



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Veterans Services

Daniel M. Gade, PhD
Commissioner

Telephone: (804) 786-0220
Fax: (804) 786-0302

November 1, 2023

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin
Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia

The Honorable Craig Crenshaw
Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs

The Honorable Barry Knight
Chair, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Janet Howell
Co-Chair, Senate Finance and
Appropriations Committee

The Honorable George Barker
Co-Chair, Senate Finance and
Appropriations Committee

Mr. Michael Maul
Director
Department of Planning & Budget

Delivered via electronic mail

Re: 2023 Annual Report on the Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services Grant Program

Dear Governor Youngkin, Secretary Crenshaw, Senator Howell, Senator Barker, Delegate Knight, and Director Maul:

Please find attached the 2023 Annual Report on the **S**uicide Prevention and **O**pioid Addiction **S**ervices (or SOS) Program, authorized by Chapter 2, 2022 Acts of Assembly Special Session I, Item 470.F.

These funds allowed the Department of Veterans Services to create an entirely new program to promote the use of evidence-based practices in continuity with other suicide and opiate/opioid misuse prevention and intervention programs provided by the Commonwealth. The bulk of the 2023 funding was used to award community providers for capacity building; a portion was used for research grants and administrative overhead.

Please let me know if we may provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan. Gade", written in a cursive style.

Daniel Gade, PhD.

Cc: Mr. Michael Dick, Chairman, Board of Veterans Services
Mr. Kevin Hoffman, Chair, Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

Department of Veterans Services (DVS) Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services (SOS) Program

Summary

The General Assembly of Virginia, through the Appropriations Act (Chapter 2, 2022 Acts of Assembly Special Session I, Item 470.F) allocated general funds of \$5,000,000 for the first year (FY23) and \$5,000,000 the second year (FY24) to the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) to establish a program for prevention and intervention of suicide and opioid addiction for service members, veterans, and their families throughout the Commonwealth.

Specifically, DVS is to collaborate with federal, state, local and community organizations, public and private institutions, and other service providers to develop programs to prevent suicide among service members and address opiate/opioid addiction suffered by service members and veterans. The new SOS program provides outreach and training to Federal, State, and local partners and initiated a new community and research grant program to enhance prevention, intervention, and recovery services statewide.¹

The Appropriations Act directed DVS to coordinate with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), and the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), whenever possible, to promote the use of evidence-based practices in continuity with other suicide and opiate/opioid misuse prevention and intervention programs administered by the Commonwealth.

Dr. Angela Porter, PhD, joined DVS in September 2022 as the Director of the **Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services (or SOS) Program. Initial program development research and partnership formation began in December 2022.**

Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Resource Utilization

24 grants totaling \$2.35M were awarded to community providers for capacity building. These grant awardees may apply for a second year of funding (that would be awarded in FY24) if they meet SOS program and evaluation performance metrics. The remaining FY23 balance of \$2.4M was reappropriated for FY24 for additional grant awards.

¹ **Opiate-** An opiate, in classical pharmacology, is a substance derived from opium. In more modern usage, the term opioid is used to designate all substances, both natural and synthetic, that bind to opioid receptors in the brain.

FY23 Spending Summary

Appropriation	Grant Spending FY23	Program administration FY23	Total Spending FY23	Carry forward to FY24
\$5,000,000	\$2,350,000 (24 grants)	\$215,655	\$2,565,655	\$2,434,345

Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Projected Resource Utilization

Five research grants totaling \$750,000 were awarded to Virginia public universities in FY23, but funding was not disbursed until FY24. \$600,000 was disbursed in July 2023 to four universities, with the remaining \$150,000 from this first tranche to be disbursed to Norfolk State University (NSU) in November following signing of the SOS-NSU Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), which is going through the University’s review process.

Eighteen community provider grants totaling \$1,750,000 and three research grants totaling almost \$814,914 will be awarded in November of 2023.

Anticipated FY24 SOS Program expenses are \$817,655. This includes personnel expenses, marketing and outreach, harm reduction items, and other expenses.

The remaining FY24 funds, totaling \$3,476,775, have been reserved for May/June 2024 renewals of the FY23 community provider grants and research grants.

