



OREGON DEPARTMENT
of **VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

OREGON VETERANS' HOME UPDATE

Presented to the Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs
March 28, 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



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



OREGON VETERANS' HOMES

OVERVIEW

HOME LOAN PROGRAM

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

APPEALS AND SPECIAL ADVOCACY

AGING VETERAN SERVICES

OREGON VETERANS' HOMES

- » Award-winning state Veterans' Homes located in The Dalles (1997) and Lebanon (2014)
- » Earned benefit providing skilled and long-term nursing care, endorsed memory care, and rehabilitative care to veterans, spouses and Gold Star Parents
- » Veterans live in an environment with a culture of camaraderie and understanding from fellow veterans who have shared military experience and staff who are trained to meet their unique needs
- » Access to claims representation and benefit assistance by service officers who focus on the needs of veterans who served during the Vietnam, Korean and WWII wars
- » Self-sustaining program offering lower cost skilled nursing care to veterans and their families

OREGON VETERANS' HOMES – THE DALLES



OREGON VETERANS' HOMES – LEBANON





Oregon Veterans' Homes: Oversight

- Owned and licensed by Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs.
- Certified by Medicare, Medicaid and USDVA which enables us to accept veterans from multiple payor sources.
- Multiple agencies provide oversight of the Homes: USDVA, Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), Oregon's DHS - Safety, Oversight and Quality Unit (SOQ)



Oregon Veterans' Homes: Basic Eligibility

- Both homes provide:
 - Short term/Rehabilitation
 - Long-term nursing care
 - Endorsed memory care community
- Admission is open to:
 - Veterans
 - Who meet federal definition of veteran and
 - Received an other than dishonorable discharge.
 - Their spouses and/or surviving spouses
 - Parents of a child who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces



Oregon Veterans' Homes: Additional Requirements

An applicant must also:

- Be able to pay the residents' portion of the cost of care, if any;
- Be in need of skilled or intermediate nursing home care as determined by physician and USDVA;
- Not require medical care for which the Home is not equipped or staffed to provide;
- Not have violent traits that may prove dangerous to the veteran, residents of the Home, staff or others



Oregon Veterans' Homes – Cost of Care

Rates as January 1, 2023:	The Dalles (cost is per patient day)	Lebanon (cost is per patient day)
Veteran General Care	\$249.40	\$331.80
Veteran Memory Care	\$257.25	\$342.30
Spouse General Care	\$304.50	\$360.15
Spouse Memory Care	\$311.85	\$370.65

The cost of care is evaluated each year and any price increases are implemented on 10/1.



Third Oregon Veterans' Home

- ORS 408.385 (2011) states “The Director of Veterans’ Affairs shall establish a third Oregon Veterans’ Home in Roseburg, in addition to the two facilities authorized by law on July 17, 1995.”
- ODVA submitted the application for the Roseburg Veterans’ Home project in 2012.



Estimated Costs

- December 2018 ODVA estimated \$48 million total construction costs
 - In 2019 ODVA estimated the required 35% state/local match would be \$17.5 million
- Construction costs increasing by 8.5%
- Current anticipated project cost range is \$99M-\$135M escalated through 2028
 - Approximately \$35-45.5 million state/local matching funds would be needed for the project to be placed on the Priority 1 list at USDVA



USDVA Construction Grant Process

- USDVA prioritizes applications for construction grants
- Priority 1 List - projects that have all necessary funding, documentation and required studies completed.
 - Projects on the Priority 1 List are further ranked sub-priority 1-7 based on the type of project and assessed need in the state.
- Priority 2 List – all other projects
 - Roseburg Veterans' Home project is on this list



USDVA Construction Grant Process

USDVA can provide up to 65% of funding for construction

- 35% state/local match is required
- “Priority group 1: An application from a State that has made sufficient funds available for the project for which the grant is requested *so that such project may proceed upon approval of the grant without further action required by the State (such as subsequent issuance of bonds) to make such funds available for such purpose.*”
- “To meet this criteria, the State must provide to VA a letter from an authorized State budget official certifying that the State funds are, or will be, available for the project, so that if VA awards the grant, the project may proceed without further State action to make such funds available (such as further action to issue bonds).”

38 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 59.50 – Priority List



USDVA Construction Grant Process

- Initial Application (Part A)
 - Completion required to be listed on Priority List and to be eligible for funding
- Active Application (Part B)
 - Matching funds needed for group 1 Priority List
 - Projects are prioritized further based on factors such as safety and bed availability needs.
- Reimbursement and Closeout (Part C)
 - States have 5 years to complete construction and request reimbursement.



Hypothetical Best Case Scenario Timeline

State conducts bond sale	2024
ODVA resubmits grant application; certifies 35% matching funds are available	NLT August 2025
Obtain USDVA Priority 1 status	Q2 FFY 2026
USDVA provides grant funding for 65% match	Q2 FFY 2026
Construction	Jan. 2027 – Dec. 2028



Actions While Awaiting Matching Funds 2021-2023

- Hired Owner's Representative responsible for:
 - Front end budget development and management
 - Liaison with VA and local community leaders
 - Scope definition and master schedule refinement,
 - Development and management of overall project schedule



Actions While Awaiting Matching Funds

2021-2023

- Drafted Memorandum of Agreement to address System Development Charges and other permit fees in coordination with City of Roseburg and Douglas County
- USDVA Roseburg/Other Stakeholder coordination
- Architect - solidified contract scope based on updated construction costs
- Continually updating construction cost forecast/cost modeling



Actions While Awaiting Matching Funds 2021-2023

- Planning for various consultant procurement
- Planning for general contractor procurement via exemption process for CM/GC, development of findings
- Footprint / Number of beds – similar to Lebanon Home
- USDVA Actions- Currently in the process of doing overall campus study needed for Roseburg VAHCS expansion (environmental studies) including site of potential home



Additional Factors to Consider

Staffing Challenges

- Long-Term Care industry experienced staffing challenges even before COVID-19 pandemic
- 210,000 employees left LTC industry during pandemic
- Significant competition in the area exists for staff
- Staff level determines admissions level

Cost Increases

- Wages
- Contracted agency staff due to staffing shortages
- Goods and Supplies

Decreasing Veteran Population

QUESTIONS



OREGON DEPARTMENT
of **VETERANS' AFFAIRS**