



## Services for Veterans

### Number of veterans

The number of veterans in Washington County is estimated to be just over 35,000 (CMS: 35,180 NCVAS: 35,265). Nationally, the number of veterans has been decreasing since 1985, but the number of service-connected claims has increased 60 percent since 1990. Washington County currently represents 9,499 veterans in the claims process.

### Claims

Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) are accredited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to represent claimants of VA Benefits. The ODVA provides training to new VSOs and ongoing training at a yearly conference. Our office assists with Service-connected Disability, Non-Service-connected Disability, Death Pension (also known as Widows Pension), and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation claims. Claims are sent to the Federal VA through ODVA's Portland office. As part of the claims process, we contract with Pacific University for psychological testing and offer counseling sessions to the families of veterans suffering from PTSD — a service currently not provided by the VA.

### Health care enrollment

In addition to assisting and representing the veteran in the claims process, including hearings and appeals, our office assists in the enrollment into VA Medical Health Care. We assist veterans' families with the CHAMPVA application process.

### Transportation assistance

Transportation assistance is available through Ride Connection. DAVS is currently in the process of expanding our relationship to better serve the veterans in Washington County. We also have a limited number of TriMet passes.

### Housing assistance

Washington County recently added a housing advocate position to assist homeless veterans in accessing housing, specifically VA programs. Prior to adding this position, an initial screening was required in downtown Portland. Our advocate is working with the VA to provide this screening/intake in our office. This person will also assist with navigating the housing systems in Washington County.

### Emergency Food

We have a small food pantry on site to help veterans who need an emergency supply of food.

### Information and referrals

We provide general information and referrals to both federal and state VA benefits: education, burial/headstone, flag, Presidential Memorial Certificate, home loans, conservatorship program, veterans property tax exemption program, disabled veteran license plate, veterans employment assistance, game licenses, housing assistance, vocational rehabilitation and vital records.

### Department of Health and Human Services — Disability, Aging and Veteran Services (DAVS)

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