

ODVA OVERVIEW

PRESENTED TO THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, FEDERAL AND WORLD AFFAIRS

28 September 2023



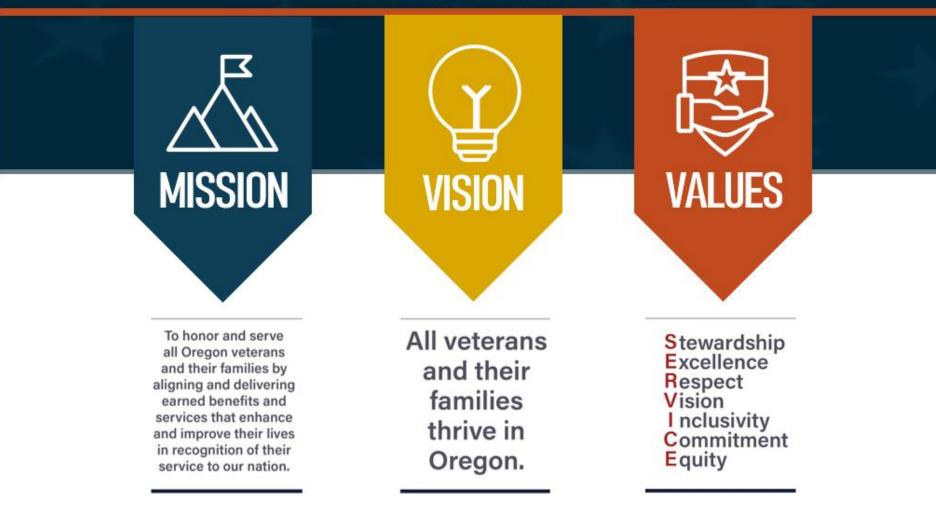
PRESENTED BY

Kelly Fitzpatrick, Director



THE MISSION CONTINUES

SERVING AND HONORING VETERANS IN OREGON SINCE 1945









WORLD WAR II	KOREAN	VIETNAM	PEACETIME	GULF	POST 9/11
1%	5.2%	34.7%	24.6%	13.9%	20.6%



13.5% VETERANS OF COLOR IN OREGON

1.2% Asian | 1.6% Black | 0.3% Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 4.5% Hispanic Or Latino | 1% Native American | 4.7% Multiracial



NEARLY 10% OF OREGON VETERANS ARE WOMEN



MORE THAN HALF OF OREGON VETERANS ARE AGED 65 OR OLDER



AN ESTIMATED 2.5% OF OREGON VETERANS IDENTIFY AS LGBTQ+





» More than 36% of veterans in Oregon are enrolled in health care from the federal VA.



Disability Compensation and Pension Payments

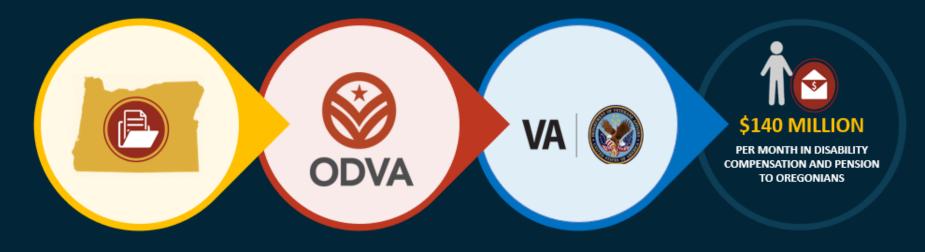
\$1.9 Billion

» More than 29% of Oregon veterans are service-connected for injuries incurred in service.



» In 2022, the average tuition and housing payments made to 6,459 veterans in Oregon was \$18,462.

VETERAN JOURNEY PARTNERS DELIVERING VETERAN SERVICES IN OREGON



LOCAL VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE

Veterans work with ODVA veteran service officers, 36 County Veteran Service Offices, 2 Tribal Veteran Service Offices or 5 National Service Offices in Oregon to file claims and connect to other local, state and federal veteran benefits and resources.

STATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Claims filed in Oregon by state, county and tribal veteran service offices are reviewed and quality assured for completeness and then submitted to the federal VA by ODVA. Veterans are represented under ODVA's Power of Attorney and the state represents veterans in the appeals adjudication process.

FEDERAL VETERANS AFFAIRS

Rating decision for veterans claims are made by the Veterans Benefit Administration of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs based on Code of Federal Regulations, Title 38.

SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERAN

More than 84,000 veterans in Oregon are rated for a serviceconnected disability or receiving a pension, leading to \$1.6 billion in Disability Compensation and Pension payments in Oregon per year.



