

# Veteran Services and Counseling & Wellness Division

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Assistant Director

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# WDVA STRATEGIC PLAN

**GOAL 1:** Save And Transform Lives

**OBJECTIVE 1.1:** Focus on Health, Growth, Well-being, Connectivity, and Purpose, Resulting in a 20% Reduction in Suicide Among Veterans by 2025



# How WE Plan to Get There!

Strategy	Status
<b><i>Mitigate Risk Factors and Enhance Protective Factors</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>S&amp;S Fox Grant Program (implementing)</i></li> <li>• <i>VA/SAMHSA Governor's Challenge (adjusting)</i></li> <li>• <i>Counseling Program Expanding Services (adjusting)</i></li> <li>• Expansion of Peer Support &amp; Outreach per <a href="#">SB5358</a> &amp; PACT Act funding (planning)</li> <li>• <i>Synchronization of existing Peer Programs (adjusting)</i></li> <li>• Distribute remaining DNP kits to targeted (rural) areas (planning)</li> <li>• Military Spouse Initiatives, VOB Certification Program, Apprenticeship Program (sustaining)</li> <li>• <i>Claims Assistance to JBLM TSMs (adjusting)</i></li> </ul>
<b><i>Continue to Grow Community-Based and Governmental Partnerships</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VA/SAMHSA Governor's Challenge – 3 Priority Groups, Safer Homes TF, VA Puget Sound's <a href="#">Strength2Rise Campaign</a> (sustaining)</li> <li>• Annual VA Puget Sound Behavioral Health Summit (sustaining)</li> <li>• DVA led Suicide Prevention Summit (planning)</li> <li>• Expanding Suicide Prevention Connection (ARNG, USAR) (planning)</li> <li>• <i>Washington Transition &amp; Readiness Council (adjusting)</i></li> </ul>

SAMHSA - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

Administration

DNP – Digital Navigator Program

TSM – Transitioning Servicemember

VOB – Veteran Owned Business



# What's Important to Track

Measure	Connection to Objective	Target FY24
# of LEARN Trainings Conducted	Extends reach of informed support base	60
# Vet Corps Members Serving	Veterans connected to resources creating veterans' community through P2P support	66
# of Counseling Sessions	Veterans managing mental health issues (risk factor) and connecting to community (protective factor)	13,461



# Suicide Prevention Program

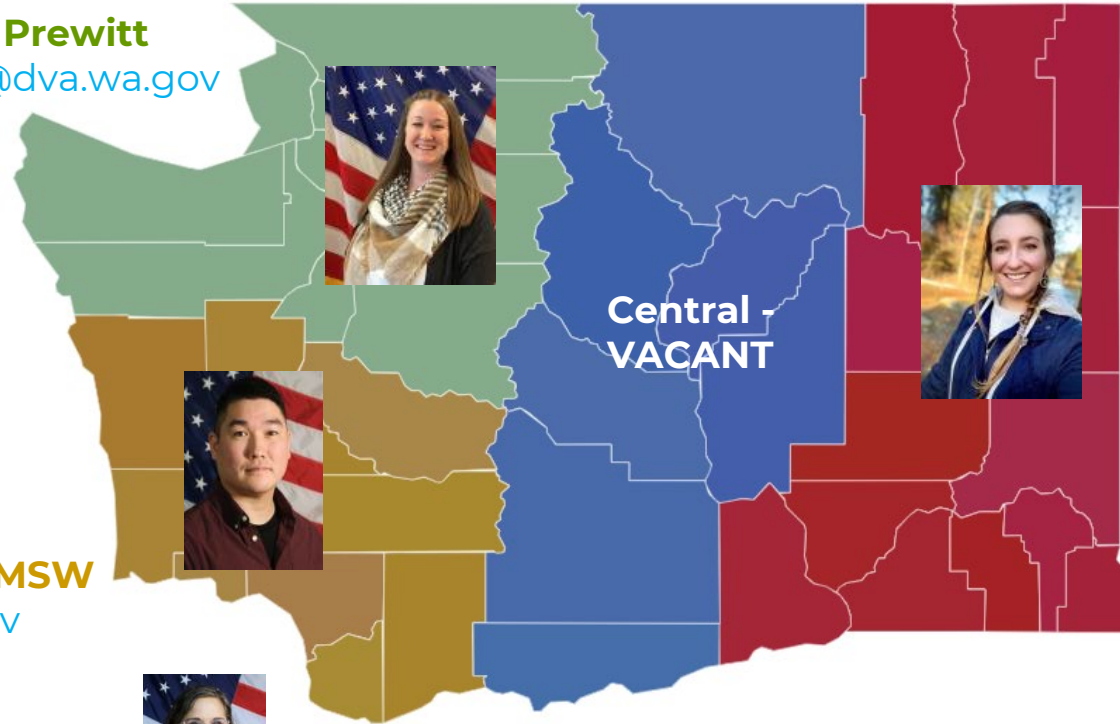
Connie Chapman  
Program Manager

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# Suicide Prevention Program Team

**Northwest – Jen Prewitt**  
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# Key Data Points

## Suicides

- 2020 – 46,000 Americans died by suicide
  - 1.15 Million Americans attempted suicide
  - ~every 27 seconds
- 2021 – 72% of veteran suicides were by firearms

## Firearms

- Firearm ownership is prevalent among Veterans at 45% than non-veteran adults at 19%
- Firearm death among veteran men was 62.4% higher than non-veteran men. For women veterans it was 281.1% higher than non-veteran women.