FY Spending Summary

Category	Projected FY24 Outlays
Five research grants – awarded FY23, paid July/November 2023	\$750,000
18 community provider grants – awarded November 2023	\$1,750,000
3 research grants – awarded November 2023	\$814,914
Reserved for May/June 2024 renewal of FY23 community provider and research grants	\$3,476,775

Program expenses – FY24	\$817,655
Total	\$7,609,344

Program Structure and Staffing

The Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services (SOS) Program is an integral part of the DVS Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) directorate and seamlessly coordinates with VVFS across the service spectrum. DVS and VVFS team members provide procurement and administrative support for the SOS program.

DVS designed the SOS program staff portfolio to include five positions plus Department of Defense (DOD) SkillBridge interns to meet internal and external outreach, training, grant development/monitoring and oversight duties.²

Director of Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services (1 position)

The Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services Director is a senior level role within the Virginia Veteran and Family Support Services (VVFS) section of DVS. The SOS Director serves as the agency’s subject matter expert on suicide prevention, opioid addiction, and behavioral health among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF).

The Director designs, develops, implements, and monitors new programs within DVS and among Federal, State, and local programs and organizations to prevent suicide and address opioid addiction and other behavioral health concerns. The SOS Director focuses on data collection and coordination with DVS partners and grantees related to incidence and prevalence of suicide and lethal means as well as behavioral health challenges and suicide risk factors with the SMVF population.

The Director also provides resources and technical assistance to Constituents, Federal, State, and community partners and Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs). The SOS Director is the program administrator for the new community and research grants awarded by DVS to enhance prevention, intervention, and recovery services.

² SkillBridge- The DOD SkillBridge program is an opportunity for service members to gain valuable civilian work experience through specific industry training, apprenticeships, or internships during the last 180 days of service. DOD SkillBridge connects transitioning service members with industry partners in real-world job experiences.

Suicide Prevention Coordinator (1 position)

The Suicide Prevention Coordinator (SPC) coordinates and collaborates on a wide variety of outreach, training and suicide prevention initiatives with various partners, grantees, and VSOs. The SPC coordinates relevant data and outcomes from Federal, State, and local entities to capture and track suicide prevention, outreach, and training programs, resources, and best practices.

The SPC is responsible for the development, organization, and coordination of the SOS program training and outreach initiatives for community and research grantees and broader community partners.

Grants Administrators (3 positions)

The Grants Administrators (GAs) provide expertise and oversight through the entire life cycle of a grant, from pre-award to post-award to include ongoing monitoring and technical assistance. The Grants Administrators perform duties in support of program procurement, financial assistance, budget management, and maintains a database of monitoring reports and files to capture progress.

SOS Grants Administrators work with both community and research grants and strive to enhance customer service and technical assistance throughout the application and review process.

Interns and DVS/VVFS support

The SOS team is also exploring a partnership with the Department of Defense SkillBridge program to provide additional capacity with interns.

Collaboration in Program Design and Operations:

Developing this new program was a collective effort with many Federal, State, and local partners. Specifically, the SOS team collaborated with various state agencies including the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), and the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to share informational resources, data, and evidence-based practices and alignment with other suicide and opioid misuse prevention and intervention programs administered by the Commonwealth.

The SOS team collaborates with stakeholders in key working groups such as:

- “*Right Help Right Now*” Initiative (serves on the Support for Substance Use Disorders workstream)

- Community Engagement Partnership Coordinators Working Group (provides connection to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) suicide prevention staff and veteran-focused community coalitions in multiple Federal healthcare service networks including D.C., Maryland, West Virginia, and North Carolina)
- Suicide Prevention and Interagency Group or SPIAG (hosted by DBHDS and VDH and includes members from local suicide prevention and behavioral health services programs statewide)
- Community Services Board (CSB) Service Member, Veteran, and Family SMVF Navigator Working Group (includes veteran-focused staff from CSBs statewide)
- 988 Virginia Campaign (streamlines behavioral health and suicide lifeline support statewide)
- *Virginia Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide (GCPS) among SMVF* (National Call to Action for a comprehensive public health approach to suicide prevention that started in Virginia in 2018)

Since inception, the SOS team has also worked closely with leaders and stakeholders in the National GCPS, including Federal Sponsors from the USDVA, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and national Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs). The team joins monthly working group and Community of Practice meetings with the other 54 States and Territories participating in the Challenge.

