



OREGON DEPARTMENT
of **VETERANS' AFFAIRS**



AGENCY OVERVIEW

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
JANUARY 2019

KELLY FITZPATRICK, DIRECTOR

FOR MORE THAN 70 YEARS

ODVA HAS SERVED AND HONORED OREGON VETERANS



THE MISSION CONTINUES: SERVING AND HONORING VETERANS

OUR VISION

Veterans and their families thrive in Oregon

OUR MISSION

ODVA serves and honors veterans through our leadership, advocacy and strong partnerships

OUR VALUES

Respect, Integrity, Stewardship and Excellence

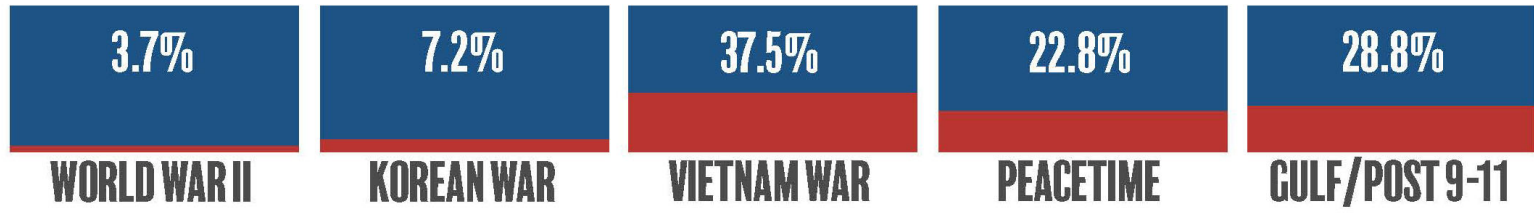


WHO IS A VETERAN?

