

1. Provide a summary of the Grant Program/Activity outcomes *to date* as it relates to the original Work Plan (including the actual number of Veterans directly served as reported on the most recent submitted Activity Log (if applicable))?

Our first meals were delivered in October of 2023 to only 3 veterans, but we have increased delivery each month, in August of 2024 Metro Meals on Wheels (MMOW) delivered meals to 110 veterans. Since our first meal deliveries in October we have delivered a total of 10,331 meals to 153 veterans. These meals were delivered by volunteers from the more than 30 Metro Meals on Wheels partner programs across the Twin Cities region. We've had significant increase in veterans contacting to our office driven by outreach and word of mouth. We have also been working closely with the County Veterans Services, but our top referral program has been MACV.

2. Have any Grant Agreement Amendments been necessary? (Yes or No) If yes, briefly explain the purpose and justification of the Amendment(s).

Yes. We returned to the legislature and asked to have the grant funds roll-over from the 2024 fiscal year to the 2025 fiscal year. The roll out of the program was slower than we had anticipated leading to most of the original grant funding going unspent. With the roll-over of funds, we will be able to continue our growth.

3. Describe challenges which may have impacted the grant outcomes while administering the grant and any "lessons learned (if applicable).

Because this is a first of its kind funding for a veterans Meals on Wheels program, we have had to learn new terms as well as a new reporting process. The biggest challenge has been outreach to both veterans directly and to agencies serving veterans in our service area. As recent as late August we were still talking to employees at the MNVA that work directly with veterans in need that had not heard of this meal delivery program.

4. Is the grant Program/Activity on-track to complete on-time according to the current Grant Agreement expiration date (Yes or No)? If no, explain.

Yes. But since our program serves meals to veterans in need of nutrition, there is no way to "complete" the work of the grant as long as there are veterans in need.

5. Is the grant Program/Activity on-track to expend the total grant award dollars? (Yes or No)? If no, explain.

Yes, if we continue to expand out home delivered meals at our current rate of month over month growth.

6. Additional Comments

Starting in January of 2024 we will experience cuts to one of our largest federal grants with the end of the American Rescue Plan Act dollars. This reduction could impact 15-20% of the seniors being served under the Older Americans Act (OLA) Home Delivered Meal program. Our current contract with MNVA will not allow us to move veterans that have been receiving meals under the OLA to the VA grant until these veterans are without food for 6 months. MMOW also has an internal source for clients that may fall through the cracks and are not able to pay for meals out of pocket. This program is funded by individual donations and began during the height of COVID-19. This funding program is beginning to run out of dollars, and like the OLM, for veterans that have been part of this program for the last several years will not be eligible for VA funded meals for 6 months.

We hope to work with the legislature this year to expand this program state-wide with partners that are serving those in-need outside our metro service area.