

14 AUGUST, 2013



Southwest Michigan Prosperity Committee  
Micro-Grant Application

Please accept the following proposal for a \$10,000 grant to support the Southwest Michigan Veteran Community Action Team.

1. Project Description

- a. The project would be to conduct a regional Veteran Resource Fair that encompasses the support of as many veteran service providers in the region to collaborate effectively toward the “no wrong door” approach to veterans services.
- b. This project supports the Prosperity Plan on many levels.
  - i. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – this project will increase veteran housing and home acquisition through programs in the region like the SSVF homelessness program and other sanctioned efforts as well as teach and inform veterans on the use of the VA Home Loan Guarantee
  - ii. EDUCATION – Through the Employment Subcommittee of the VCAT the event will support accessibility to education, training, and apprenticeships to Veterans who otherwise were unaware of these benefits.
  - iii. INFRASTRUCTURE – This project will further bolster and solidify the VCAT’s place in the region as a one stop shop for veteran support through annual activities, and on-going service collaboration.
  - iv. RPI STRATEGIES – This project will encourage cooperation, and relationship development with government, non-profit, and for-profit organizations with a passion or mission to support veterans.
- c. This project will take place in Kalamazoo County but will be heavily marketed to the other counties in the region including, Berrien, Van Buren, Cass, St. Joe, Branch, and Calhoun counties.

2. Organization Description

- a. The Southwest Michigan Veteran Community Action Team was created in 2015 in support of the Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency’s Regional Coordinator program, and was developed to increase productive support among agencies and organizations in the region.
  - i. The Board of Directors for the SWMVCAT is made up of representatives of state and federal agencies, as well as local veteran advocates and services providers. The BoD work together on the basis of four pillars, Education, Employment, Healthcare, and Quality of Life. The leadership of the SWMVCAT has appointed fully capable Chairpersons to champion the efforts for each one of these pillars.

- ii. We are a 501c3 non-profit organization coordinated by a full time Regional Coordinator/Executive Director. We have conducted smaller events within the region that encompasses the overall goal of this one event.
- 3. Partners
  - a. Our BoD is made up of representatives of the following orgnaizations.
    - i. U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency, Volunteers of America-Supportive Services to Veterans and Families, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Carewell Services of Battle Creek, Marine Corps League of Branch County, Rep. Fred Upton's office, MDHHS Veteran Navigator Program, Michigan Works! Southwest, Kalamazoo County Veteran Affairs, Lakeland Health Systems of Benton Harbor.
    - ii. Our four subcommittees are made up of many other agencies which span 7 counties and represent nearly 300 agencies.
- 4. Project Time Line
  - a. The development phase would begin immediately, the expected event will take place in August 2020. Ongoing marketing and development would take place throughout the year.
- 5. Budget
  - a. The budget would be made up of the following rough estimates
    - i. \$2500, venue space, tent table and chairs rental, and entertainment
    - ii. \$5000, for advertising, marketing, and ad development
    - iii. \$2500 for attraction items like food, prizes, and freebies

Please consider this project as one of your grant programs for the year 2020. There have been more than one of these programs in the state in the last few years, however nothing like this has ever been done in this region. Please feel free to respond with further questions, and for further detail to the undersigned.

On behalf of the President of the Board of Directors,



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