

BACKGROUND

During the 2006 Legislative Session, House Bill 2754 was passed creating the Veterans Innovations Program (VIP). A total of \$2 million was provided in the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs budget to administer the program and provide direct grants through the VIP. The VIP is divided into two separate grant opportunities:

- Defender's Fund
- Competitive Grant Program

***Meeting the Needs of our
Newest Veterans:***

If you know a veteran, or their family member in need of help, please have them contact WDVA at:

1-800-562-2308 or
360-725-2200.

The bill also established a seven member Veterans Innovations Program Board to develop the Competitive Grant Program.

DEFENDER'S FUND – PROVIDING EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

One-time emergency grants of up to \$1000 are available to current or former National Guard and Reservists, activated under Title 10, experiencing financial hardships due to deployments in support of Operation Noble Eagle; Operation Iraqi Freedom, and/or Operation Enduring Freedom.

COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM – PROMOTING LONG-TERM FINANCIAL STABILITY

The Competitive Grant Program is not an emergency assistance program. The CGP focuses on activities that will help veterans and their families obtain sustainable and permanent family-wage employment.

Applicants must have served in Operation Noble Eagle; Operation Iraqi Freedom and/or Operation Enduring Freedom or have been awarded a Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

The Competitive Grant Program offers **Individual grants** that are tailored to meet the needs of the recent returned veteran or their family **in transition to employment and/or education.**

Examples of how a grant could be used:

- *Supplement wages for on-the-job training or apprenticeship programs;*
- *Tuition payments for education or certification programs; and/or*
- *Supportive services such as transportation assistance, housing, child care, or other*

BASIC HEALTH ENROLLMENT

The VIP also creates the opportunity for veterans who served or participated in Operation Noble Eagle; Operation Iraqi Freedom and/or Operation Enduring Freedom, to enroll in Washington State's Basic Health Plan.

TO FIND OUT MORE:

For an application or for additional information:

- Visit: www.dva.wa.gov;
- Call toll-free (in WA State only): 1-800-562-2308 or (360) 725-2200.

http://www.dva.wa.gov/Vet_Inn_Pro.html