement of Need

The Oklahoma City Vet Center services 276 Veterans based in Oklahoma County. Of these 276 veterans who live in Oklahoma County, 59 of them are spread across rural neighborhoods. These veterans may or may not have reliable transportation. Other veterans in this population may or may not be fit to operate a motor vehicle. Oklahoma City Vet Center is eligible for a transportation grant if the requester is a VA accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO).

Oklahoma City Rural Transportation program

The Oklahoma City Rural Transportation (OKCRT) program utilizes a system of private transport to get our veterans from point A (their home) to point B (Oklahoma City Vet Center). The goal is to find a safe, reliable, and cost effective method for getting our veterans to their scheduled appointments. Our rural-based veterans stand to benefit from this complimentary service. If our veterans miss their appointments, they may “fall through the cracks”, meaning that they may end up receiving no further resources from our Oklahoma City Vet Center.

Goals & Objectives

The goal of the Oklahoma City Rural Transportation (OKCRT) program is to empower our veterans, who live in rural neighborhoods, with the resources they need to receive services from our Oklahoma City office.

The main objectives include:

1. Establish a Oklahoma City Rural Transportation (OKCRT) department, who solely deals with veteran transportation requests.
2. Provide safe and reliable transportation to our veterans so they can schedule appointments with confidence.
3. Send out Oklahoma City Rural Transportation (OKCRT) fliers to veterans who live in rural areas with the intention of spreading awareness to the program.

Timeline

Activities	
Submit Grant Proposal	June, 2022
Expected Grant Notification	August, 2022
Creation of Transportation Department	October, 2022
Train Transportation Department Hires	October, 2022
Creation of Transportation Treasury	November, 2022
Fliers Sent Out	November, 2022
Test Transportation Program	December, 2022
Begin First 12 Week Phase	January, 2023
Survey Veteran Well-Being	April, 2023
Prepare Results Report	June, 2023

Budget

	Price
Transportation Department Phone Specialist	\$25,000
Uber Transportation Fees	\$10,000
	\$35,000

Evaluation

We will hold two 1 month test phase of the Oklahoma City transportation (OKCRT) program: one test will be held at the end of the year, and one test will be held in April of 2023. This test phase will examine if Uber is capable of delivering safe and reliable transportation to our veterans who live in rural neighborhoods.

Staff and Organizational Information

Jamal Barham, Veteran's Affairs Coordinator, holds a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science from Charter University. He has extensive experience working with veterans with transportation issues. He is responsible for implementing the Oklahoma City Rural Transportation (OKCRT) program. He is proficient with computer hardware/software, as well as documentation.

Appendix

- Letter of Support
- Oklahoma City Rural Transportation (OKCRT) study
- Annual Report