

# Ravalli County Veterans Service Center

217 North 3rd Street, Suite L, Hamilton, MT 59840  
Phone: (406) 363-9838 Fax: (406) 393-1111  
Email: [VeteransServices@rc.mt.gov](mailto:VeteransServices@rc.mt.gov)  
Web: [RavalliVSC.org](http://RavalliVSC.org)

---

July 18, 2022

Re: Montana House Bill 178, Grant Dispersal for County Veterans' Service Offices

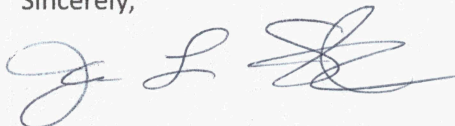
To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Ravalli County Veterans Service Center (RCVSC) thank you for the opportunity to apply for this grant. These funds help our office to be successful in our goal of supporting and assisting our local veterans and their family members. In the past we have used these funds to help maintain a professional working space, to include computer equipment and office furniture as well as to help our VSO's gain additional training above our required annual CEU training and accreditation.

From July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, the RCVSC has filed approximately 110 new claims or claims for increasing already service-connected disabilities. We have also filed in accordance with the VA AMA process an additional 33 claims consisting of 5 Higher Level Reviews and 28 Supplemental claims. We have either updated or added/removed dependents 36 times, as well as filed 18 pension claims including survivor pension and veteran pension along with 9 service-connected death claims. Our office has also filed 149 county burial claims, applied for 30 VA headstone and 20 VA burial benefits claims.

RCVSC is fortunate enough to have access to two vans that are used to transport veterans locally to medical appointments. Despite Covid-19, we still had 27 vehicle transports accumulating 1,351 miles on the vans.

Sincerely,



Jamie L. Smothers, CVSO  
Director, Ravalli County Veterans Service Center  
Hamilton, MT. 59840  
406-363-9838