

Department: County Human Services **Program Contact:** Erin Grahek
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Proposed
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The County Veterans Services Office (VSO) ensures equitable and efficient access to services and programs. The VSO supports anyone who served on active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces and their families. The VSO helps Veterans and dependents to get pension, disability, and health benefits through the Federal Veterans' Administration.

Program Summary

ISSUE: Accessing Federal Veterans' benefits is complex. The wait time to get a decision can be long — delaying access to needed benefits.

PROGRAM GOAL: The VSO goals are to provide information, help, and advocacy to improve their access to a pension, disability, and health benefits. The VSO leverages strong community partnerships to increase community referrals for underrepresented Veterans.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: The Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs trains and accredits Veterans services officers. They know applicable Federal and State laws to provide the best representation possible — free of charge. The office provides comprehensive Veterans Administration (VA) benefits counseling and enrollment. The VSO submits claims for VA compensation and pensions, and coordinates appeals. VSO does outreach to Veterans involved with the justice system. ADVSD leads the County's Veterans Services Task Force to strengthen the network of community partners. The VSO is a supporting partner in "A Home for Everyone." This program works to end chronic homelessness for Veterans. It also participates in the "By Name List" registry for Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Veteran services officers help Veterans to navigate the claims process. This program promotes fair access to underrepresented communities. The VSO uses intentional and targeted outreach to LGBTQ, women, and BIPOC Veterans. At any given moment, the VSO serves over 9,000 Veterans in the county. In FY2021, the VSO provided over 4,300 telephone and email screenings. These screenings provided information and referral, and scheduled appointments.

Performance Measures

| Measure Type | Primary Measure | FY21 Actual | FY22 Budgeted | FY22 Estimate | FY23 Offer |
|--------------|---|--------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Output | Number of service contacts held by Veterans Services Officers ¹ | 3,246 ² | 2,300 | 3,500 | 3,500 |
| Outcome | New monthly compensation or pension awarded for ongoing benefit to Veterans due to VSO representation | \$978,998 | \$901,421 | \$980,000 | \$980,000 |
| Output | Number of claims filed for Veterans or eligible family members | 582 | 700 | 700 | 800 |
| Outcome | New retroactive benefits awarded to Veterans because of VSO representation in the last fiscal year | \$1,962,606 | \$4,000,000 | \$4,000,000 | \$4,000,000 |

Performance Measures Descriptions

¹Reworded measure to align with data submitted to ODVA. ²Last year follow-up contacts were not counted. Per ODVA guidance, all additional claim related contacts are now included.

Revenue/Expense Detail

| | Adopted General Fund | Adopted Other Funds | Proposed General Fund | Proposed Other Funds |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Program Expenses | 2022 | 2022 | 2023 | 2023 |
| Personnel | \$523,977 | \$303,794 | \$555,243 | \$321,917 |
| Contractual Services | \$10,000 | \$0 | \$10,000 | \$24,330 |
| Materials & Supplies | \$34,580 | \$0 | \$35,044 | \$271 |
| Internal Services | \$104,755 | \$44,923 | \$129,195 | \$38,763 |
| Total GF/non-GF | \$673,312 | \$348,717 | \$729,482 | \$385,281 |
| Program Total: | \$1,022,029 | | \$1,114,763 | |
| Program FTE | 4.91 | 2.84 | 5.06 | 2.94 |

| Program Revenues | | | | |
|----------------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------------|
| Intergovernmental | \$0 | \$348,717 | \$0 | \$385,281 |
| Total Revenue | \$0 | \$348,717 | \$0 | \$385,281 |

Explanation of Revenues

\$385,281 - Oregon Department of Veteran Affairs

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2022: 25025 ADVSD Veterans Services

In FY 2023, this program increases by 0.25 FTE. The FTE was added during FY 2022 as part of the Federal/State midyear rebalance (SUPP02-DCHS-001-22).