

OFFICE OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY COMPTROLLER



Registration of Nonprofit Veterans Organizations

For the Period: June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020

Report 2019-31

Date Re-Issued: August 24, 2020

John M. Kennedy, Jr.

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REPORT HIGHLIGHTS/FACT SHEET

Registration of Nonprofit Veterans Organizations

Analyses Objective

The purpose of our analyses was to review documentation submitted by nonprofit veterans organizations (agencies) in order to provide the Veterans and Consumer Affairs Committee of the County Legislature with a report summarizing the information submitted by each registered nonprofit veterans organization pursuant to §353-24.1 of the Suffolk County Code.

Results of Analyses

- Audit & Control issued 20 registration certificates from June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020 to agencies that completed all of the registration requirements (Schedule 1) (p. 8).
- Audit and Control identified 9 local nonprofit veterans agencies solely with a local presence that expended \$3,062,918 to support veterans programs in Suffolk County (Chart 1, p. 4).
- Audit and Control identified 8 local nonprofit veterans agencies with a national presence that expended \$445,279 to support veterans programs in Suffolk County (Chart 2, p. 5).
- Audit and Control identified 3 national nonprofit veterans agencies that expended \$58,562 to support veterans programs in Suffolk County (Chart 3, p. 6).
- Audit and Control identified 8 agencies with expired registration certificates and which are prohibited from soliciting funds or contributions in Suffolk County (Schedule 2, p. 9).

Background

In accordance with §353-21 of the Suffolk County Code, any nonprofit veterans organization that solicits funds or contributions from the public or that has funds or contributions solicited on its behalf within Suffolk County is required to file an application for registration statement with Audit & Control.

Audit & Control is responsible for reviewing all documentation submitted by the Agency with its application for registration statement to determine whether all registration requirements have been satisfied. The Comptroller will provide each Agency that has completed all of the registration requirements with a registration certificate which has a registration number and expiration date.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

June 12, 2020

Susan A. Berland, Chairperson
Veterans and Consumer Affairs Committee
William H. Rogers Building
725 Veterans Memorial Highway
Smithtown, NY 11787

Dear Legislator Berland:

In accordance with Suffolk County Local Law 32-2016, the Suffolk County Department of Audit & Control (Audit & Control) is responsible for registering all nonprofit veterans organizations (agencies) soliciting funds and contributions in Suffolk County. Audit and Control reviewed all documentation submitted by these agencies with their application for registration statements from June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020, and provided a registration certificate to the agencies which completed all of the registration requirements. The documentation provided by the agencies was not audited, and the analyses provided are solely for informational purposes.

The purpose of our analyses was to review documentation submitted by the agencies in order to provide the Veterans and Consumer Affairs Committee of the County Legislature with a report summarizing the information submitted by each registered nonprofit veterans organization pursuant to §353-24.1 of the Suffolk County Code. These analyses were prepared using the information provided by the agencies and are not intended to be a presentation in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The objectives of these analyses included, but were not limited to: reviewing all documentation submitted by the agencies with their application for registration statements in order to determine whether all registration requirements were satisfied; issuing a registration certificate, which has a registration number and expiration date, to the agencies that completed all of the registration requirements; identifying agencies with expired registration certificates and which are prohibited from soliciting funds or contributions in Suffolk County.

We conducted our analyses in order to satisfactorily complete our objectives and to comply with the requirements of Suffolk County Local Law 32-2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Office of the County Comptroller
Division of Auditing Services

BACKGROUND

In accordance with §353-21 of the Suffolk County Code, any nonprofit veterans organization that solicits funds or contributions from the public or that has funds or contributions solicited on its behalf within Suffolk County is required to file an application for registration statement with Audit & Control. The application for registration statement, which contains all of the information detailed in §353-21 B of the Suffolk County Code, must be refiled and updated every year for as long as the Agency is engaged in solicitation activities in Suffolk County.