1 OUT OF 13
OREGONIANS IS A VETERAN



77% WARTIME



WHO WE ARE

303,689

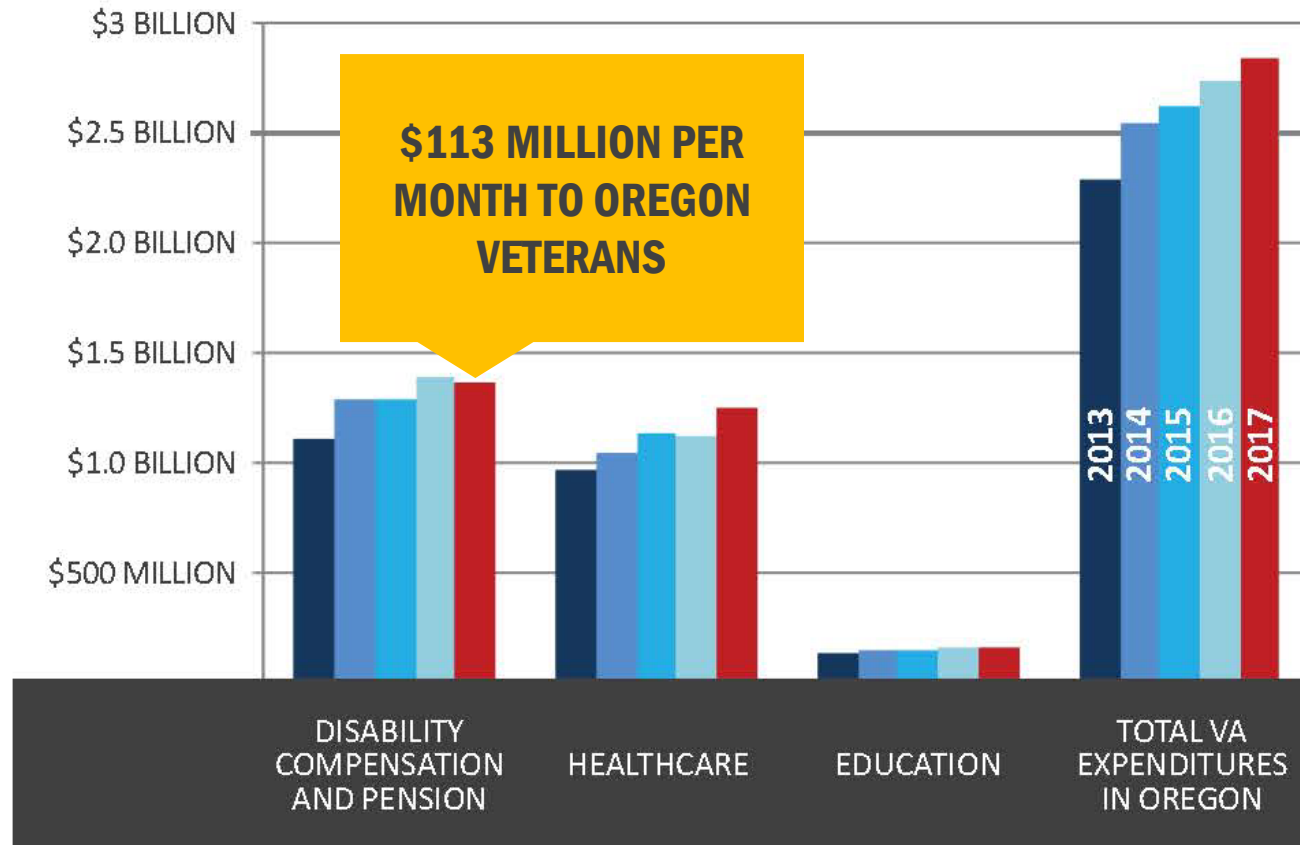
TOTAL NUMBER OF VETERANS IN OREGON

25%

**OF OREGON VETERANS ARE RECEIVING
DISABILITY COMPENSATION OR PENSIONS
PAYMENTS AS OF 2017**

\$2.8 BILLION PER YEAR IN TOTAL VA EXPENDITURES IN OREGON

FEDERAL VA EXPENDITURES IN OREGON



OUR WORK





**OREGON
VETERANS'
HOMES**

**HOME
LOAN
PROGRAM**

**STATEWIDE
VETERAN
SERVICES**

**AGING
VETERAN
SERVICES**



HOME LOAN PROGRAM



- Oregon is one of only five states that offers a veteran home loan program
- This Oregon benefit is separate and distinct from the federal VA Home Loan Guaranty
- More than \$8 billion in low-interest home loans to more than 336,000 veterans since 1945
- Current rate for a 30-year fixed rate loan is 4.375% without a loan origination fee
- ODVA is the lender and servicer of loans

CURRENTLY, ODVA'S HOME LOAN PROGRAM OFFERS ELIGIBLE VETERANS FIXED-RATE FINANCING FOR:

- Owner-occupied, single family residence
- Up to the Fannie Mae limit (\$484,350 as of 2019)
- Purchase only (no refinancing)
- Up to four home loans (non-concurrent) over lifetime

STATEWIDE VETERAN SERVICES

VETERAN SERVICES

- VSO Training, Accreditation and Outreach
- County Veteran Service Officers
- National Service Organizations

SPECIAL ADVOCACY

- Women Veterans
- LGBTQ Veterans
- Incarcerated Veterans

GRANTS AND EMERGENCY AID

- Emergency Financial Assistance
- Grants to Partners
 - Veteran Services
 - Campus Veteran Resources
 - Highly Rural Transportation (Federal \$)

PARTNERSHIPS

- OHCS
- OHA
- DOC
- DMV/ODOT
- DHS
- Tribal Nations (MOU'S X2)



36 COUNTY and 5 NSO VETERAN SERVICES OFFICES



CLAIMS IN OREGON SUBMITTED BY ODVA TO THE FEDERAL VA
AND ALL VETERANS ARE REPRESENTED UNDER ODVA'S POWER OF ATTORNEY.