# The Governor's Challenge

A combined effort between SAMHSA (Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration) and Veteran's Affairs Administration initiated in 2019.

## Priority Groups

1. Identify SMVF & screening for suicide risk
2. Promoting connectedness and improving Care Transitions
3. Increased lethal means safety and safety planning

Washington State joined in 2020

- Successfully met all the initial objectives
- Developing new objectives in 2024





# 988 Emblem, Donations & Community Grant Fund



The account consist of revenues received from the prevent veteran suicide emblem sales, & all receipts from gifts, grants, bequests, devises, or other donations from public and private sources.

Funds will go to **community** organizations that provide evidence-based Suicide Prevention programs to Veterans.

Current balance **\$10,028.00**



# 988 Emblem, Donations & Grant Fund

## Concealed Pistol License Application Please Enter All Information

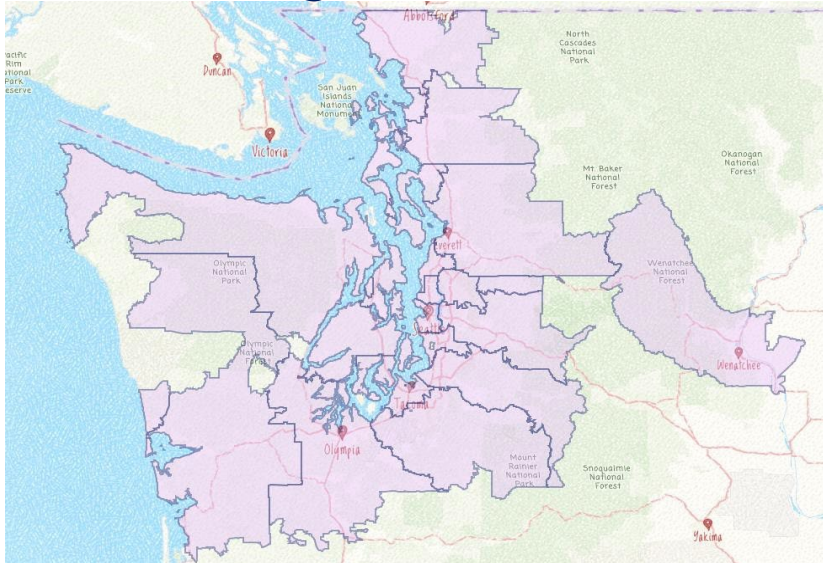
**Welcome!** This is an official application for a Washington Concealed Pistol License. This application must be filled-out completely and accurately. Any falsification of the information within this application is a crime and will result in the denial of the applicant's Concealed Pistol License request.

A non-refundable processing fee is required. In addition, a online convenience fee is required to process payment. These fees will be charged even if your application is denied. This service is provided by a third party vendor and the Sheriff's Office only collects the fees in accordance with the Washington State statute.

**Help prevent veteran suicides in Washington State. Last year, 267 veterans tragically died by suicide. Click [here](#) to make a difference and use Donation Purpose '27H - Veterans and Mil Mmbrs Suicide Prev Acct'. Your contribution will save lives, and 100% goes directly to organizations aiding veterans in crisis.**



## Targeted Counties



## Comcast Campaign – TV Commercial

Goals for 31-week campaign (12/23 – 6/24)

- Households Reached = 45.3%
- Household Frequency = 4.1
- Household Impressions 1,794,670



# LEARN® Trainings

Created by the UW School of Social Work and managed by Forefront Suicide Prevention

## The Learn Steps

**LOOK** for Signs

**EMPATHIZE** and Listen

**ASK** Directly About Suicide

**REDUCE** the Dangers

**NEXT STEPS**

FY	Trainings	Participants	Avg Size
2023	69	495	7
2024	10	201	13
TOTAL	79	696	-
2024 Goal	60	900	15

To request a LEARN training email: [Connect@dva.wa.gov](mailto:Connect@dva.wa.gov)



