



MAY 25 2018

Director
State Approving Agency

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Benefits Administration
Education Service
Washington, D.C. 20420**

Dear SAA Director:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the status of the fiscal year 2019 VA, Education Service and State Approving Agency (SAA) agreement.

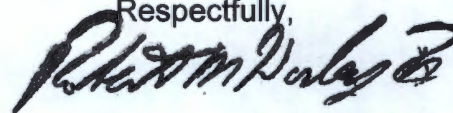
Since the start of fiscal year 2018, we have been working to ensure that we have the best contracting vehicle in place as we move into a new FY2019 base year. After several discussions and in collaboration with the VBA, Office of Acquisitions, Office of Finance, and the Office of General Counsel, we have decided to move to a new "contracting" vehicle. This new option, a cooperative agreement, will replace the federal acquisition regulation (FAR) contract and serve as a more practical and appropriate means to address our relationship. The rationale to shift to agreements is also based upon the authorities that exist to allow VA the flexibility to enter into and administer these actions outside of a formal contract process.

If we were to continue with the present FAR contract, a contracting action for the SAA would be required to strictly conform to the FAR and VA acquisition regulation (VAR) which would result in a much more cumbersome administrative process than when the present agreement began in 2014. Additionally, this way forward will avoid the Contractor Officer Representative (COR) requirements and contract administration needs of federal contracts. This change will in no way affect the nature of the relationship or the strong partnership between the VA and SAAs. We will still negotiate the parameters of the agreement with the NASAA Contract Committee; the appropriate state authority and the VA (Director, Education Service) will sign each document; and the basic authorities and requirements of 38 U.S.C. still apply. The primary difference you will see is the elimination of language referencing the Federal Acquisition Regulations.

I have informed the NASAA President, of this change, and my staff will share further details in the next meeting with the NASAA Contract Committee. This approach will provide a simplified and more practical vehicle which will better serve both SAAs and VA.

Director
State Approving Agency
Page 2

I would like to thank you for your continued support of the VA and SAA partnership and the educational success of our Nation's Veterans.

Respectfully,


Robert M. Worley II
Director, Education Service

Cc: VACO, Education Service