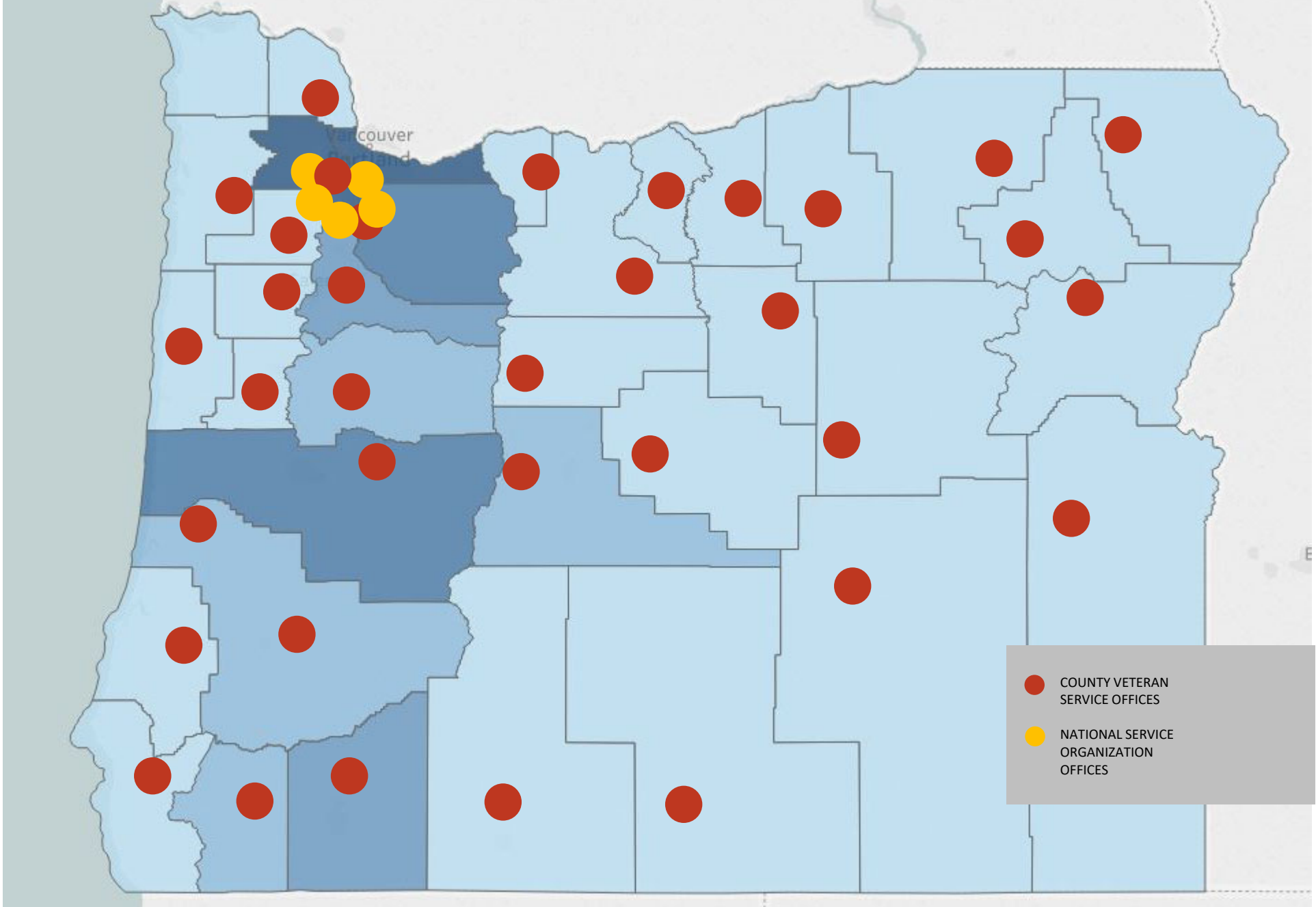


RATING DECISION BASED ON CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 38.



\$113 MILLION PER MONTH TO OREGON IN COMPENSATION AND PENSION PAYMENTS

ACCESS TO VETERAN SERVICE OFFICES





AGING VETERAN SERVICES

CONSERVATORSHIP AND REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE PROGRAM

- Assists veterans in managing their financial affairs either as an appointed representative payee or a court appointed conservator.

OREGON VETERAN HOMES

- Long-term care

VETERAN VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

- Established during the 2017 Regular Session to create a statewide network of volunteers trained to locate veterans, assist them in recognizing potential earned benefits and services, and connect them to individuals and organizations for additional assistance.

AGING VETERAN OUTREACH PROGRAM

- Works to coordinate benefits and services for the aging population and provides outreach to educate about benefits and assistance programs available to aging veterans.





OREGON VETERANS' HOMES



- Earned benefit available to veterans, their spouses and parents who had a child die while serving in combat in the United States Armed Forces.
- Skilled nursing, rehabilitative care, and memory care services.
- Care provided in an environment that understands and honors the unique needs of the men and women who served our country.

AWARD WINNING

Both Veterans' Homes have received quality achievement awards from the American Health Care Association

LOWER COST TO RESIDENTS

The Homes are more affordable than the average skilled nursing facility.

HIGHER OCCUPANCY

Occupancy rates at the Veterans' Homes have historically been significantly higher than the average occupancy for other Oregon skilled nursing facilities.

A person is silhouetted against a dark, twilight sky, holding a large American flag that waves in the breeze. The person stands on a rocky cliffside overlooking a vast, dark landscape. The scene is dimly lit, with the flag's colors being the most prominent light source.

QUESTIONS?



