



# 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



## MISSION

To honor and serve all Oregon veterans and their families by aligning and delivering earned benefits and services that enhance and improve their lives in recognition of their service to our nation.



## VISION

All veterans and their families thrive in Oregon.



## VALUES

Stewardship  
Excellence  
Respect  
Vision  
Inclusivity  
Commitment  
Equity

# 6.4%

OF OREGONIANS ARE VETERANS



# 271,871

OREGON VETERAN POPULATION



**WORLD WAR II**

**1%**

**KOREAN**

**5.2%**

**VIETNAM**

**34.7%**

**PEACETIME**

**24.6%**

**GULF**

**13.9%**

**POST 9/11**

**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+**

# \$3.91 BILLION

## TOTAL FY 22 FEDERAL VA EXPENDITURES IN OREGON

Nearly 13% Increase Over FY 21



**\$1.78 Billion**

Health Care  
Expenditures

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



**\$1.9 Billion**

Disability Compensation  
and Pension Payments

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



**\$119 Million**

Education  
Payments

- 
- » 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 service-connected 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



# AGENCY PROGRAMS

## SUMMARY OF SERVICES

### HOME LOAN PROGRAM

- » **HOME LOAN PROGRAM**  
Provides home loans to qualified veterans

### STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- » **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

- » **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

- » **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

- » **OREGON VETERANS' HOMES**  
Provides oversight of the two Oregon Veterans' Homes (skilled-nursing and memory care facilities) in The Dalles and Lebanon





# PARTNERS

## State Agency Partners

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



**OREGON DEPARTMENT**  
*of* **VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

*Proudly serving veterans since 1945*

**Kelly Fitzpatrick**

**Director, ODVA**

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[www.oregon.gov/odva](http://www.oregon.gov/odva)

**800-692-9666**