Audit & Control is responsible for reviewing all documentation submitted by the Agency with its application for registration statement to determine whether all registration requirements have been satisfied. The Comptroller will provide each Agency that has completed all of the registration requirements with a registration certificate which has a registration number and expiration date. In addition, Audit & Control will publish on its webpage the following information regarding each registered nonprofit veterans organization for the previous year: total revenue, including donations, contributions, grants and investments; total funds expended to assist veterans and their families; amount and percentage of funds raised that were expended to support veterans' programs in Suffolk County; amount of funds that remain undistributed; amount of monies paid to professional fundraisers and solicitors; total administrative expenses for the Agency and the percentage of total administrative expenses to total Agency expenses.

Local Law 16-2020 was adopted on May 20, 2020 and became effective on July 8, 2020. At Legislature's request, the report was revised to include the new reporting requirements. The Law requires Audit and Control to submit a written report to the Veterans and Consumer Affairs Committee of the County Legislature no later than June 15th each year which includes metrics distinguishing between local and national nonprofit veterans organizations with respect to funds raised and expended in Suffolk County, with separate accountings for each category of organizations. Three charts were incorporated into the report to distinguish the status of these organizations: one addressing the funds raised and expended by national nonprofit veterans organizations, one addressing the funds raised and expended by local nonprofit veterans organizations which have a national presence and one addressing local nonprofit veterans organizations which solely have a local presence. Local Law 16-2020 also requires the inclusion of the following schedules in the report: a schedule of organizations which have submitted registration applications and are in the process of being certified, a schedule of organizations which have submitted registration applications and are in the process of being re-certified and a schedule of organizations which have never registered and no pending application for re-certification; however, the report does not include the abovementioned schedules as they were not applicable to any agency.

RESULTS OF ANALYSES

Audit & Control issued 20 registration certificates from June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020 to agencies that completed all of the registration requirements (Schedule 1). These agencies must refile an application for registration statement with Audit & Control every year for as long as the agencies are engaged in solicitation activities in Suffolk County.

Our analysis revealed nine (9) local nonprofit veterans agencies solely with a local presence that expended \$3,062,918 to support veterans programs in Suffolk County (Chart 1, below); eight (8) local nonprofit veterans agencies with a national presence that expended \$445,279 to support veterans programs in Suffolk County (Chart 2, p. 5); and three (3) national nonprofit veterans agencies that expended \$58,562 to support veterans programs in Suffolk County (Chart 3, p. 6).

Chart 1

Local Nonprofit Veterans Agencies Solely with a Local Presence

Agency	Total Funds Raised (Includes all Revenues)	Total Funds Expended to Assist Veterans and Their Families	Total Funds Expended to Support Veterans' Programs in Suffolk County	Percentage of Funds Raised that were Expended to Support Veterans' Programs in Suffolk County	Percentage of Funds Expended to Assist Veterans and Their Families Used to Support Veterans' Programs in Suffolk County
1 Angels for Warriors, Inc.	27,982	28,208	27,982	100.00%	99.20%
2 Cpl. Christopher G. Scherer Semper Fi Fund, Inc.	57,828	25,200	10,325	17.85%	40.97%
3 General Needs Ltd	194,713	89,534	47,039	24.16%	52.54%
4 Make it Count Foundation, Inc.	91,168	108,700	45,000	49.36%	41.40%
5 Moonjumpers Charitable Foundation, Inc.	48,838	-	-	0.00%	0.00%
6 Operation VEST (1)	-	-	-	0.00%	0.00%
7 Project 9 Line, Inc.	51,828	70,246	70,246	135.54%	100.00%
8 United Veterans Beacon House, Inc.	9,290,001	3,295,801	2,832,058	30.49%	85.93%
9 Warrior Ranch Foundation, Inc.	76,341	38,118	30,268	39.65%	79.41%

Total: \$9,838,699 \$3,655,807 \$3,062,918

(1) This is a new agency which was incorporated in 2020.

