

**PART 39—AID TO STATES FOR ESTABLISHMENT, EXPANSION, AND IMPROVEMENT, OR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, OF VETERANS CEMETERIES**

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**Subpart A—General Provisions**

**§ 39.1 Purpose.**

This part sets forth the mechanism for a State to obtain a grant to establish, expand, or improve a veterans cemetery that is or will be owned by the State or to obtain a grant to operate or maintain a State veterans cemetery to meet VA's national shrine standards of appearance.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501, 2408)

**§ 39.2 Definitions.**

For the purpose of this part:

(a) *Establishment* means the process of site selection, land acquisition, design and planning, earth moving, landscaping, construction, and provision of initial operating equipment necessary to convert a tract of land to an operational veterans cemetery.

(b) *Expansion* means an increase in the burial capacity or acreage of an existing cemetery through the addition of gravesites and other facilities, such as committal service shelters, crypts (preplaced grave liners), and columbaria, necessary for the functioning of a cemetery.

(c) *Improvement* means the enhancement of a cemetery through landscaping, construction, or renovation of cemetery infrastructure, such as building expansion and upgrades to roads and irrigation systems, that is not directly related to the development of new gravesites; nonrecurring maintenance; and the addition of other features appropriate to cemeteries.

(d) *Establishment, Expansion, and Improvement Project* means an undertaking to establish, expand, or improve