# The Role of Peer Support Services With Suicide Prevention

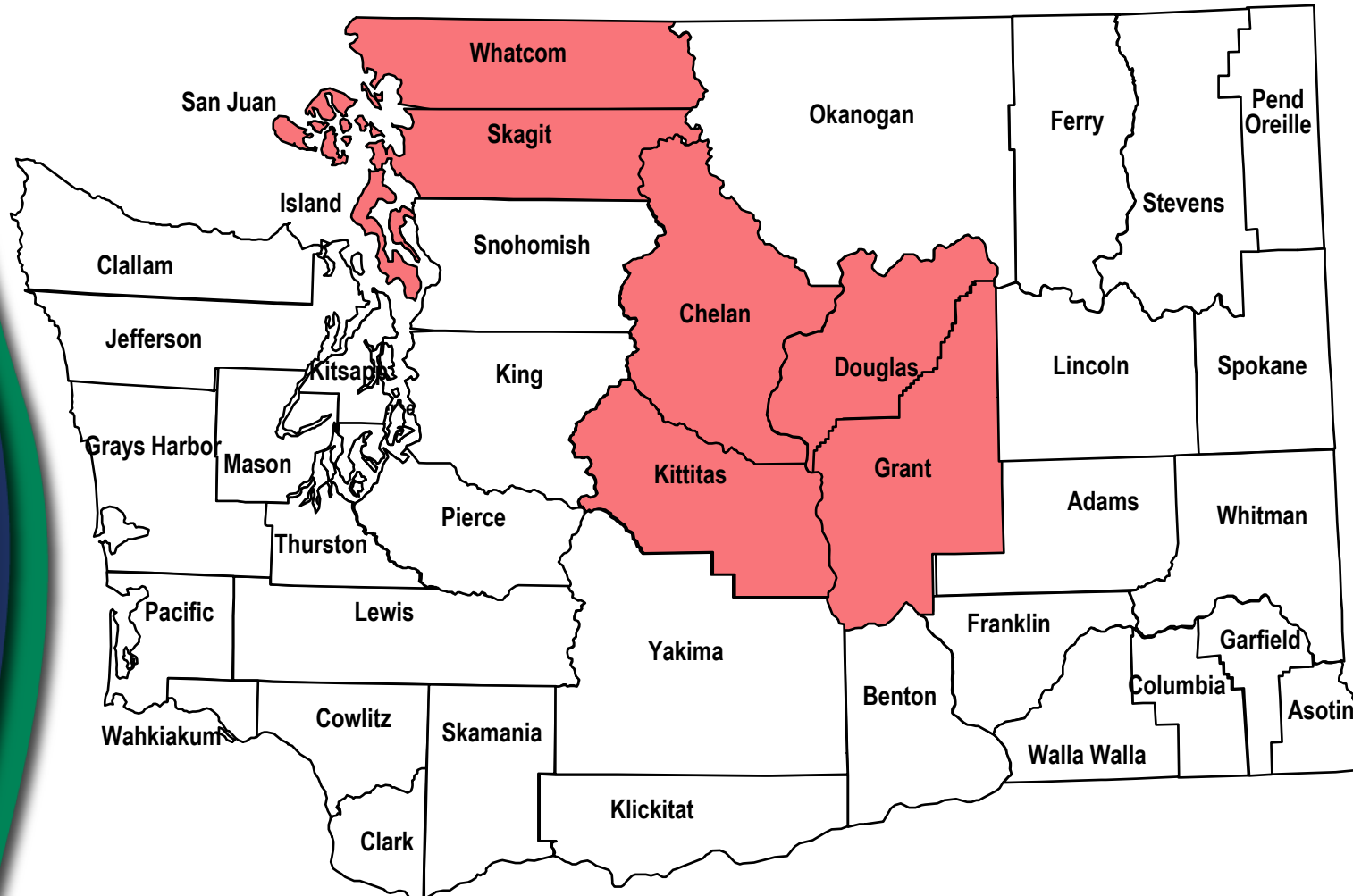
Keith Meyer

Counseling & Wellness Programs Director

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# Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program



Provide early interventions to veterans with suicide risk factors

Use screenings to identify veterans at risk

Provide services: peer support, case management, community resources, and wraparound services

Connect veterans to other programs such as VA Health Care and compensation and pension



# What is Peer Support?

**Those in Peer support have their own professional role in the behavioral health field, with their own values, ethics, and practices. Peer Supporters (or Specialists) are not expected to have the same roles as therapists, doctors, social workers, clinicians, case managers, etc.**

## **Peer Support values the following:**

- Mutual support, i.e., we support each other in recovery, sharing our stories, strategies, fears and hopes
- Power together, not power over. As supporters of recovery, we have a different relationship than a friend, neighbor or family members. Peer Supporters work to equalize power and put the peer or family in the driver's seat. We support the peer to find their own inner wisdom to chart their own road.