Chart 2

Local Nonprofit Veterans Agencies with a National Presence

	Agency	Total Funds Raised (Includes all Revenues)	Total Funds Expended to Assist Veterans and Their Families	Total Funds Expended to Support Veterans' Programs in Suffolk County	Percentage of Funds Raised that were Expended to Support Veterans' Programs in Suffolk County	Percentage of Funds Expended to Assist Veterans and Their Families Used to Support Veterans' Programs in Suffolk County
1	Airborne Tri Team, Inc.	37,467	28,148	8,721	23.28%	30.98%
2	America's VetDogs	6,134,822	4,179,619	225,500	3.68%	5.40%
3	Fairway Foundation, Inc. (2)	467,447	13,825	13,825	2.96%	100.00%
4	Honor Flight Long Island	84,828	70,899	70,899	83.58%	100.00%
5	Operation-Initiative Foundation	11,644	6,614	-	0.00%	0.00%
6	Paws of War, Inc.	1,372,753	121,096	82,561	6.01%	68.18%
7	Rebuilding Together Long Island, Inc.	611,396	40,252	28,203	4.61%	70.07%
8	Veterans Yoga Project, Inc.	543,560	216,678	15,570	2.86%	7.19%
Total:		\$9,263,917	\$4,677,131	\$445,279		

(2) This agency awarded a home valued at \$300,000 mortgage-free in 2019 to a Suffolk County Veteran. The equity of the home is based on the cost of the home and reflects the donation of labor and materials donated by volunteers. The deed relinquishes 10% equity at the onset and 10% each anniversary.

Chart 3

National Nonprofit Veterans Agencies

	Agency	Total Funds Raised (Includes all Revenues)	Total Funds Expended to Assist Veterans and Their Families	Total Funds Expended to Support Veterans' Programs in Suffolk County	Percentage of Funds Raised that were Expended to Support Veterans' Programs in Suffolk County	Percentage of Funds Expended to Assist Veterans and Their Families Used to Support Veterans' Programs in Suffolk County
1	Hope for the Warriors	5,961,030	7,370,900	3,700	0.06%	0.05%
2	Travis Manion Foundation	12,095,276	11,101,377	6,300	0.05%	0.06%
3	Wounded Warrior Project, Inc.	282,456,768	201,048,827	48,562	0.02%	0.02%

Total: \$300,513,074 \$219,521,104 \$58,562

Audit and Control identified 8 agencies with expired registration certificates and which are prohibited from soliciting funds or contributions in Suffolk County (Schedule 2). Section 353-23 A of the Suffolk County Code states that any nonprofit veterans organization which violates any of the provisions contained in Article III. Registration of Nonprofit Veterans Organizations of the Suffolk County Code shall be subject to civil penalties of no less than \$500, nor more than \$1,000 for each violation. In addition, Section 353-23 C of the Suffolk County Code requires any civil penalties which are collected to be deposited with the Veterans Service Agency to be used to provide services to homeless veterans. Our review of the noncompliant nonprofit veterans organizations on Schedule 5 revealed that **almost all** of these agencies are still soliciting funds or contributions in Suffolk County even though they do not have a valid registration certificate. Audit & Control attempted to contact all noncompliant nonprofit veterans agencies to determine their solicitation status and any communication is noted on Schedule 2. Therefore, the Veterans Service Agency should review the schedule and consult with the County Attorney to determine if the required civil penalties stated in Section 353-23 of the Suffolk County Code should be imposed.

Information submitted by each registered nonprofit veterans agency with its application for registration statement as required by §353-21 B of the Suffolk County Code is summarized in Schedule 3, (p. 10). In addition, information regarding each registered nonprofit veterans agency which is required by §353-21 D of the Suffolk County Code is published on the Comptroller's website and can be viewed at <https://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/comptroller>.

CONTRIBUTORS TO REPORT

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Comptroller

Louis A. Necroto, CPA

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Frank Bayer, CPA, Executive Director of Auditing Services

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Jennifer Fasano, CPA, Senior Auditor

Schedule 1

Registration Certificates Issued by the Comptroller's Office
For the Period June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020

