

§ 39.10

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oriented to VA procedures and requirements plus any technical comments pertaining to the project. These conferences will take place at an appropriate location near the proposed site and should include a site visit to ensure that all parties to the process, including NCA staff, are familiar with the site and its characteristics.

(b) *Additional conferences.* At any time, VA may recommend an additional conference (such as a design development conference) be held in VA Central Office in Washington, DC, to provide an opportunity for the State and its architects to discuss requirements for a grant with VA officials.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501, 2408.)

§ 39.10 Application requirements.

(a) For a project to be considered for grant funding under this part, the State must submit an application (as opposed to a preapplication) consisting of the following:

(1) Standard Form 424 (“Face Sheet”) with the box labeled “application” marked;

(2) Standard Form 424C (“Budget Information”), which documents the amount of funds requested based on the construction costs as estimated by the successful construction bid;

(3) A copy of itemized bid tabulations (If there are non-VA participating areas, these shall be itemized separately.); and

(4) Standard Form 424D (“Assurances—Construction Program”).

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501, 2408)

(b) Prior to submission of the application, the State must submit a copy of an Environmental Assessment to determine if an Environmental Impact Statement is necessary for compliance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4332). The Environmental Assessment must briefly describe the project’s possible beneficial and harmful effects on the following impact categories:

- (1) Transportation,
- (2) Air quality,
- (3) Noise,
- (4) Solid waste,
- (5) Utilities,

(6) Geology (Soils/Hydrology/Floodplains),

(7) Water quality,

(8) Land use,

(9) Vegetation, Wildlife, Aquatic, Ecology/Wetlands, etc.,

(10) Economic activities,

(11) Cultural resources,

(12) Aesthetics,

(13) Residential population,

(14) Community services and facilities,

(15) Community plans and projects, and

(16) Other.

(c) If an adverse environmental impact is anticipated, the State must explain what action will be taken to minimize the impact. The assessment shall comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*).

(The Office of Management and Budget has approved the information collection requirements in this section under control numbers 0348-0043; 0348-0041; 0348-0042.)

§ 39.11 Final review and approval of application.

Following VA approval of bid tabulations and cost estimates, the complete grant application will be reviewed for approval in accordance with the requirements of § 39.5. If the application is approved, the grant will be awarded by a Notification of Award of Federal Grant Funds.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501, 2408.)

§ 39.12 Hearings.

(a) No application for a grant to establish, expand, or improve a State veterans’ cemetery shall be disapproved until the applicant has been afforded an opportunity for a hearing.

(b) Whenever a hearing is requested under this section, notice of the hearing, procedure for the conduct of such hearing, and procedures relating to decisions and notices shall accord with the provisions of §§ 18.9 and 18.10 of this chapter. Failure of an applicant to request a hearing under this section or to appear at a hearing for which a date has been set shall be deemed to be a