

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Indianapolis, Indiana
October 17-18, 2018**

Resolution No. 24: Support Funding and Changes to the Department of Veterans Affairs Grant and Per Diem Program

Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

Submitted By: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, The Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program allows the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to award grants to community-based agencies to create transitional housing programs and offer per diem payments; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the program is to promote the development and provision of supportive housing and/or supportive services with the goal of helping homeless veterans achieve residential stability, increase their skills levels and/or income, and obtain greater self-management; and

WHEREAS, GPD funded projects offer communities a way to help homeless veterans with housing and services while assisting VA medical centers by augmenting or supplementing care; and

WHEREAS, Many homeless veterans have legal and past financial hardships they must overcome and GPD often serves as a transition point for veterans as they obtain permanent housing; and

WHEREAS, In 2017, more than 14,500 homeless veterans exited GPD to permanent housing. Where the average length-of-stay in GPD was 174 days (lowest since 2009); and

WHEREAS, The most recent data from the VA points to a need for over 12,500 GPD beds nationwide to continue to provide emergency housing and rapid stabilization services to homeless veterans with specialized needs – women veterans, single veterans with dependent children, veterans transitioning out of incarceration, veterans with mild to moderate mental illness, veterans who become homeless due to sudden or worsening economic hardship and loss of employment; and

WHEREAS, The GPD program has proved to be successful in rehabilitation of the veteran in helping him/her to become a productive citizen; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 17-18, 2018, That The American Legion supports Congress authorizing and making appropriations for the Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program to the level of need demonstrated in communities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion recommends the GPD program be modernized in order to keep pace with the Department of Veterans Affairs goal to end and prevent veteran homelessness; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports any administrative proposal that will greatly increase the amount of technical assistance available to current and potential GPD providers; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 325 approved by the 2016 National Convention titled, Support Funding And Changes To VA's Grant And Per Diem Program is hereby superseded and rescinded.