

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

Aging, Disability & Veterans Services Division (ADVSD) operates the County Veterans Services Office (VSO) to ensure that Veterans receive equitable and efficient access to quality services and programs that meet their diverse needs. The VSO supports anyone who served on active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces and their families by providing advocacy, access, and assistance to obtain all benefits through the Federal Veterans' Administration contributing to the overall quality of life.

Program Summary

ISSUE: Accessing Federal Veterans' benefits is complex and the wait time to obtain a decision can be long thereby delaying access to needed benefits for Veterans and their families.

PROGRAM GOAL: The goals of the VSO are to provide information, assistance, and advocacy to all who served in the military to improve their access to a pension, disability, and health benefits. The VSO leverages strong community partnerships, resulting in increased community referrals for underrepresented Veterans.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: VSO staff are trained and accredited by the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs to represent Veterans and their families in their claims for benefits. Staff are versed in applicable Federal and State laws to provide the best representation possible, free of charge. The VSO provides comprehensive Veterans Administration (VA) benefits counseling and enrollment, submits claims for VA compensation and pensions, coordinates appeals, and provides 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" efforts to end chronic homelessness for Veterans through participation in the "By Name List," a registry for Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This effort increases awareness about VSO services in assisting Veterans to quickly and smoothly navigate the claims process. The VSO promotes equity for Veterans and military families in underrepresented communities who face barriers to access Federal, State, and local benefits. The VSO implements intentional and targeted outreach with multiple access options for LGBTQ Veterans, women Veterans, Veterans within communities of color, Veterans experiencing homelessness, justice-involved Veterans, as well as Veterans and military families experiencing socioeconomic disparities. At any given point in time, the VSO serves over 9,000 Veterans in the County. In FY 2020, the VSO provided over 4,900 telephone and email screening for prospective clients which resulted in information and referral services and scheduled appointments with the VSO for Veterans, their family members or other community members.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Number of appointments held by Veterans Services Officers	2,480	N/A	2,100	2,300
Outcome	New monthly compensation or pension awarded for ongoing benefit to Veterans due to VSO representation	\$901,421	\$595,000	\$901,421	\$901,421
Output	Number of claims filed for Veterans or eligible family members	721	N/A	625	700
Outcome	New retroactive benefits awarded to Veterans because of VSO representation in the last fiscal year	\$3,760,298	\$2,800,000	\$3,760,298	\$4,000,000

Performance Measures Descriptions

Previous measure: "Number of Veterans with new representation with Veterans Services." FY 2020 Actual=N/A, data not available. FY 2021 Purchased=1,050. FY 2021 Estimate=N/A, data not available. Previous measure: "Number of Veterans or eligible family members with financial claims filed in the fiscal year." FY 2020 Actual=N/A, data not available. FY 2021 Purchased=430. FY 2021 Estimate=N/A, data not available. These measures are being removed due to the unavailability of reliable data from the State.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Personnel	\$506,855	\$295,298	\$523,977	\$303,794
Contractual Services	\$5,000	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$34,580	\$34,580	\$0
Internal Services	\$130,803	\$11,813	\$104,755	\$44,923
Total GF/non-GF	\$642,658	\$366,691	\$673,312	\$348,717
Program Total:	\$1,009,349		\$1,022,029	
Program FTE	4.71	3.29	4.91	2.84

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$341,691	\$0	\$348,717
Beginning Working Capital	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$0	\$366,691	\$0	\$348,717

Explanation of Revenues

\$348,717 - Oregon Department of Veteran Affairs

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2021: 25025 ADVSD Veterans Services