*Washington State Healthcare Authority, Department of Social and Health Services, 2016*



# Counseling & Wellness Programs

- Vet Corps
- Veterans Conservation Corps
- Suicide Prevention Program
- Brain Injury and Recovery
- Veterans Training and Support Center
- Veterans Commercial Tobacco Cessation Program
- Counseling Program
- Veterans Farm at Orting
- Sergeant Fox Grant





# Community Partnerships and Support

**Prevent Veteran Suicide Emblem and Grant  
Donations**

**Apply as a Community Resource**

**LEARN Training**

**Building Community Partnerships**



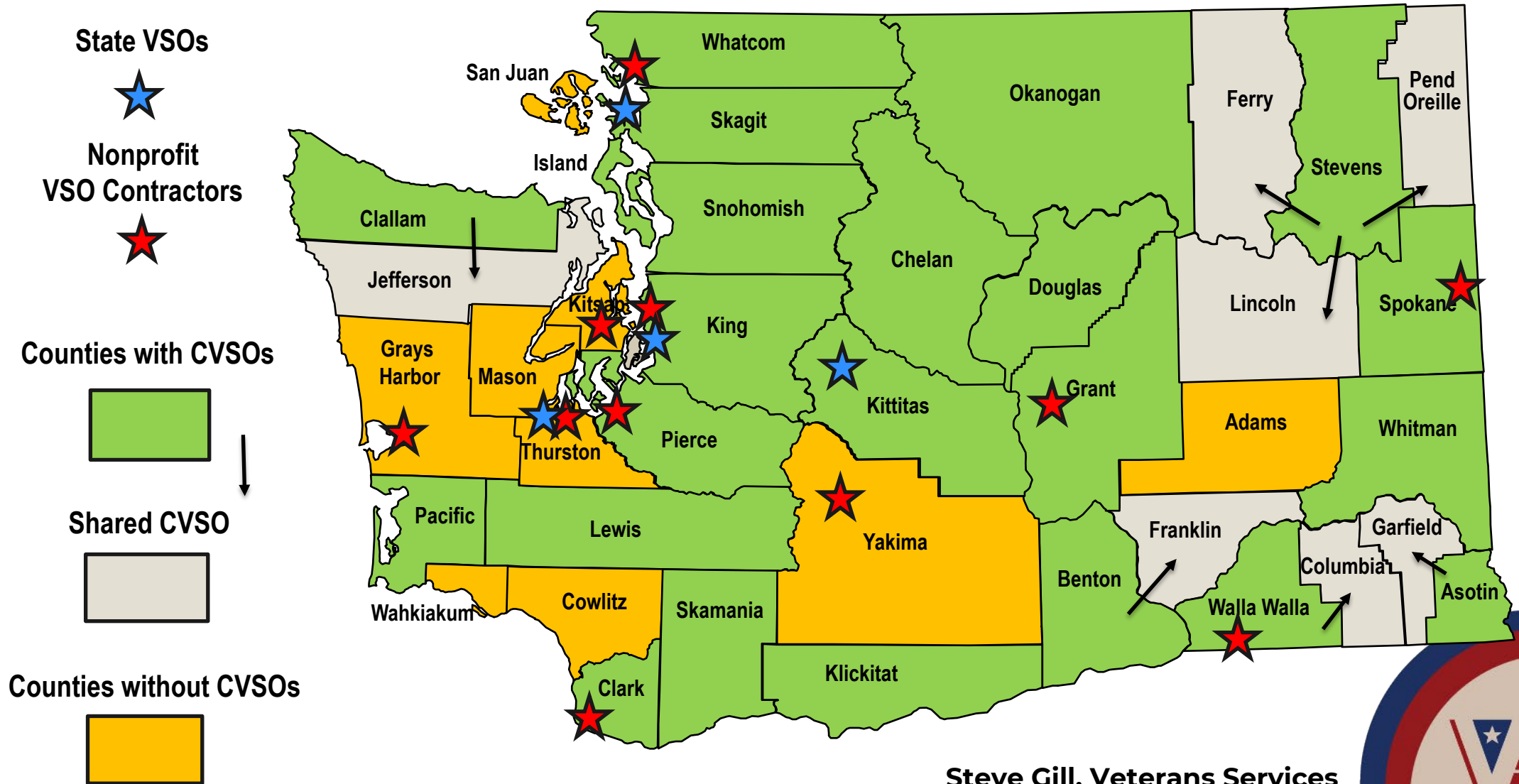
# WDVA STRATEGIC PLAN

**GOAL 3:** Be the Leading State in Veteran Service Delivery and Outcomes

**OBJECTIVE 3.2:** Increase the Percentage of WA State Veterans Connected to their Earned Disability Compensation Benefit from 28% to 33% by 2026



# Veteran Service Officer Coverage



Steve Gill, Veterans Services  
Administrator

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# WE NEED ALL OF YOU

We work with interagency & multijurisdictional partners to best serve our state's Veterans, Servicemembers & their Families.