	Nonprofit Veterans Agency	Classification	Certificate Number	Expiration Date
1	Airborne Tri Team, Inc. P.O. Box 795 Farmingville, NY 11732	Local Organization with a National Presence	2019-12	7/22/20
2	America's VetDogs 371 East Jericho Turnpike Smithtown, NY 11787	Local Organization with a National Presence	2019-08	6/3/20
3	Angels for Warriors, Inc. 164 Main Street Huntington, NY 11743	Local Organization	2019-17	8/16/20
4	Cpl. Christopher G. Scherer Semper Fi Fund, Inc. 12 Madsen Lane East Northport, NY 11731	Local Organization	2019-18	8/21/20
5	Fairway Foundation, Inc. 1200 Veterans Highway, Suite 102 Hauppauge, NY 11788	Local Organization with a National Presence	2020-04	5/14/21
6	General Needs Ltd 297 Larkfield Road, # 761 East Northport, NY 11731	Local Organization	2019-13	7/22/20
7	Honor Flight Long Island 116 Hampton Road Southampton, NY 11968	Local Organization with a National Presence	2019-16	7/25/20
8	Hope for the Warriors 8003 Forbes Place, Suite 201 Springfield, VA 22151	National Organization	2019-21	11/25/20
9	Make it Count Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 370 West Islip, NY 11795	Local Organization	2019-09	6/3/20
10	Moonjumpers Charitable Foundation, Inc. 775 Park Avenue, Suite 222 Huntington, NY 11743	Local Organization	2020-05	5/18/21
11	Operation-Initiative Foundation 99 North Broadway, First Floor Hicksville, NY 11801	Local Organization with a National Presence	2019-15	7/25/20
12	Operation VEST 549 Pine Acres Blvd Brightwaters, NY 11718	Local Organization	2020-01	3/9/21
13	Paws of War, Inc. 34 E. Main Street, Suite 303 Smithtown, NY 11787	Local Organization with a National Presence	2020-07	5/21/21
14	Project 9 Line, Inc. 25 Union Avenue Islip, NY 11751	Local Organization	2019-14	7/25/20
15	Rebuilding Together Long Island, Inc. 208 Route 109, Suite 204 Farmingdale, NY 11735	Local Organization with a National Presence	2019-19	9/27/20
16	Travis Manion Foundation 164 East State Street Dovlestown, PA 18901	National Organization	2019-10	6/12/20
17	United Veterans Beacon House, Inc. 1715 Union Blvd. Bay Shore, NY 11706	Local Organization	2020-03	5/8/21
18	Veterans Yoga Project, Inc. P.O. Box 6472 Alameda, CA 94501	Local Organization with a National Presence	2020-06	5/18/21
19	Warrior Ranch Foundation, Inc. 443 Oceanside St. Islip Terrace, NY 11752	Local Organization	2019-20	11/6/20
20	Wounded Warrior Project, Inc. 4899 Belfort Road, Suite 300 Jacksonville, FL 32256	National Organization	2020-02	4/24/21

Schedule 2

Nonprofit Veterans Agencies with Expired Registration Certificates
As of May 31, 2020

	Nonprofit Veterans Agency	Certificate Expiration Date	Recertification Letter Mailed	Status	Notes
1	Marine Corps Veterans, Long Island, NY, Inc. P.O. Box 236 Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776	9/8/2016	10/25/2016	Received email from Agency on 5/19/20 stating that they were in the process of compiling the registration paperwork before the COVID-19 pandemic, but the paperwork is currently on hold. The Agency stated that they are not currently fundraising.	
2	Safe and Sound Veterans Foundation 19 Quality Street Oakdale, NY 11769	12/8/2017	10/18/2017	Sent email to Agency on 5/13/2020; however, it came back undeliverable. Left follow-up phone message on 5/19/2020. Spoke with agency on 5/27/2020 and emailed application for registration statement to them. Agency's name was changed to National Police Foundation.	
3	Cow Harbor Warriors, Inc. PO Box 204 Northport, NY 11768	2/17/2018	12/21/2017	Sent email to Agency on 5/13/2020; however, it came back undeliverable. There is no Agency website or phone number.	
4	9-1-1 Veterans, Inc. P.O. Box 911 Lindenhurst, NY 11757	4/18/2018	3/1/2018	Sent email to Agency on 5/13/2020; however, it came back undeliverable. There is no phone number for Agency. Agency's website indicates that it is currently soliciting donations.	
5	Horses Healing Veterans, Inc. 133 Sportsman Street Central Islip, NY 11722	8/7/2018	7/11/2018	Sent email to Agency on 5/13/2020 and left follow-up phone message on 5/18/20.	
6	Sail Ahead, Inc. 32 Greenhills Road Huntington Station, NY 11746	11/14/2019	10/2/2019	Sent email to Agency on 5/13/2020 and left follow-up phone message on 5/18/20. Agency's website indicates that it is currently soliciting donations.	Agency was issued a Registration Certificate on August 21, 2020 after all required documentation was submitted by the Agency.
7	Here to Help Military and Families Corp. 1025 Northern Boulevard, Suite 301 Roslyn, NY 11576	4/11/2020	2/24/2020	Received email from Agency on 5/11/20 stating that it has been a slow process because of the pandemic, but that it is working on their renewal submission. Received subsequent email from Agency on 5/21/20 requesting clarification on requested documents which was answered. Agency's website indicates that it is currently soliciting donations.	Agency was issued a Registration Certificate on August 4, 2020 after all required documentation was submitted by the Agency.
8	Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team P.O. Box 11538 Norfolk, VA 23517	5/10/2020	4/14/2020	Received email from Agency on 4/20/20 which stated all current activities have been cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. However, the Agency's website indicates that it is currently soliciting donations.	

