Commander's Call
WDVA Program Updates
September 19, 2019

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
“Serving Those Who Served”
1-800-562-2308
www.dva.wa.gov
Budget

Mike Kashmar

Chief Financial Officer
2017-19 Biennial Close

Expenditures by Object

A - Salaries/Wages 89,546,000
B - Employee Benefits 42,043,000
C - Professional Service Contracts 2,111,000
E - Goods and Services 26,836,000
G - Travel 1,251,000
J - Capital Outlays (Equipment) 628,000
N - Client Services 15,693,000
P - Debt Services 366,000
S - Interagency Reimbursements (18,834,000)

159,640,000
2019-21 Operating Budget

Operating Expenditures by Object

A - Salaries/Wages $105,253,000
B - Employee Benefits $41,773,000
C - Professional Service Contracts $2,070,000
E - Goods and Services $29,250,000
G - Travel $1,474,000
J - Capital Outlays (Equipment) $1,011,000
N - Client Services $16,466,000
P - Debt Services $349,000
S - Interagency Reimbursements $(17,966,000)

$179,680,000
2019-21 Capital Budget

- Minor Works - $3,095,000 (includes $570k re-appropriation)
- Capital Projects - $7,910,000 (includes $3.6M re-appropriation)
  - Demo Bldg. 6 & 7/Grounds Improvement – WVH - $3,335,000
  - HVAC Retrofit – WVH - $750,000
  - Cemetery Road Realignment – WSH - $200,000
  - Internment Vaults & Roadways – Cemetery - $3,000,000 (Includes $2.7M in Federal funds)
  - Bldg. 10 Predesign and Design - $625,000

- Total Capital Budget - $11,005,000
New Vet Services Initiatives

Mary Forbes

Assistant Director
2019-21 New Initiatives

Due to past performance and legislative trust and confidence, the following programs were funded in Program 20:

- Vet Corps Internships (was pilot program)
- Military Veteran Peer Network (was pilot program)
- TBI Coordinator
- Suicide Prevention and Training
- County Veteran Service Officer Program

Federal Grants

- Additional 30 Grant & Per Diem transitional housing beds at Orting
- VA Case Manager for veterans exiting transitional housing program
- $630M VA Farm Grant
Survivor Benefits

Venus Bailey

Olympia Service Center Manager
# Qualifications for Survivor's Benefits

## Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

**Monthly benefit for eligible survivors:**
- Surviving Spouse
- Children
- Parent of Veteran

**Eligibility for DIC and Filing Process**

**DIC Amounts** ($1,319.04 - $1,925.90) on or after January 1, 1993

## Survivors Pension Benefit

**Tax-free benefit payable to:**
- Unremarried Surviving Spouse
- Unmarried Children of Deceased Wartime Veteran

**Eligibility** - Meet the Wartime Period requirement AND Maximum Annual Pension Rate (MAPR)

**NEW** Net Worth Bright-Line Limit

**NEW** Income and Asset Form
Transitional Housing Update

Dennis Brown

Transitional Housing Program Manager
Transitional Housing

- **30** Service Intensive Grant and Per Diem Beds at Roosevelt Barracks in Orting for a total of **90** beds
- New VA grant **$225,000** for Case Manager position
- Current capacity
- Challenges
- Successes
TBI and Suicide Prevention

Peter Schmidt

Counseling and Wellness Director
NEW TBI Coordinator for E WA

Responsibilities Include:

- Outreach and education to participants
- Case management
- Customer service assistance with TBI resources
- Respond to legislative inquiries
- Prepare for and deliver presentations to a wide variety of audiences
- Manage the mobile App, MAX Impact

Supervised by and collaborates with:
TBI Program Specialist - Dan Overton, M.C., LMHC, CBISS
Traumatic Brain Injury Council
NEW Suicide Prevention and Training

“The department shall develop and implement a statewide plan to reduce suicide among service members, veterans and their families.”

- **Collaborate** with government and non-government agencies and organizations to establish promising best practice for suicide awareness prevention materials, training and outreach programs
- **Cultivate** peer-led organizations serving Vets in transition and recovery
- **Create and deliver** statewide suicide awareness and prevention training programs
- **Provide** Safer Homes materials and trainings and distribute safe firearms storage devices to Guard, state patrol and affiliated groups serving and employing vets, following the recommendations of the Safer Homes, suicide aware task force

Codie Garza, MPH
Suicide Prevention
Program Specialist 5
New CVSO Contract

Steve Gill

Vet Services Administrator
NEW CVSO Contract

- HSB 1448 - County Veteran Service Officer Program
- Eligible counties with populations of 100,000 or less
- RFP closed - in process of selecting 2 counties
- Will add 2 CVSO's in addition to current 13
Peer to Peer, Vet Corps, and Vets in Agriculture

Jason Alves

VCC/Vet Corps Program Manager
Peer to Peer

Upcoming trainings:
- 9/28/19 - American Legion in Renton
- 10/4/19 - NW Veterans Resource Center in Port Angeles
- 10/25/19 - GRuB in Olympia
- 11/15/19 - Port Townsend
- 11/18/19 - Richland

Vet Corps

The latest group was trained the end of August and is serving across the state. We are expanding service sites this year and have members in Pierce, Spokane, and Chelan counties and are still recruiting for Okanagan and Yakima counties.

Vets in Agriculture

We are working out the final contract with the federal VA for our $630,000.00 award to support our Vets in Agriculture program which includes hiring a full time farm manager in Orting.
Legislative Update

Heidi Audette

Communications and Legislative Director
Gold Star License Plates - Requires Gold Star license plates to be issued for certain eligible applicants (widow/ers, parents) without payment of any vehicle license fees and motor vehicle excise taxes. Allows widow/ers who are eligible to receive the Gold Star license plates but choose instead to receive a standard license plate or any other qualifying special license plate to be exempt from payment of motor vehicle excise taxes.

Purple Heart License Plates - Requires Purple Heart license plates to be issued to all eligible applicants without payment of any vehicle fees, license plate fees, and motor vehicle excise taxes for one motor vehicle.
Veterans Service Officer (VSO) Program - Creates the VSO Program to provide funding for counties to establish Veteran Service Officers. The substitute bill allows WDVA to provide funding to eligible counties to maintain, in addition to establish, a VSO. The substitute bill allows WDVA to provide funding for no more than one FTE equivalent VSO per eligible county. Budget Proviso for 2SHB 1448: VSO Program one-time funding is provided pursuant to 2SHB 1448, which creates the VSO Program. Funding is for the establishment of pilot programs in two counties (General Fund State).

School Enrollment/Military - Provides that children of military families will comply with school district residency requirements if their parent is transferred or pending transfer to a military installation in the state while on active duty. Requires school districts to conditionally accept applications for enrollment and course registration by electronic means in such circumstances.

Seniors, Disabled Veterans/Property Tax Exemption - Modifies the qualifying income thresholds for the property tax exemption and deferral programs for low-income senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and veterans beginning with taxes levied for collection in 2020. Adjusts the disability rating qualification for the disabled veterans property tax exemption to 80%.
2020 Legislative Session
Potential Legislation

- Nurse Licensure Compact
- Employment Opportunities for Spouses of Military Members
- Suicide Awareness and Prevention
- Housing & Supportive Services for Homeless and At-Risk Rural Veterans
- Veteran Owned Business Linked Deposit Expansion