

Texas Dispute Resolution System™

Domestic Relations Office

Texas Rural Mediation Services™



Dispute Resolution Training Institute™

Office of Dispute Resolution

MEMO

TO: Judge Curtis Parrish

CC: Commissioner Terence Kovar, Precinct 1; Commissioner Jason Corley, Precinct 2;
Commissioner Gilbert Flores, Precinct 3; Commissioner Jordan Rackler, Precinct 4

FROM: D. Gene Valentini, Director

DATE: November 4, 2024

RE: 11-12-2024 Agenda Item: Consider or approve a grant application to Texas Veterans Commission.

The Texas Veterans Commission has issued a request for applications related to veterans' services, and the Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR) intends to apply for this opportunity. The proposal is classified as Family Support Services and aims to assist low-income veterans in stabilizing their relationships, reducing family stress, and promoting reintegration into their communities after being indicted with a misdemeanor or felony charge.

As defined by Annex B "low-income veterans" are those whose income lie at or below 80% of the median income in the county in which the service is provided. According to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that number is \$60,000 in Lubbock County. Prosecutors will allow veterans who are facing allegations of a misdemeanor or felony to participate in criminal mediation sessions, accompanied by a close friend or family member. During these mediation sessions, all parties will collaborate to design a personalized rehabilitation plan for the veteran, focusing on helping the veteran to reintegrate with their community.

Rehabilitation plans may include participation in peer support groups, counseling, educational workshops, job training, community service, and various other interventions. Upon successful completion of the program, veterans may have their charges reduced or dismissed.

The ODR has facilitated veterans' criminal mediation since 2015 and has an extensive history in providing criminal mediation services.

The estimated cost for the program is \$75 per mediation session, with \$55 going to the mediator and \$20 going to managing the individual veteran's case.

Those administrating the veteran's program will regularly follow up with the individual regarding their progress, handle all paperwork in relation to their case, and keep in contact with the court or prosecutor regarding indictments and progress.

Each veteran is expected to attend a single session, with an anticipated total of 100 veterans served during the 14-month grant period. Therefore, the estimated total cost of the project is \$7,500.