



Veteran Initiatives RFP Q&A

February 17, 2026

TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Recorded

Please post all questions in the Q&A

Competitive Grant process



Agenda

Welcome

Overview of the RFPs

Eligible Institutions

Rubric

Where to find RFP Rubric

Important Dates

Common Pitfalls

Live Q&A



Veteran Initiatives RFPs

- **VETS Initiatives Designation Grant:** Any Tennessee public or private, not-for-profit postsecondary institution currently NOT designated as a VETS Campus. For this presentation will be referred to as **Grant 1**.
- **VETS Initiatives Grant:** Any Tennessee public or private, not-for-profit postsecondary institution currently designated as a VETS or VETS Bravo Campus. For this presentation will be referred to as **Grant 2**.



Grant 1 & 2

- Part of a \$1 million competitive grant process
- Up to \$150,000
- Up to twenty-four months (24)
- Each proposal must align with requirements outlined in the specific RFP document.



Eligible Institutions Grant 1

- Any Tennessee public or private, not-for-profit postsecondary
- Not currently designated as a VETS Campus
- Must apply to become a VETS Campus



Eligible Institutions Grant 2

- Any Tennessee public or private, not-for-profit postsecondary
- Currently designated as a VETS or VETS Bravo campus
- Must focus on mental health and well-being



Rubric

- Section 1: Program Narrative (5 pts)
- Section 2: Demonstration of Need (25 pts)
- Section 3: Program Plan (25 pts)
- Section 4: Sustainability (15 pts)
- Section 5: Budget Plan (15 pts)
- Section 6: Optional Criteria –Partnerships (up to 15 pts)



Where to find the RFPs and Rubric

<https://www.tn.gov/thec/for-institutions/veteran-initiatives.html>



Important Dates

Release Date: January 26, 2026

Notice of Intent: February 27, 2026 (Mandatory step to submit a final proposal)

Final Proposal: April 3, 2026

Contract period: July 2026- July 2028



Common pitfalls to avoid

- Missing Notice of Intent
- Sustainability plan relying on future grants
- Lack of detailed timeline or measurable objectives
- Incomplete budget or missing justification
- Submitting letters of intent in the place of MOUs



Q&A

Already received question:

Q: “I need clarification on the process. My VP and I are going to meet regarding the grant that accompanies the Vet campus designation. I want to clarify whether the Grant and designation need to be submitted at the same time?”

A: “Pertaining to the Grant, the VETS Campus application is one of the last requirements during the grant time period. The grant is designed to help you get programs and resources in place to meet the application requirements and attain the VETS Campus designation. Please let me know if you have any other questions.”



For any additional questions please contact

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Thank You!

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