

**Veterans’ Pathway to Business Success**

**Grant Application**

This application provides the necessary information and documentation that can lead to a business assistance grant, both for start-ups or existing businesses. *There are no fees, interest, or payback requirement if the grant is awarded and funds are used according to grant application. The average grant awarded is in the range of $30,000 - $40,000.*

***Eligibility***

In order to be considered for a grant, the applicant must meet the following basic requirements:

* have served in Afghanistan or Iraq after September 11, 2001 and are a recipient of an Iraq or Afghan Campaign Medal;
* have, or are eligible for, an honorable discharge with a Form DD214 provided;
* reside in Florida and can provide proof of residency; and
* present a detailed business plan for eventual approval by the Veterans’ Pathway Board of Directors;
* if grant is for an *existing business*, provide official Florida Corporation documents, including proof that the business is majority-owned (51%) by a Veteran having served in Afghanistan or Iraq after September 11, 2001

***Use of Funds***

Examples of uses of the funds (grant) include, but are not limited to:

* specific start up costs such as leasing offices and capital expenditures to start operations;
* specific marketing/advertising/public relations project;
* inventory purchase to fulfill/secure new contract;
* workforce build out;
* working capital for specific expansion.

***Disclaimer and Follow up***

Applicant will receive funds after signing a *disclaimer* stating that all (1) all information provided is true, (2) that funds will be spent as stated, and (3) follow-up terms as agreed upon will be respected. Veterans’ Pathway will maintain contact for a determined period of time with the Veteran who has received funding. This timetable and reporting requirements will be established by the Grant committee, agreed upon by the applicant, and approved by the Veterans’ Pathway Board of Directors when approving the grant.

Veterans who receive a grant agree that for promotional purposes Veterans’ Pathway may release the grantee’s name, business name, location and amount of funding granted.

***Please download and complete the form. Please note that you must also provide:***

***• Form DD214***

***• Proof of residency (Driver’s License)***

***• Business Plan as outlined below***

***• Florida Corporation document if grant is for an existing business***

***Once completed, return by email, along with the requested supplemental documents, to Veterans’ Pathway: cottomane@veteranspathway.org. A timely response will be given to each application received.***

***Part 1:***

*Section 1 - Personal Information*

Full name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Current home address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship if other than USA:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number (preferred): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Geographical Region of Deployment: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date of discharge from Military:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Section 2 - Use of Grant Funds*

Amount requested: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Use of funds: Please summarize how the grant will be used to fund your start-up or impact the growth for your existing business: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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*Section 3 - Work Experience*: Please provide your **resume**, which must include:

* Company name
* Position title
* Inclusive dates of employment
* Description of duties, tasks and accomplishments
* Honors or awards received
* Special training, seminars, workshops, courses taken

***Part II. Business Plan***

In order for Veterans’ Pathway to assess your grant request, a snapshot of your start-up or existing business is necessary. The plan does not have to be long or complex, but must briefly address the following:

Executive Summary

This is the most important part of the document and should briefly recap the other sections. In this section, it is important to state:

1. The amount of the grant request

2. The specific use of the funds

3. The impact the grant will have on the business and how it will help the business:

a. Get started and an estimate of how long until revenue comes in; or

b. What impact the grant will have on the growth of the business. For example, a capital infusion might be used to purchase new equipment/inventory which would lead to new contracts, thus resulting in an increase of 20% in revenues over a 12 months period.

In addition, the Business Plan must include:

• Company Description

• Market Analysis

• Organization & Management

• Service or Product Line

• Marketing and Sales

• Funding Request Impact on business

• Financial Projections/Historical Financial Data is an existing business

The Small Business Administration has an on-line tool for business plan preparation that is recommended and can be accessed at http://www.sba.gov/category/navigation-structure/starting-managing-business/starting-business/how-write-business-plan.

Please send the application and other relevant documents, including the Business Plan, to Charlotte Laurent-Ottomane, Executive Director, at cottomane@veteranspathway.org for review.

If you need additional help in preparing your Business Plan or refining your business strategy, several resources are available and include:

1. SCORE is a nonprofit association with many offices throughout Florida dedicated to helping small businesses get off the ground, grow and achieve their goals through education and mentorship. Because our work is supported by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), and thanks to our network of 12,000+ volunteers, services are delivered at no charge or at very low cost. http://www.score.org

2. The Florida SBDC Network has over 35 years of experience helping businesses start, grow and succeed. Florida SBDCs have assisted hundreds of thousands of potential and existing business owners by providing the management advice, training and information needed to make sound business decisions in a complex and ever-changing marketplace. With partners ranging from institutions of higher learning to federal, state and local governments to private organizations, and funding from the U.S. Small Business Administration, Florida SBDCs offer this business management and technical assistance at little or no cost. http://floridasbdc.org