** Mission22, Sell to a Veteran, Combat Infantrymen's Association and Guardians of Rescue were removed from the above schedule as the agencies provided a written statement certifying that their agency is no longer soliciting funds in Suffolk County.

Schedule 3

Nonprofit Veterans Agencies Registered with Comptroller's Office
For the Period June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020

Nonprofit Veterans Agency		Total Funds Raised (Includes all Revenues)	Total Expenditures	Amount of Funds that Remain Undistributed	Total Paid to Professional Fundraisers and Solicitors	Total Administrative Expenses and the Agency's Administrative Percentage	Total Funds Expended to Assist Veterans and Their Families	Total Funds Expended to Support Veterans' Programs in Suffolk County	Percentage of Funds Raised that were Expended to Support Veterans' Programs in Suffolk County	Percentage of Funds Expended to Assist Veterans and Their Families Used to Support Veterans' Programs in Suffolk County
1	Airborne Tri Team, Inc. P.O. Box 795 Farmingville, NY 11732	\$37,467	\$31,606	\$5,861	\$0	\$160 - 0.5%	\$28,148	\$8,721	23.28%	30.98%
2	America's VetDogs 371 East Jericho Turnpike Smithtown, NY 11787	\$6,134,822	\$5,455,857	\$678,965	\$0	\$334,917 - 6%	\$4,179,619	\$225,500	3.68%	5.40%
3	Angels for Warriors, Inc. 164 Main Street Huntington, NY 11743	\$27,982	\$28,208	\$0	\$0	\$10,152 - 36%	\$28,208	\$27,982	100.00%	99.20%
4	Cpl. Christopher G. Scherer Semper Fi Fund, Inc. 12 Madsen Lane East Northport, NY 11731	\$57,828	\$53,417	\$4,411	\$0	\$1,787 - 3%	\$25,200	\$10,325	17.85%	40.97%
5	Fairway Foundation, Inc. (2) 1200 Veterans Highway, Suite 102 Hauppauge, NY 11788	\$467,447	\$263,055	\$204,392	\$0	\$21,927 - 8%	\$13,825	\$13,825	2.96%	100.00%
6	General Needs Ltd 297 Larkfield Road, # 761 East Northport, NY 11731	\$194,713	\$135,072	\$59,641	\$0	\$45,920 - 34%	\$89,534	\$47,039	24.16%	52.54%
7	Honor Flight Long Island 116 Hampton Road Southampton, NY 11968	\$84,828	\$74,275	\$10,553	\$0	\$3,376 - 5%	\$70,899	\$70,899	83.58%	100.00%
8	Hope for the Warriors 8003 Forbes Place, Suite 201 Springfield, VA 22151	\$5,961,030	\$8,044,597	\$0	\$0	\$424,332 - 5%	\$7,370,900	\$3,700	0.06%	0.05%
9	Make it Count Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 370 West Islip, NY 11795	\$91,168	\$175,466	\$0	\$0	\$0 - 0%	\$108,700	\$45,000	49.36%	41.40%
10	Moonjumpers Charitable Foundation, Inc. 775 Park Avenue, Suite 222 Huntington, NY 11743	\$48,838	\$43,915	\$4,923	\$0	\$0 - 0%	\$0	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
11	Operation-Initiative Foundation 99 North Broadway, First Floor Hicksville, NY 11801	\$11,644	\$12,605	\$0	\$0	\$3,382 - 27%	\$6,614	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
12	Operation VEST (1) 549 Pine Acres Blvd Brightwaters, NY 11718	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
13	Paws of War, Inc. 34 E. Main Street, Suite 303 Smithtown, NY 11787	\$1,372,753	\$1,089,923	\$282,830	\$566,122	\$38,135 - 3%	\$121,096	\$82,561	6.01%	68.18%
14	Project 9 Line, Inc. 25 Union Avenue Islip, NY 11751	\$51,828	\$73,847	\$0	\$0	\$708 - 1%	\$70,246	\$70,246	135.54%	100.00%
15	Rebuilding Together Long Island, Inc. 208 Route 109, Suite 204 Farmingdale, NY 11735	\$611,396	\$598,322	\$13,074	\$0	\$48,906 - 8%	\$40,252	\$28,203	4.61%	70.07%
16	Travis Manion Foundation 164 East State Street Dovlestown, PA 18901	\$12,095,276	\$11,387,263	\$708,013	\$0	\$478,293 - 4%	\$11,101,377	\$6,300	0.05%	0.06%
17	United Veterans Beacon House, Inc. 1715 Union Blvd. Bay Shore, NY 11706	\$9,290,001	\$8,034,062	\$1,255,939	\$0	\$925,484 - 12%	\$3,295,801	\$2,832,058	30.49%	85.93%
18	Veterans Yoga Project, Inc. P.O. Box 6472 Alameda, CA 94501	\$543,560	\$486,396	\$57,164	\$0	\$269,718 - 55%	\$216,678	\$15,570	2.86%	7.19%
19	Warrior Ranch Foundation, Inc. 443 Oceanside St. Islip Terrace, NY 11752	\$76,341	\$46,348	\$29,993	\$0	\$7,851 - 17%	\$38,118	\$30,268	39.65%	79.41%
20	Wounded Warrior Project, Inc. 4899 Belfort Road, Suite 300 Jacksonville, FL 32256	\$282,456,768	\$282,645,182	\$0	\$9,379,379	\$15,285,171 - 5%	\$201,048,827	\$48,562	0.02%	0.02%