For the Virginia GCPS, the SOS team serves on the Steering Committee for *Virginia's Identify, Screen and Refer* (VISR) initiative. The VISR initiative provides training and technical assistance for community services providers in military and veteran culture and resources, suicide prevention, and lethal means safety. The SOS team leads the VSO working group and coordinates best practice training (Examples include training in grant writing, suicide risk screening and intervention, and safety planning) for all VISR stakeholders.

Successes:

DVS moved rapidly to build a staff team and brand-new community and research grant program in the first year. The Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services (SOS) grant program awarded over \$2.4 million dollars to 24 community services agencies and \$750,000 in research grants to public institutions of higher learning in the Commonwealth. SOS grantees cover expansive localities (representing urban, suburban, and rural) around the Commonwealth and diverse suicide prevention, behavioral health treatment and recovery, and opioid addiction services (please refer to the Grantee map and Grantee Table in Appendix I).

SOS grantees are providing critical services to enhance and save lives including community training and education in suicide prevention and harm reduction supports; peer support and service animals to support trauma recovery; and developing, implementing, and/or evaluating clinical therapies for Service Members, Veterans, and their families.

The SOS team has also participated in extensive outreach and education activities including the following events for September Suicide Prevention Awareness and Recovery month at the

Virginia War Memorial. SafeTALK was presented to teach grantees and partners to recognize and engage persons who might be having thoughts of suicide and to connect them with community resources trained in suicide intervention. SafeTALK emphasizes safety while challenging taboos that stifle open dialogue about suicide.

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) was held with community partners, grantees, and DVS staff in attendance. The 2-day training program teaches participants how to identify individuals at risk and intervene with suicide first aid.

A virtual Recovery Day event was held in recognition of September being National Recovery month with presentations from State agencies (including Department of Corrections, DBHDS, VDH) on Veteran substance use (including opioid misuse) and data on overdose hospitalizations and deaths in Virginia.

The SOS team also designed a Suicide Prevention Symposium to provide networking, connection, and technical assistance and training opportunities to new grantees. Twelve grantees presented on their program services and participated in regional working groups to connect with Federal, State, and local partners to promote collaboration and closing gaps in services for SMVF. The Symposium will be held annually moving forward to connect grantees to each other, DVS, and key partners.

The Program Director also spoke about SOS and Governor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide activities at the National AMVets Convention in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in August 2023, before 5,000 veterans from all over the world, including Taiwan.

To help DVS lead the way for opioid overdose prevention, the SOS Team coordinated agency wide REVIVE training and certification and distribution of opioid overdose prevention/Naloxone kits to DVS staff to equip them to save the lives of veterans and other citizens of the commonwealth of Virginia. The program achieved a 98% training and certification rate among DVS staff.

The SOS Team regularly disseminates harm reduction items such as medication lock boxes, fentanyl test strips, and gun locks as part of harm reductions kits through their Lethal Means Harm Reduction and Outreach Program.

SOS Outreach and Training Events:

DATE	HOST	LOCATION	PURPOSE
06/21/2023	The Salem VA Medical Center and Blue Ridge Behavioral Health	The Highlander Hotel and Conference Center, Radford, Virginia.	Joint Service Member, Veteran, and Family Mental Health Summit with resource vendors,

			guest speakers, and a panel.
07/01/2023	The Salem Fair	Salem Fair, High Five Event at the Salem Civic Center, Salem, Virginia.	A 24-hour awareness campaign to spread awareness for the Out of the Darkness Walks.
07/17/2023 -07/18/2023	Mount Rogers Community Service Board	YWCA, NETN and SWVA, Bristol. Virginia.	ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills). We were able to connect with 15 SMVF at this event and train partners.
07/20/2023	Delegate Rob Bloxom	Mary N. Smith Cultural Enrichment Center, Accomac, Virginia.	To educate the local clergy, and community on the dangers of Fentanyl use.
08/08/2023	Roanoke Marine Reserves Center, Marine Corps Reserve Unit	Marine Corps Reserve Unit, Roanoke, Virginia.	Resources for jobs, mental health, education, etc. For Marines and their family from the local area during drill weekend.
08/18/2023	Western Tidewater Community Services Board	Tidewater	SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SPGP) Symposium.
08/28/2023 -09/01/2023	DVS-VVFS-SOS	Liberty University, Liberty Mountain Conference Center, Lynchburg, Virginia.	The Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services program coordinated with LivingWorks to host a Train the Trainer ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills) Training for staff and partners.
09/12/2023	DVS-VVFS-SOS	Virginia War Memorial, Richmond.	The SOS program coordinated with LivingWorks to host a SafeTalk training for 16 grantees and partners in how to talk to SMVF about suicide.

