

## Department of Veteran Affairs Adaptive Sports Grant – USA Volleyball Subaward Grant Program

### Overview

USA Volleyball was awarded an Adaptive Sports Grant from the Department of Veteran Affairs to create sitting volleyball opportunities for disabled veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces. The grant project included funds for two specific initiatives; 1) support for emerging/elite athletes who are disabled veterans or disabled members of the Armed Forces to participate in USA Volleyball's Sitting Volleyball Athlete Development Pipeline (Sitting's A2 Program), and; 2) development of community based programming through the creation of a subaward grant program to provide up to \$25,000 in matching funds, sitting specific volleyball nets and adapter equipment, and support for instruction at introductory clinics to be facilitated by Region Volleyball Associations (RVAs), or their designee, and/or other volleyball or disabled sport organizations.

### Subaward Grant Program Outline

- USA Volleyball's awarded grant from the Department of Veteran Affairs' Adaptive Sports Program included funds and equipment available to distribute in a subaward grant program. Organizations wishing to participate in the program are required to pledge funds towards sitting volleyball programming, and USAV will match those funds up to \$2,500 to support the participation of disabled veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces.
  - o Any funds provided by the subaward grant must be spent for benefit of disabled veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces.
  - o Any funds awarded must be utilized by September 30, 2018.
  - o In addition to the funds, USA Volleyball will provide to the first 10 grant recipients a sitting volleyball net, post ring adapters (pulley wheels for hanging and tensioning the net), and a pair of sitting volleyball antennae.
- Any organization (RVAs, volleyball clubs, Paralympic Sport Clubs, City Parks and Recreation Departments, etc.) can apply for the grant at any time, provided funds are available.
  - o RVAs will be given priority for selection of awards during the first review of grant applications, which will take place between December 21, 2017 and January 3, 2018. Those awarded grants from the first review will be notified by January 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - o If there are funds remaining after the initial award announcement, a second review of applications will take place between January 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, with those organizations being awarded a grant from the second review notified by January 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - o If an organization who submits an application prior to the first review of grant applications is not awarded a grant, there is no need to submit a new application. However, efforts should be made to discuss and modify the initial application for further consideration during the second review.
- During the grant period, it is expected that each organization awarded funds will host at least one introductory clinic in which participants from the community and disabled veterans and/or disabled members of the Armed Forces will participate.
  - o For the introductory clinic, USA Volleyball will work with the organization to provide coaching assistance for the clinic based on staff and coach availability, at no cost to the organization.
  - o The organization will be responsible to collect information of all attendees, track all expenses incurred with programming, and submit reports for activities held before March 31<sup>st</sup> by April 15<sup>th</sup>; activities held from April 1<sup>st</sup>-June 30<sup>th</sup> by July 15<sup>th</sup>; activities held from July 1<sup>st</sup>-September 30<sup>th</sup> by October 15<sup>th</sup>, utilizing templates provided by USAV.
- As this is a part of a federal grant, federal spending rules apply with additional stipulations.
  - o USA Volleyball was given a specific dollar amount that is allowable for travel expenses in totality for its whole grant. Therefore, TRAVEL EXPENSES are NOT authorized in the subaward grant program.
  - o USA Volleyball was given the directive that the purchase of PRACTICE GEAR AND UNIFORMS with grant dollars was NOT PERMITTED.
  - o Funds provided by the organization can be used for travel expenses and/or practice gear and uniforms.
  - o Should an organization need clarification regarding a future expense, it is recommended that that contact the Manager of Sitting Volleyball at 405-974-3153 or [elliott.blake@usav.org](mailto:elliott.blake@usav.org).

- To apply for the grant, organizations must download and complete the supplied application, include a proposed budget, and provide copies of any support items. The application and example of a budget proposal are available on USA Volleyball's website at <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Volleyball/Grassroots/Grants>.

## FAQ

1. Are there any rules regarding the spending of funds from the VA grant?
  - a. Yes. Funds provided by the subaward grant must be spent for the benefit of disabled veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces. As an example, facility rental for court time, purchase of balls and a cart, or a stipend for a coach's time in teaching are all benefits for military athletes. These benefits though may also be shared by non-military athletes as there is no exclusion if military athletes are involved. Specific items that funds may not be used for include any travel related costs (flights, mileage, hotel, meals, etc.), the purchase of uniform or practice apparel, and items from companies who have been debarred by the government. The initial funds provided by the organization have no restrictions on how they are spent.
2. Is there an 'eligibility' standard for disabled veterans and/or disabled members of the Armed Forces.
  - a. Yes. The organization is only required to ask if the individual "is eligible to receive disability benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs or Department of Defense." This question should be included on an attendance form in which the participant is required to answer. If they answer incorrectly by making a false statement, the organization is not at fault, but rather the individual is for committing fraud.
3. Is there a ratio of disabled veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces to non-military individuals when it comes to expenditures of matching funds provided in the subaward grant?
  - a. No. If there is a reasonable expense to support a single disabled veteran or disabled member of the Armed Forces, other non-military individuals may also participate in the activity provided their participation does not require an additional expense of grant monies. As an example, if the organization purchases 12 volleyballs in preparation for a clinic activity and there is 1 disabled veteran and 11 non-military athletes in attendance, the balls may be used by all in attendance. Furthermore, if there is an event, yet no disabled veterans or disabled members of the Armed Forces are in attendance, the balls may still be used since they were purchased in anticipation of the disabled veterans and/or disabled members of the Armed Forces being present at the event.
4. Can the funds be used to cover the cost of membership fees for disabled veterans and/or disabled members of the Armed Forces?
  - a. Yes. Any fees required to permit the participation of the disabled veterans and/or disabled members of the Armed Forces in the organization's sitting volleyball programming may be paid for using the matching funds from the subaward grant.
5. Can funds be used to support a team at Opens?
  - a. Yes & No. The funds can be used to pay a sitting team's entry fee for any tournament if disabled veterans and/or disabled members of the Armed Forces are involved. The funds cannot be used for travel costs or uniforms.
6. Can funds be used to support a tournament that an RVA hosts?
  - a. Yes & No. The funds could cover the cost of officials, materials to promote the event, and other supplies necessary to support the competition if military athletes are involved. The funds may not be used for the purchase of food or snacks, or an event t-shirt.
7. What resources are available to find disabled veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces?
  - a. Veteran Affairs Facilities - [https://www.va.gov/landing2\\_locations.htm](https://www.va.gov/landing2_locations.htm)
  - b. Paralympic Sports Clubs - <https://www.teamusa.org/US-Paralympics/find-a-club>
  - c. Google search terms – Prosthetic office in (city name); Adapted Sports in (city name); Veteran Service Organization in (city name)

For additional information – please contact the Manager of Sitting Volleyball, at [elliott.blake@usav.org](mailto:elliott.blake@usav.org) or 405-974-3153.