OREGON DEPARTMENT
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UPDATES: HOUSING, INCARCERATED VETERANS AND GRANTS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
JANUARY 2019

KELLY FITZPATRICK, DIRECTOR

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS





ODVA PARTNERSHIP WITH OHCS

LOTTERY FUNDING (MEASURE 96)

- \$1.5M Lottery Funds provided to Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) for veteran homelessness

PARTNERSHIPS (\$600,000)

- OHCS collaborated with ODVA and developed a plan to use these funds in support of the Governor's priority to end veteran homelessness:
 - Veteran Homelessness Integrator, a new position at OHCS (\$240,000)
 - Increased funds to Community Action Agencies (\$350,000)
 - ODVA and OHCS host "Homeless Convening" a two-day statewide conference of homeless veteran advocates (\$10,000)
 - Develop collaborative ways to address veteran homelessness
 - Two conferences to date, another planned for Summer 2019



ODVA PARTNERSHIP WITH OHCS

OPERATION WELCOME HOME (\$150,000)

- OHCS and ODVA are collaborating with 10 communities to house 500 homeless veterans across Oregon
- Kicked-off November 2018
- Two-pronged approach:
 - Build a local veteran leadership team
 - Provide contracted technical assistance to create a veteran “by-name list”

PERMANENT HOUSING FOR HOMELESS VETERANS (\$760,000)

- Additional multifamily housing project for permanent housing for homeless veterans through OHCS

“By-name list” is a database of homeless veterans using the veteran’s name. Used by local homeless veteran leadership teams to develop real time data on homeless veterans, optimize local housing resources, track progress against monthly goals, and accelerate the utilization of proven strategies.



ODVA PARTNERSHIP WITH OHCS

2018 HB 4007: DOCUMENT RECORDING FEE TRIPLED

- Counties charge a fee to record real property documents: “document recording fee”
- Document recording fees go to OHCS for housing-related programs
- 25% of fees dedicated to fund veterans housing assistance in three programs:
 - General Housing Account Program for permanent housing: 76 %
 - Home Ownership Assistance Program: 14 %
 - Emergency Housing Account: 10%
- Prior to February 2018, document recording fee was \$20 and generated \$15 million each year:
 - 25% = \$3.8 million/year for veterans housing.
- HB 4007 tripled the fee from \$20 to \$60 and is projected to generate \$45 million per year
 - 25% = \$11.3 million for veterans.

INCARCERATED VETERANS





ODVA PARTNERSHIP WITH DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS

- ODVA and the Department of Corrections (ODOC) are implementing the three recommendations of the Incarcerated Veterans Task Force Report (September 2016):
 - **ACCURATELY IDENTIFY VETERANS**
Gather, maintain, and share data on numbers of veterans, benefits claims, and veteran services.
 - **FORMALIZE INTAKE PROCESS**
Formalize intake process at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility to identify veterans and counsel veterans managing Federal VA disability and pension claims.
 - **ESTABLISH A COORDINATED AND FORMALIZED RE-ENTRY PROGRAM**
Reinstating benefits, connecting veterans to a county Veteran Service Officer post-release, and facilitating the transition to Federal VA health care.



ODVA PARTNERSHIP WITH DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS

RESULTS OF PARTNERSHIP: VERIFICATION OF VETERAN STATUS

- Since August 2016, ODVA, in collaboration with ODOC, has verified the veteran status of over 1,200 inmates during intake.
- 26% of individuals who self-reported as having “served in the military” have served on active duty in the armed services
- Based on verification rates during intake, ODVA estimates (November 2018) :
 - 6.1 % of adults in ODOC custody served in the military
 - 911 veterans of 14,891 total inmates



ODVA PARTNERSHIP WITH DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS

RESULTS OF PARTNERSHIP: ODVA INCARCERATED VETERANS PROGRAM

- Incarcerated Veteran Coordinator August 2016; additional staff August 2018
- Data collection, status evaluation and verification practices established through intake program established at Coffee Creek
 - Assist and advise incarcerated veterans and their family members on benefits to mitigate the negative impact of incarceration on federal VA disability payments
 - Formalized process to recognize a veteran's entry into state prison and manage federal VA disability payments
- Intake program leverages benefits, such as VA education resources, to maximize success during incarceration and re-entry



ODVA PARTNERSHIP WITH DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS

RESULTS OF PARTNERSHIP: TRANSITIONS DURING INTAKE AND RE-ENTRY

- **Goal:** At intake, reduce VA benefits as required by law in order to minimize the likelihood of an overpayment from the federal VA which must be repaid with interest by veterans upon release, creating hardship for veterans and their families
- **Goal:** Request apportionment of veterans monetary benefits on behalf of veterans families. This provides families with 10% of the veterans monetary veterans benefits that would otherwise be lost during incarceration
- **Goal:** Reinstate veterans monetary benefits to align with re-entry