09/13/2023 -14/2023	DVS-VVFS-SOS	Virginia War Memorial, Richmond, Virginia.	The SOS program coordinated with LivingWorks to host an Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) for Community Service Boards, Virginia's Identify, Screen, and Refer (VISR) partners, Active Duty Airforce, and SOS.
09/17/2023	American Legion, District 3	American Legion District 3, Post 3, Salem, Virginia.	The set up a resource table with DVS information, and harm reduction items at the meeting.
09/21/2023	DVS-VVFS-SOS	Virginia War Memorial, Richmond, Virginia.	The SOS program hosted a Suicide Prevention Symposium. The event gave SOS grantees a chance to network and present their grant funded services.
09/25/2023	DVS-VVFS-SOS	Virtual	The SOS program hosted a Virtual Recovery Day for September, Recovery Month. Guest speakers from VADOC and FAACT spoke about veteran substance use and treatment best practice.

Challenges

During its first year, SOS experienced several challenges particularly around personnel retention. In May and June of 2023, two SOS team members left the agency, which created a major strain on remaining team members. SOS also experienced challenges due to the fast pace of program development as well as the specificity of knowledge and skills necessary for developing, reviewing, and overseeing new grant operations.

The small SOS team is currently managing three cohorts of community grants and two cohorts of research grants. In support, the entire VVFS service line and multiple DVS support functions such as Human Resources, Finance, and Procurement have rallied to help overcome these

challenges. The SOS Director successfully onboarded a new Suicide Prevention Coordinator (May 2023) and Grants Administrator (July 2023) with both individuals excelling in their commitment to suicide prevention and opioid addiction services for SMVF in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

One of the early lessons learned for the SOS team included the need to shift the community grant application process to a web-based grant software portal to improve the customer experience for community agencies and allow the SOS staff to provide more support to grantees. DVS consulted with DCJS and the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) to participate in demonstrations of their grant software managed by contractor, Dulles Technologies and build a new DVS grant software portal. SOS contracted with Dulles Technologies to develop a grant software -grants.dvs.virginia.gov. Over the past 3 months, SOS staff have been meeting with software designers and developers to create a grant software that will accept open grant solicitations, grant applications, evaluate grant applications, award grantees, and monitor the grant through the grant lifecycle. The new DVS web grants portal successfully launched in September of 2023 (grants.dvs.virginia.gov). The SOS team has started the detailed process of moving all current grant documents and files to the new DVS grant software for ongoing monitoring and support.

The DVS grant software is currently open for external registrants. Once registered in the DVS grant software, they will automatically receive notifications of grant opportunities. SOS is currently managing three cohorts of community grants and 2 cohorts of research grants for a total of over 55 total grants.

Opportunities

The SOS team has utilized creative opportunities to build staff capacity in an economical way. For example, the team is utilizing the Virginia SkillBridge Program (from the DVS Education, Transition and Employment division) to acquire interns for additional grants administration and operations/administration capacity. A SkillBridge Grants Administrator Intern is scheduled to start on November 2, 2023. Recruitment for an Operation/Administrative Intern continues with several prospects.

Our plan is to grow the DVS SOS grant program by utilizing the DVS WebGrants software to manage grants from solicitation through the end of the grant cycle. A leading-edge venture was the development, design, and implementation of the DVS's first WebGrants software upon which the software can be utilized by multiple service lines within DVS. SOS has also been able to use DVS staff and partners as Grant Evaluators for both community and research grants. This pooling of resources allows for a more robust examination of the strengths and weaknesses of each grant application. SOS staff have developed both a DVS Grant Writing training and a Grant Evaluator training to equip potential grantees as well as potential evaluators with the skills and

technical support that is needed to deliver the best possible grant application or grant evaluation.

