



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES
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SECRETARY, DVS

Dear Mayor / Town Manager,

December 22, 2011

In an effort to assist the Veterans' Service Officer (VSO) of your community, the Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) will be holding a training session March 5 through March 8, 2012. DVS developed this training session in response to the needs of the community to ensure that you receive the full 75% reimbursement of veterans' benefits expenditures. In addition to the reimbursement process, the VSOs will be trained in a variety of processes including applying for alternative sources of benefits which reduces the tax burden on your community.

This year's training will emphasize two major areas:

One area of training is the application process for VA benefits that provides an immediate reduction in the benefits paid by the community, but also brings an important revenue stream into your city or town.

The second focus is training on the Veterans' Services Management Information System (Web-VSMIS). Web-VSMIS is a web based, interactive database management system developed exclusively to assist the VSO with benefit submission and reimbursement. The system is in use in 90 percent of the communities in the Commonwealth. It has already shown its usefulness with the high level of accuracy with submissions and consequently, it ensures your community is accurately reimbursed the correct amount it expended in veterans benefits. After July 1, 2012, DVS will no longer accept paper submissions for chap 115 benefit reimbursement requests.

In accordance with FY 2012 General Appropriates Act, money is set aside to provide this training to the VSOs of the Commonwealth. As part of this act, DVS will reimburse the community 100% of the booking fee, travel and living expenses (specifics are in the letter to the VSO of your community).

The training will be divided into blocks covering the entire four day session. We ask that the VSO attend all four days to get the full measure of training.

Please feel free to contact me if I can answer any questions you may have. You can reach me during normal business hours at (617) 210-5482 or evan.makrinikolas@massmail.state.ma.us.

Sincerely,

Evan Makrinikolas
Training and Compliance Director
Department of Veterans Services

Cc: Town / City VSO

