



OREGON DEPARTMENT  
of VETERANS' AFFAIRS

# AGENCY OVERVIEW

Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs / January 21, 2025



PRESENTED BY

**Dr. Nakeia Council Daniels, Director**

# 80 YEARS OF SERVICE

TO OREGON VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES



## 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 OVERVIEW

## Veterans' Bill Becomes Law

### Snell Puts Okeh On G. I. Program

STATEHOUSE, Salem, March 12 (Special)—Governor Earl Snell Monday signed a house bill, by Representative Harvey Wells and others, creating a department of veterans' affairs and the office of director. Creation of this department was requested by the governor in his message to the legislature. "Enactment of this legislation



Oregon Veteran Home Loan Established & Agency Founding

Conservatorship Program Begins Serving Veterans

State Pass-through Funding to Counties for Veteran Service Officers

First Oregon Veterans' Homes Opens in The Dalles

Veteran Service Officer Certification Program

Special Advocacy and Outreach Established by Legislature

Lottery Funding Creates New & Expanded Veteran Services

Veteran Education Program Established

1945

1964

1995

1997

2005

2015

2017

2019





Estimated **266,690 veterans in Oregon** having served across 5 major war eras

**75% served** during a wartime era

More than **50% of veterans** are age **65** and older

**13.8%** are **veterans of color**

**9.8%** of **veterans** are **women**

**2.5%** of **veterans** identify as **LGBTQ+**

**0.5%** of **veterans** are **houseless**

# \$4.0 BILLION

TOTAL FY 23 FEDERAL VA EXPENDITURES IN OREGON



**\$1.83 Billion**

Health Care  
Expenditures

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



**\$1.9 Billion**

Disability Compensation  
and Pension Payments

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Nearly **31% of Oregon veterans** are service-connected for injuries incurred in service.



**\$128 Million**

Education  
Payments

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In 2023, the average tuition and housing payments made to nearly **7,000 veterans** in Oregon was \$18,486.





# AGENCY PROGRAM OVERVIEW



## Operations

- Director's Office
- Veteran Advisory Committee
- Financial Services
- Information Services
- Facility Services
- Human Resources
- Public Information
- Administration of Home Loan Program



## Home Loan Program

- Constitutional program to provide home loans to eligible veterans



## Appeals & Special Advocacy

- Training and Certification
- Appeals Office
- Houseless Veterans
- Women Veterans
- LGBTQ+ Veterans



## Strategic Partnerships

- Pass-through to Partners
- Grants To Partners
- Grants to Veterans
- Tribal Veterans
- Incarcerated Veterans
- Education



## Oregon Veterans' Homes

- State veteran homes providing skilled-nursing and memory care (The Dalles and Lebanon)



## Aging Veteran Services

- Conservatorship
- Representative Payee
- Aging Veterans
- Veteran Volunteers
- Administrative oversight of Oregon Veterans' Homes



# Investments in our Veterans

## **2025-27 Governor's Recommended Budget**

- Supporting Veteran Housing Stability
- Investing in Veteran Behavioral Health
- Continuing Support for Veteran Education
- Reaching Underserved Veterans
- Honoring and Serving Veterans at Every Life Stage
- Strengthening ODVA's Operations

## **2017-19**

- Veteran Services Grant
- Campus Veteran Resource Grant
- Tribal Veteran Services Pass-through
- Military Helpline Pass-through
- Aging Veteran Outreach
- Veteran Volunteer Program
- Expanded Pass-through Funding to Counties

## **2019-21**

- Rural Veteran Healthcare Transportation Grant
- Veterans Educational Bridge Grant
- State Approving Agency
- Tribal Veteran Coordinator
- Houseless Veteran Coordinator

## **2021-25**

- Establish new programs funded in prior biennia's
- COVID-19



## AGENCY LEGISLATION

### **HB 2341:**

Adds a uniformed service member's or veteran's e-mail address to the information that the Director of Human Services, Early Learning System Director, Director of Transportation and Director of the Oregon Health Authority are required to provide to the Director of Veterans' Affairs.

### **HB 2344:**

Relating to the World War II Memorial located on the Capitol Mall to ensure ODVA has authority and funding to make needed structural and administrative changes to the memorial.

### **HB 2559:**

Defines "honorable conditions" as related to the discharge or release of a veteran.

THE OREGON WWII MEMORIAL



# Agency Contacts

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QUESTIONS?