SOS also has opportunities to offer DVS staff and partners a possibility to be Grant Evaluators for both community and research grants. This is important skill development and a resume building opportunity for DVS (and community stakeholders).

The SOS team seeks to do a deep dive into VDH data related to violent deaths (including suicide decedents) among SMVF in the Commonwealth in partnership with DBHDS. The process is one that will be intensive, but we hope to discover crucial data that will inform our outreach efforts and allow for more directed prevention, intervention, and postvention efforts.

Successes:

DVS moved rapidly to build a staff team and brand-new community and research grant program in the first year. The SOS grant program awarded over \$2.4 million dollars to 24 community services agencies and \$750,000 in research grants to public institutions of higher learning in the Commonwealth (please see Appendix 1 with detailed grantee descriptions) in FY23.

SOS grantees are providing diverse services to enhance and save lives including community training and education in suicide prevention and harm reduction supports; peer support and service animals to support trauma recovery; and developing, implementing, and/or evaluating clinical therapies for Service Members, Veterans, and their families.

The SOS team has also participated in extensive outreach and education activities including the following events for September Suicide Prevention Awareness and Recovery month at the Virginia War Memorial.

SafeTALK was presented to teach grantees and partners to recognize and engage persons who might be having thoughts of suicide and to connect them with community resources trained in suicide intervention. SafeTALK emphasizes safety while challenging taboos that stifle open dialogue about suicide.

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The SOS team also designed a Suicide Prevention Symposium to provide networking, connection, and technical assistance and training opportunities to new grantees. Twelve grantees presented on their program services and participated in regional working groups to connect with Federal, State, and local partners to promote collaboration and closing gaps in services for SMVF.

The Program Director also spoke about SOS and Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide activities at the National AMVETS Convention in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in August 2023, before 5,000 veterans from all over the world, including Taiwan.

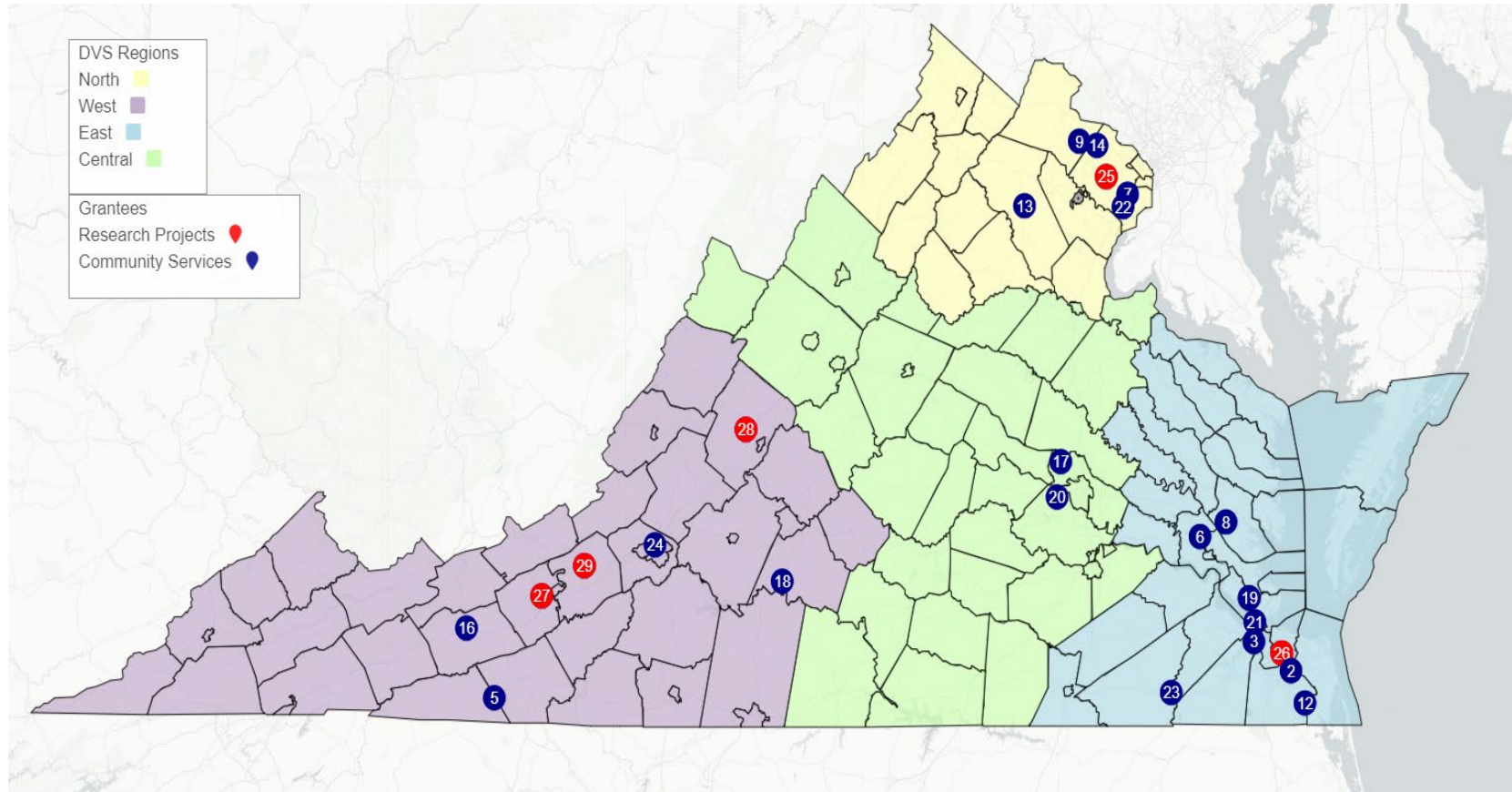
To help DVS lead the way for opioid overdose prevention, the SOS Team coordinated agency wide REVIVE training and certification and distribution of opioid overdose prevention/Naloxone kits to DVS staff to equip them to save the lives of veterans and other citizens of the commonwealth of Virginia. The program was able to get 98% of all DVS staff trained and certified with Naloxone kits in hand within its first 90 days.