NEXT STEPS

- **January 2019:** ODVA is establishing a work group to identify processes to ensure re-entry veterans are connected to all available resources
- **Goal:** Positively identify number of incarcerated veterans to 95% +/- 5%

ODVA GRANT PROGRAMS: VETERAN SERVICES AND CAMPUS





ODVA VETERAN SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM

ODVA VETERAN SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM

- HB 2891 (2017) established the ODVA Veterans Service Grant Program
 - Allocation: \$550,000 in Grant Funds (Lottery Funds)
 - Awards limited: \$25,000 to \$250,000
 - One-time grants and funded project must be completed by June 30, 2019
 - Only for “veteran services” because funded by Lottery funds
- Response to Request for Grant Proposals was overwhelming:
 - 59 grant proposals submitted
 - \$5.3 million in requests
 - Requests were 10 times the amount of available funds
- Proposals funded in April 2018
 - 10 proposals funded (2 of the 10 partially funded)
 - 17% of proposals submitted were funded
 - 10% of the dollar amount requested was funded



ODVA VETERAN SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM

GRANT RECIPIENTS

- Community Connection of NE Oregon
Baker/Union (\$50,000)
“Rides to Wellness.” Medical transportation programs; 269 trips.
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Yamhill, Polk and Marion (\$8,688)
Outreach to all veterans, including tribal; medical, dental and eye care
- Coos County Area Transit
Coos \$ (130,840)
Shuttle service from Coos to Roseburg VA hospital or Eugene CBOC
- Klamath-Lake Community Action Services
Klamath/Lake (\$35,000)
Emergency housing for veterans/families awaiting rehousing/permanent
Plus job training/SOAR program



ODVA VETERAN SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM

- Lane Council of Governments, Seniors and Disability Division
Lane (\$46,933)
Case management for veteran's access/use of community services/benefits; develop action plan, assist on applications
- Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest
Greater Portland (\$74,990).
Outreach and case management for Native American/Alaska Indian homeless veterans address health/mental health care, housing.
- Oregon City Police
Oregon City (\$25,000)
Dedicated officer serving the homeless; funds help get veterans off street, provide for temporary housing until more permanent solutions are found.



ODVA VETERAN SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM

- Polk County, Family and Community Outreach Department
Polk (\$39,160)
Provide homeless veterans meals, stable transitional housing, laundry, shower, connection to veteran service organizations
- Project ABLE
Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Linn, Tillamook, Washington and Multnomah (\$87,725)
Train veterans as veteran-specific Peer Support Specialists to support veterans with behavioral health issues
- St. Andrew Legal Clinic
Yamhill, Columbia, Clackamas, Washington and Multnomah (\$50,000)
Provide full legal services to veterans with a focus on issues of economic stability and housing security



ODVA CAMPUS VETERAN GRANT PROGRAM

ODVA CAMPUS VETERAN GRANT PROGRAM

- SB 143 (2017) established the ODVA Campus Veteran Grant Fund
- \$1 million Grant Funds to public universities and community colleges
- Purpose of the Grant Program. To expand and enhance veteran resource centers and programs to help veterans:
 - 1) successfully transition from military service to college life;
 - 2) succeed in college and complete educational goals; and
 - 3) transition from college to the workforce and the community.



ODVA CAMPUS VETERAN GRANT PROGRAM

SUMMARY OF ODVA CAMPUS VETERAN GRANT AWARDS

- 14 Community Colleges and Oregon Universities applied for and were awarded grants
 - Established new veteran resource centers (VRC); a third school is in construction
 - Completed upgrades to existing VRC's; two others schools are in progress
 - Recruited and hired new Campus Veteran Outreach Coordinators
 - Purchased and implemented training software to increase awareness of student veteran needs for staff and faculty members
 - Started a new college entry course specifically designed for student veterans
 - Hosted several outreach events which include job fair and career orientations



ODVA CAMPUS VETERAN GRANT PROGRAM

EARLY RESULTS AND LOOKING FORWARD

- One school reported a 5% increase in student veteran enrollment since receiving grant funds
- Four schools will host a statewide student veteran conference, with guest speakers and workshops to assist veterans through school and transition to the workforce

ODVA CAMPUS STUDENT VETERAN COORDINATOR

- To work closely with veteran service coordinators on grant implementation and outcomes and best practices for student veteran engagement.

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