

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Kentucky Veterans Services
(New Administrative Regulation)

17 KAR 6:020. Kentucky Women Veterans Program and coordinating committee. Administrative procedures.

RELATES TO: KRS 40.310, 40.560, 40.600

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 40.600

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 40.540 requires the department to promulgate administrative regulations required for the effective administration of KRS 40.310 through KRS 40.560. KRS 40.600 authorizes the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs to accept and expend moneys that may be appropriated by the General Assembly; and other monies received from any other source, including donations and grants and other contributions from a government unit and authorizes the department to administer the funds through the use of agency accounts. KRS 40.600 requires the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs to manage the funds and authorize expenditures. This administrative regulation also establishes a coordinating committee to make recommendations for fund expenditures and outlines the administrative procedures of the coordinating committee.

Section 1. Definitions.

- (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs.
- (2) "Coordinating Committee" means the Women Veterans Program Coordinating Committee.
- (3) "Fund" means the Kentucky Women Veterans Program Fund.
- (4) "Woman Veteran" means a woman who served in the United States Armed Forces or in forces incorporated as part of the United States Armed Forces, and who was discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

Section 2. Expenditures and Fundraising.

- (1) In accordance with this subsection and subsection (2) of this section, money appropriated from the fund shall be expended in support of the Women Veterans Program's activities or events that directly benefit women veterans, including the following activities or events:
 - (a) Educational sessions or training seminars focused on eligibility requirements for women veterans seeking federal and state veterans' benefits and services;
 - (b) Research projects focused on collecting and retaining demographic or service-connected disability data for Kentucky's women veterans;
 - (c) Dissemination of benefit information for women veterans through circulars, brochures, social media, and other media outlets;
 - (d) Annual meetings or conferences focused on engagement of Kentucky's women veterans and discussions of issues specific to women veterans;
 - (e) Job fairs, job placement services, other similar programs, or a combination of these focused on employing women veterans;
 - (f) Therapeutic opportunities focused on improving the mental and emotional wellbeing of Kentucky's women veterans;
 - (g) Entrepreneurial opportunities for women veterans seeking to establish or expand female veteran-owned businesses;
 - (h) Programs, memorials, monuments, and other projects that bring public recognition and awareness to the sacrifices, needs, and contributions of Kentucky's women

veterans.

(i) Other services designed to make gaining access to federal and state benefits and services more convenient, efficient, or feasible for Kentucky's women veterans.

(j) Costs associated with the above, such as transportation, meals, lodging, and salaries.

(2) Fundraising. If fundraising on behalf of the Women Veterans Program, the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs may accept a gift, donation, or grant from an individual, a corporation, or a government entity.

Section 3. Coordinating Committee for the Women Veterans Program.

(1) The committee shall consist of ten (10) members, including:

(a) The commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs;

(b) The women veterans program coordinator of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs;

(c) Two (2) members from state government:

1. A Senator appointed by the President of the Kentucky Senate;

2. A Representative appointed by the Speaker of the Kentucky House of Representatives.

(d) Two (2) members from public agencies that provide grants, benefits, or services to women veterans.

(e) Four (4) members from private organizations that provide grants, benefits, or service to women veterans.

(2) The commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs shall appoint the public agencies and private organizations represented on the committee.

(a) A public agency and private organization specified in subsection (1)(d) and (1)(e) of this section shall recommend two (2) members of the agency or organization to serve on to the committee.

(b) The commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs shall appoint one (1) member from each agency and each organization from the names submitted by the agencies and organizations.

(c) Where possible, at least seven (7) members of the coordinating committee shall be women veterans.

(3) Terms of members. Except in cases of retirement, resignation, or other inability or unwillingness to serve, the initial appointments to the committee shall be as established in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection.

(a) A member appointed pursuant to subsection (1)(c) of this section shall serve for a period of two (2) years.

(b) A member appointed pursuant to subsection (1)(d) and (1)(e) of this section shall serve for a period of three (3) years.

(4) The committee shall:

(a) Meet at the call of the commissioner of Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, at least once per quarter.

(b) Make recommendations for fiscally responsible uses of funds donated, gifted, or designated to the Women Veterans Program, including:

1. Propose, investigate, and approve activities that support Kentucky's women veterans;

2. Establish guidelines for approved activities, including funding parameters.

(c) Prepare meeting minutes that summarize each meeting, including recommendations made by the committee;

(d) Prepare an annual report that summarizes recommendations made by the committee and financial activities undertaken on behalf of Kentucky's women veterans;

(e) Submit an annual report by July 20th of each year to be included in the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs Annual Report.

(5) The commissioner shall assign duties as appropriate to the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs' staff or members of the coordinating committee to assist with administration of the committee.

Section 4. Coordinating Committee Procedures. Coordinating committee procedures shall be in accordance with the approved By-Laws of the Women Veterans Coordinating Committee.

This is to certify that the Executive Director of the Office of Kentucky Veteran Services and the Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs have reviewed and recommended this administrative regulation prior to its adoption, as required by KRS 156.070(4).

SILAS SESSION, Executive Director

WHITNEY ALLEN, Commissioner

TAMARA REID-MCINTOSH, Executive Director

APPROVED BY AGENCY: September 11, 2023

FILED WITH LRC: September 13, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD: A public hearing on this administrative regulation shall be held on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time at KDVA Headquarters Office, 1111 Louisville Rd., Suite B, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Individuals interested in being heard at this hearing shall notify this agency in writing by five workdays prior to the hearing, of their intent to attend. If no notification of intent to attend the hearing is received by that date, the hearing may be cancelled. This hearing is open to the public. Any person who wishes to be heard will be given an opportunity to comment on the proposed administrative regulation. A transcript of the public hearing will not be made unless a written request for a transcript is made. If you do not wish to be heard at the public hearing, you may submit written comments on the proposed administrative regulation. Written comments shall be accepted through Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. Send written notification of intent to be heard at the public hearing or written comments on the proposed administrative regulation to the contact person.

CONTACT PERSON: Juan Renaud, Deputy Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner, 1111 Louisville Rd., Suite B, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601; phone (502) 782.5721; fax (502) 564.9240; email juan.renaud@ky.gov.