The SOS Team regularly disseminates harm reduction items such as medication lock boxes, fentanyl test strips, and gun locks as part of harm reductions kits through their Lethal Means Harm Reduction and Outreach Program.

SOS Grantee Reports:

The data that is graphed below was extracted from the first quarterly monitoring reports for community grantees, for a total of 24 reports from September of 2023. 100% of community grantees submitted reports for the first quarterly reporting period. The research grantee reports are due December of 2023. As you can see from data displayed in the graph, approximately 2,095 veterans were assisted by grantees during this reporting period. During the first quarterly reporting period 19 veterans were hired by grantees using SOS grant funds.

APPENDIX I



MAP LEGEND

Service Center Name	Number	Service Center Name	Number
REBOOT Recovery	1	Mount Rogers CSB	16
Edge Clinical Services	2	Master Center for Addiction Medicine (MCAM)	17
Western Tidewater CSB	3	Stone Ridge Foundation	18
LivingWorks	4	Center for Child and Family Services, Inc.	19
Galax Treatment Centers/Acadia Healthcare VA Treatment Centers	5	Movers Development Centers, Inc.	20
Lighthouse Beacon Church/Beacon Institute	6	Recovering By Numbers, Inc.	21
Hope for the Warriors	7	IMend	22
The Hazel Gray Foundation	8	Zeno Wellness Group, LLC	23
Veterans Moving Forward	9	Virginia Treatment Center	24
Warrior Canine Connection	10	George Mason University	25
Objective Zero	11	Norfolk State University (NSU)	26
Trails of Purpose	12	New River Community College (NVCC)	27
Hero's Bridge	13	Virginia Military Institute (VMI)	28
Help Our Wounded (HOW) Foundation	14	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	29
Child and Family Services/The Up Center	15		

APPENDIX II

Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services

FY23 Community / Research Grant Recipients

Award Recipient	Location	Number of SMVF Served	Award Amount	Grant Funded Service
COMMUNITY GRANTS				
REBOOT Recovery	York, Stafford, Prince George, Hampton, Hanover	62	\$75,000	The goal of this program to organize the “largest peer-led response to suicide ever built.” According to their application, REBOOT courses are currently held in 43 states and 11 countries.
Edge Clinical Services	Eastern and Western Regions of VA	8	\$100,000	The goal of this project would be to reduce the incidence of suicide and opioid addiction among SMVF populations in the eastern and western part of Virginia by providing culturally informed and tailored primary prevention-based strategies to homeless and incarcerated Veterans, especially in underserved areas.
Western Tidewater CSB	Eastern VA	0	\$125,000	The goal of this program is to provide screening, assessment, and weekly or biweekly treatment for up to 40 concurrent SMVF in an outpatient setting for substance use treatment. The applicant is utilizing DVS funds to also improve capacity for treatment of substance use disorders in the Eastern Region by up to 50 individuals per year.

