

"...put the ‘Home’ into Nursing Home."

VA Community Living Centers (CLCs) is a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs term for the 'small house' concept in skilled nursing facilities. "Gone is the institution where patients are housed in a facility designed primarily around operational efficiency...[the CLC is] resident focused and centered on their needs." Ideally, per the Guidelines and hybrid applications, the CLC consists of the following:

**The Home**
- 10 Residents per home
- Shared living, dining and quiet areas
- Home kitchen for meal preparation, 24-hour access to food/beverage, smells permeate to Resident rooms and encourage participation
- Minimal staff support areas to encourage staff to be in Resident areas

**The Neighborhood**
- Resident & staff support areas that should be near the Home but may be shared amenities for 2-4 Homes, such as: laundry, exam/consultation room(s), bathing suite and/or storage

**The Community Center**
- 1 Community Center or "Commons" building needed for up to 12 Homes
- Resident & staff support areas that can be shared for the whole CLC community, such as: chapel/meditation room, multi-purpose event room and physical & occupational therapy
- Administrative offices and conference rooms, staff training support areas

**Home & Community Center Gardens**
- Walking paths, exterior landscape spaces for quiet reflection & outdoor activities

WDVA is participating in this evolution - changing skilled nursing facilities into smaller, CLC environments. WDVA has studied recent projects: learning from The Green House® philosophy and touring new CLC homes, including the Texas Veterans Land Board facility in Tyler and a civilian home in Longview. The "lessons learned" from these homes have informed the design and planning for the new Community Living Center in Walla Walla.
Washington State Veterans - the Need

One in nine Washington residents is a veteran. Our state ranks fifth in the nation in the percentage of veterans in the overall population.

- The USDVA identified an unmet State Home need for 642 new beds in Washington State.
- Existing homes in Rentil, Orting and Spokane cannot accommodate additional beds. The proposed Walla Walla facility will provide much needed beds in eastern Washington.

WDVA Experience in Caring for Washington Veterans

All three of the existing State Homes provide excellent care with high occupancy rates, ranging from 96-99%. In comparison, the average occupancy rate for private nursing homes in Washington State is typically less than 90%.

- State Home care is the most affordable and cost-efficient way to provide skilled nursing care for Washington State veterans, in a comfortable home environment with their peers.

Programming & Design

The State Legislature approved design funding in the 2010 Supplemental Budget. Design is underway with construction anticipated in Fall 2012.

- 80 Beds provided in eight 10-bed Homes, with all meals prepared in Home Kitchens and Living / Dining areas housing resident activities.
- Shared support spaces located in four connecting Neighborhoods.
- Community Center offers physical and occupational therapy, administrative support and resident amenities including a multi-purpose gathering area, chapel and barber shop.
- Site development will include gardens for outdoor activities, therapies and exercise, staff and volunteer parking, receiving/maintenance shop and relocation of an functioning USDVA water tower.
- Approximately 82,000 gross square feet of total building development.

Projected Costs

WDVA needs the Legislature’s commitment for 35% of the total Project Cost in order to apply for the USDVA’s State Home Construction Grant program, which will fund 65% of the Project Cost. The Project Cost is based on:

- $31.5 million Maximum Allowable Construction Cost (MACC)
- $1.5 million Sitework / Infrastructure / Water Tower Relocation
- $48.0 million Total Project Costs or
- $16.8 million from Washington State – 35% capital cost commitment