(1) This is a new agency which was incorporated in 2020.

(2) This agency awarded a home valued at \$300,000 mortgage-free in 2019 to a Suffolk County Veteran. The equity of the home is based on the cost of the home and reflects the donation of labor and materials donated by volunteers. The deed relinquishes 10% equity at the onset and 10% each anniversary.

APPENDIX A: ANALYSES SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

To accomplish the objectives as stated in the Letter of Transmittal, we performed the following work:

- Sent recertification letters and an application for registration statement to all agencies which had a registration certificate that expired or was due to expire in the immediate future.
- Contacted via email and phone, veterans agencies whose registration certificate expired to inquire whether the Agency is operating and soliciting funds in Suffolk County.
- Sent letters and application for registration statement to any Agency which informed Audit & Control that it intended to solicit funds or contributions from the public or that it was going to have funds or contributions solicited on its behalf within Suffolk County.
- Reviewed all documentation submitted by the agencies with their application for registration statements in order to determine whether all registration requirements were satisfied.
- Issued a registration certificate, which has a registration number and expiration date, to all agencies that completed all of the registration requirements.
- Identified agencies with expired registration certificates and which are prohibited from soliciting funds or contributions in Suffolk County.
- Contacted each nonprofit veterans agency registered with the Comptroller's Office in order to determine if the agency is a local nonprofit veterans agency with solely a local presence, a local nonprofit veterans agency with a national presence, or a national nonprofit veterans agency.
- Published on Audit & Control's webpage the following information regarding each registered nonprofit veterans organization for the previous year: total revenue, including donations, contributions, grants and investments; total funds expended to assist veterans and their families; amount and percentage of funds raised that were expended to support veterans' programs in Suffolk County; amount of funds that remain undistributed; amount of monies paid to professional fundraisers and solicitors; total administrative expenses for the Agency and the percentage of total administrative expenses to total Agency expenses.