LivingWorks	Charlottesville, Lynchburg, Staunton, Norfolk	23	\$100,000	The goal of this program is to strengthen the suicide prevention Network of Safety by training up to 5,560 SMVF members using best practice LivingWorks suicide awareness and intervention skills programs.
Galax Treatment Centers/Acadia Healthcare-VA Treatment Centers	Winchester City, Christiansburg, Cedar Bluff, Galax	15	\$124,968	The goal of this program is to screen and assess patients, develop individualized plans of care, share data at the clinic level and provide regular education for SMVF patients in addition to a Peer Recovery Support Specialist at each of their 4 clinics.
Lighthouse Beacon Church/Beacon Institute	Williamsburg, Hampton Road area	11	\$75,000	The goal of program is to train 48 individuals to become Peer Support specialists which they estimate will serve 432 within the SMVF community over the course of one year.
Hope for the Warriors (HOPE)	Springfield	38	\$100,000	The goal of HOPE seeks to expand its presence in Virginia where, since 2021, it has partnered with the Virginia Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Military Service Members, Veterans, and Families and uses VISR 2.0 to screen veterans throughout the state.
The Hazel Gray Foundation	Eastern VA, Hampton Roads	0	\$100,000	The goal of this program is to provide virtual individual and group psychotherapy for 8 to 12 eligible participants weekly for 90 minutes of intensive trauma recovery treatment with individual sessions scheduled as needed.
Veterans Moving Forward	Statewide	234	\$100,000	With this project, the goal is to acquire and train four additional service dogs, six additional therapy/facility dogs, and one additional emotional support dog.
Warrior Canine Connection	Statewide	9	\$125,000	The organization seeks support to expand its services to more Virginia Veterans through the Rappahannock

				Regional Veterans Docket held at the Spotsylvania Circuit Court, at Fort Belvoir, and in partnership with fellow nonprofit organizations such as Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).
Objective Zero	Statewide	369	\$75,000	Objective Zero's goal is to use DVS grant funds to expand, design, test, and implement a new feature that enables Objective Zero to better serve the SVMF community and enable them to better connect with peer support Pathfinders through an app.
Trails of Purpose	Hampton Roads and Eastern VA	53	\$125,000	Trails of Purpose goal is to (provide Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) that will address Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction by expanding the program's capacity to serve more SMVF and provide a deeper level of engagement with participants.
Hero's Bridge	Fauquier, Culpeper, Tappahannock, Madison	43	\$75,000	Hero's Bridge's goal is to utilize this funding to further expand the organization's virtual Battle Buddy program into the Northern and Central regions of Virginia. Battle Buddy seeks to connect older veterans over the age of 65.
Help Our Wounded (HOW) Foundation	Northern, Piedmont, Eastern, and Central VA	18	\$125,000	HOW's project goal to serve eight veterans impacted by TBI and PTSD with 20 daily 1-hour hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) treatments to decrease suicide ideation in SMVF by helping the brain recover from physical damage resulting from TBIs and PTSD.
Child and Family Services/The Up Center	Eastern Region	198	\$100,000	TUC MFC will use the funds to continue the work with post 9/11 Veterans, active-duty military personnel and families SMVF from all military branches of services who are at risk of suicide in the Hampton Roads region with

