

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SUPPLEMENT TO
THE GOVERNMENT-WIDE REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF
PUBLIC LAW 106-107**

I. BACKGROUND

This document is the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) supplement to the government-wide Annual Progress Report on Implementation of Public Law 106-107, the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999. This report summarizes VA's government-wide and agency efforts to streamline and simplify its grants process and activities for the period May 2002 through May 2003.

II. PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT-WIDE STREAMLINING AND GRANTS.GOV EFFORTS

- The State home construction and VA Homeless Grant/Per Diem program is currently transitioning to the HHS payment system. This will support on-line requests for reimbursements, shorten the reimbursement process, and improve internal controls for the grants management process. Forms used in the application process are available on-line for downloading by states wishing to submit a grant application.

III. INTERNAL VA EFFORTS TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT CONDUCTIVE TO GRANTS STREAMLINING AND SIMPLIFICATION

A. General Approach

- VA is establishing a Grants Management workgroup composed of representatives from each VA grants program and key supporting offices. VA is in the process of updating its Grants Management policy (VA Directive 0071 and applicable 38 C.F.R. provisions to make them consistent with government-wide policy as reflected in the revised OMB Circular A-133.
- A review of the State veterans home construction grant program was conducted with a goal of improving the effectiveness and performance of VA's grant programs, and simplifying the application and reporting processes. The resulting report recommended improvements in the procedures and processes to ensure program internal controls and accountability. These recommendations have been implemented.

B. Electronic Synopsis

- The VA home page has been added as a link to the FirstGov.gov web site. The VA home page includes information on the Homeless Grant and Per Diem Program. This information provides the reader with recent Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs), applications for funding, and links to relevant public laws and regulations.
- VA now announces all State cemetery grant awards on the Grants.gov FIND (formerly FedBizOpps) website.