OVERVIEW OF AGENCY OPERATIONS: STRUCTURE

Small agency

- Responsible for numerous programs 9 new programs implemented since 2017-2019 LAB
- Complex budget
- Partnerships are key to success

New five-year (FY 2023-2028) strategic plan developed with DEI at its core

- Rebalanced organization implemented in late-2022
 - Streamlined divisions
 - More rational approach to administration of new grant programs and pass-through funding – improved oversight; opportunity for future growth
 - Improved focus on traditional veteran services programs
 - Reviewing, updating position descriptions and business processes



SUMMARY OF SERVICES

HOME LOAN PROGRAM

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

APPEALS AND SPECIAL ADVOCACY

AGING VETERAN SERVICES

OREGON VETERANS' HOMES

» HOME LOAN PROGRAM Provides home loans to qualified veterans

» STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Monitoring of post-secondary institutions through the State Approving Agency function, partnerships with state agencies, tribal governments, counties, and national veterans' service organizations to assist veterans, and grant programs that direct funding to veterans and governmental and non-profit organizations

» APPEALS AND SPECIAL ADVOCACY

Claims and appeals assistance to all veterans, and focuses special advocacy assistance to historically underserved communities of veterans including women, LGBTQ+, and houseless veterans

» AGING VETERAN SERVICES

Provides expertise and outreach in aging veterans' benefits and services, veteran volunteer program, and conservatorship and representative payee services

» OREGON VETERANS' HOMES

Provides oversight of the two Oregon Veterans' Homes (skillednursing and memory care facilities) in The Dalles and Lebanon



PARTNERS

State Agency Partners

- OHA ODOT
- OHCS
 Oregon State Lottery
- DHS
 - BOLI

- OMD
- Dept. of Corrections

Nine Confederated Tribes

• MOUs (including grant funding) with three of the nine; will grow as new Tribal Veteran Coordinator performs outreach

Legislative Partners

Counties

Veteran Service Offices in all counties

National Service Organizations

- VFW, DAV, National Association of Black Veterans, American Legion receive pass-through funds to support VA claims work
- United Veterans Groups of Oregon (UVGO) a coalition of leaders from 12 NSOs

National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA)

FEDERAL PARTNERS

US Department of Veterans Affairs

- Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office (Portland)
- National Cemetery Administration
- Veterans Health Administration
 - Portland VAHCS
 - Roseburg VAHCS
 - White City VAMC
 - Boise VAHCS
 - Walla Walla VAHCS

US Department of Labor

• Veterans' Employment & Training Service (VETS)

Congressional Delegation



ADDRESSING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

ODVA Veteran Services Grant

Oregon Veterans Emergency Financial Assistance Program Grant

Special Advocacy Coordinators – Direct Service

- Incarcerated Veterans Coordinators
- Houseless Veteran Coordinator
- Women Veteran Coordinator
- LGBTQ+ Veteran Coordinator
- Tribal Veteran Coordinator
- Campus Veteran Coordinator
- Aging Veteran Outreach Coordinator
- Conservatorship and Representative Payee Programs



ADDRESSING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS (cont'd)



Courtney Place – Affordable Housing Project for Veterans

- 2019-2023 Administered pass-through pre-development and construction funding
- 2023-2025 Will administer pass-through funding for wraparound services



ADDRESSING VETERAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- **ODVA Veteran Services Grant** Of the total \$938,000 in VSG funds, OHA contributed \$300,000 for the 2021-2023 cycle specifically for veterans BH applicants
- Charitable Checkoff funds for Suicide Awareness and Prevention
- Lines for Life
- **Rural Veteran Healthcare Transportation Grant** program provides transportation to health-related appointments/need (pick up prescription medications)
 - VA's Highly Rural Transportation Grant program in 10 counties provides transportation to any USDVA-coordinated appointment
- **Communication campaigns** throughout the year

ADDRESSING VETERAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Suicide prevention and awareness incorporated into annual training conferences

- Women Veterans conference
- Veteran Service Officer conference
- Tribal Veteran Advocate conference
- Campus Veteran Resource Coordinator conference

FUTURE: Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide among Servicemembers, Veterans and Families

- Team includes OHA, OMD, participants from counties, nonprofit organizations
- Two-year program: CY 2023 planning year; CY2024 implementation year



ADDRESSING VETERAN EDUCATION

USDVA's State Approving Agency program for ensuring GI Bill compliance

- Traditional: public universities and community colleges
- Non-traditional: trades, apprenticeship programs

Campus Veteran Coordinator

Campus Veteran Resource Center Grant

Suicide Prevention and Awareness Funds made available to Campus Veteran Resource Centers

Veterans Educational Bridge Grant program

QUESTIONS



Proudly serving veterans since 1945

Kelly Fitzpatrick Director, ODVA

<u>www.oregon.gov/odva</u> 800-692-9666