				the primary focus in the five cities of South Hampton Roads.
Mount Rogers CSB	Southwest VA	915	\$125,000	Mount Rogers' goal is to provide REVIVE! (Opioid overdose and Naloxone training) to community members, increasing the number of community members trained by 5% each year, with a minimum of 200 newly trained participants, and 2,400 medication deactivation kits to prevent the risk of medication misuse, Lock-and-Talk boxes, and Trigger Locks to SMVF and community stakeholders serving the target population.
Master Center for Addiction Medicine (MCAM)	Eastern and Central Region	40	\$125,000	Master Center will use the funds provided to 1.) Provide specialized care for SMVF in the Eastern and Central regions. They would host a weekly group therapy session specifically catered to member of the SMVF community. 2.) Open new access points in Norfolk and Virginia Beach. 3.) Hire Staff to meet the focused education and increased service needs
Stone Ridge Foundation/National Center for Healthy Vets	Richmond, VA	25	\$106,857	Stone Ridge Foundation will provide (1) virtual programs, (2) Topic-based classes followed by hands on coaching, (3) Counseling overseen by Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC), (4) Speaking engagements to very large national training conferences (5) on-site and on-line small group sessions.
Center for Child and Family Services, Inc.	Newport News	7	\$125,000	CCFS will use individual assessments to develop individual treatment goals for each client and they will also use pre and post assessments to measure depression, suicide, and posttraumatic stress symptoms

				throughout the client’s duration of treatment evidence-based trauma treatments to include Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR), and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT).
Movers Development Centers, Inc.	Richmond/Chesterfield	16	\$100,000	MDC proposes to provide services in four life domains to include: Intensive Program of Education and Guided Groups- 30 to 90 days, Monitored Residential Housing Program- 6 months to 2 years, Individual Therapy, Family Counseling, and reunification, Aftercare Follow-up.
Recovering By Numbers, Inc.	Newport News, Hampton, Chesapeake	7	\$100,000	RBN proposes to provide individual and family counseling for underserved groups within SMVF, specifically: 100 active service members and/or veterans, and at least one additional family member for a minimum of 200 served over 12 months.
IMend	Lorton, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, Arlington, Alexandria	0	\$75,000	IMend intends to use their award to fulfill several objectives including: 200 SMVF: Individual, couples, or family counseling, 50 SMVF: EMDR therapy, 100 SMVF: Training in crisis intervention and suicide prevention strategies, 500 SMVF: Psychoeducation sessions on mental health-related topics.
Zeno Wellness Group, LLC	Franklin, VA and East Region	5	\$100,000	Zeno Wellness Group (ZWG) aims to improve access to peer support services for service members, veterans, and their families (SMVF) and reduce rates of suicide, behavioral health needs, and substance use challenges (including opioid use) in the East region of Virginia.

Virginia Treatment Center	Lynchburg, Roanoke	7	\$100,000	VTC goal is to develop the staff training program specific to SMVF and suicide prevention; have at least one counselor at each facility attend training and receive Addiction Treatment in Military and Veteran Culture Certificate; they will conduct individual and group counseling sessions with SMVF; each clinic will have a case manager/behavioral health assistant designated to provide case management and care coordination services to SMVF.
RESEARCH GRANTS				
George Mason University (GMU)	Fairfax, VA	Report due 12/30/23	\$150,000	The primary purpose of the proposed study is the development and pilot testing of misuse of prescription drugs – demonstrating a clear link with suicide attempts and death by suicide
Norfolk State University (NSU)	Norfolk, VA	Report due 12/30/23	\$150,000	This research project is to examine the impact of belongingness and social support on cessation of suicidal ideation, plans, and behaviors among African American military veterans
New River Community College (NVCC)	Dublin, VA	Report due 12/30/23	\$150,000	This research grant is to develop a database of all veterans attending NRCC and living in the NRCC Region with the purpose of developing a contact list for checking on them and inviting them to events at the college
Virginia Military Institute (VMI)	Lexington, VA	Report due 12/30/23	\$150,000	The proposed research is “Veteran Suicide: Examining the Role of Active Duty and Post-Discharge Experiences,” and our purpose is to investigate key risk and protective factors of veteran suicide that have not been adequately researched to date.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Blacksburg, VA	Report due 12/30/23	\$150,000	This research proposes to gain a better understanding of the obstacles to care, we propose to study both individual factors (including but not limited to demographic variables such as military service history, and disability rating) as well as greater systemic factors (such as access, policies, geography) that may impact veterans' decision to seek mental health care, as well as suicide and substance use risk. Penn State and Yale are collaborators.
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