

VETERANS

HB 4132

**2026 OREGON VETERANS' SERVICES
SUPPLEMENTAL INVESTMENTS INITIATIVE**

REPRESENTATIVE PAUL L. EVANS



VETERANS POLICY

- 2008 – GOVERNORS TASK FORCE ON VETERANS SERVICES (EO 08-08)
- 2009 – 36 RECOMMENDATIONS PASSED AND IMPLEMENTED
- 2016 – HJR 202B/BM 96 PASSAGE
- 2017 – EXPANSION OF PROGRAMS WITH LOTTERY FUNDING (LF) ADDED TO \$8,500,000 GENERAL FUND (GF) *
- 2017 – 2019 – COORDINATOR POSITIONS
2020 – 2024 STRUCTURE AND SYSTEM OPTIMIZATIONS (TWEAKING)
- 2026 – NEED FOR SERVICES EXPANSION

FUNCTION OF ODVA

- 2009 – TRANSITION FROM A LIMITED MISSION: ORVET HOME LOANS, VETERANS HOME (THE DALLES), CONSERVATORSHIPS, VSOS (DIRECT SERVICES)
- 2012 – STATE VSOS TRANSITION FROM DIRECT SERVICES TO SUPPORT FOR COUNTY VSOS (AND CAMPUS VSOS)
- 2017 – EXPANSION OF SERVICES INCLUDING COORDINATORS, CAMPUS VETERANS GRANTS, PUBLIC SERVICE GRANTS, AND EVOLUTION OF VETERAN CONSERVATORSHIPS
- 2020 – 2024 COVID RESPONSE/S, ADJUSTMENT TO LARGER SCALE/SCOPE OF DUTIES
- 2026 – MASSIVE LAYOFFS/STAFF REDUCTIONS AT USDVA EXPANDING GAPS IN SERVICES WARRANTING OUR ACTION/ATTENTION

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2026 OREGON VETERANS' SERVICES SUPPLEMENTAL INVESTMENT INITIATIVE:

- FUNDING GOAL
- ADDITIONAL STAFF POSITIONS
- DIRECTOR/DEPUTY DIRECTOR
- VETERANS SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM
- VETERANS' SERVICES FUND
- COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICER PROGRAM
- COUNTY RECORDS VETERAN DISCHARGE PAPERS
- VETERANS' EDUCATIONAL BRIDGE GRANT PROGRAM
- VETERANS' TREATMENT COURTS
- FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

FUNDING GOAL

REPLACEMENT OF
“LOST” GF (\$1,500,000),
SETTING PERMANENT
BASELINE
(2015 DOLLARS)

- PROMISES MADE IN GOOD FAITH IN 2017 HAVE NOT YIELDED INTENDED OUTCOMES
- FUNDING FOR VETERANS-FOCUSED OUTCOMES THROUGH AGENCIES (OTHER THAN ODVA) WAS NOT EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENTED
- RESETTING THE “EXPECTATIONS” OF VETERANS, FOR VETERANS SERVICES
- ASPIRATIONAL NOT REQUIREMENT

ADDITIONAL STAFFING

PHASED ADDITIONS

- **ADDITIONAL POSITIONS NEEDED AT ODVA TO COMPLETE THE CORE MISSION**
 - 2028
 - ASSISTANT DIVISION DIRECTOR X2
 - COORDINATOR FOR INCARCERATED VETERANS
 - RESEARCH ANALYST
 - GRANT COORDINATOR
 - 2030
 - STATE APPROVING AGENCY STAFF
 - BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SPECIALIST
 - COORDINATOR FOR HOMELESS VETERANS
 - DEPUTY COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
 - 2032
 - COORDINATOR FOR WOMEN VETERANS
 - COORDINATOR FOR INCARCERATED VETERANS
 - COORDINATOR FOR LGBTQIA2S+ VETERANS

DIRECTOR & DEPUTY DIRECTOR

LEADERSHIP BACKGROUND & EXPERIENCES

- MIRRORING BACKGROUND AND CULTURAL COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR BOTH DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR POSITIONS
- EXISTING LAW DOES NOT REQUIRE DEPUTY DIRECTOR TO HAVE VETERAN EXPERIENCE
 - DISTINCT EDUCATIONAL, TRAINING, AND WORK ENVIRONMENTS
 - CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING OF VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES

VETERANS SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM

ADDED FLEXIBILITY FOR
TARGETED PILOT
PROGRAMMING

- PILOT PROGRAMMING
- REPORTING RESPONSIBILITY
- PRIORITIES FOR “PAIRING” SUICIDE PREVENTION WITH WORKFORCE TRAINING AND PREPARATION ACTIVITIES
 - EXAMPLES
 - AGRICULTURE
 - FORESTRY
 - FISHING
 - NATURAL RESOURCES
 - OTHER

VETERANS SERVICES FUND

12% CAP LIKE ALL THE
OTHERS

- PREVIOUS BUDGET POLICY HAS TREATED THE VETERANS LOTTERY FUNDS DIFFERENTLY THAN EVERY OTHER ACCOUNT
- THIS HAS REDUCED THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS FOR VETERANS STATEWIDE
- A SMALL “FIX” TO THE PROCESS

COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICER PROGRAM

PROVIDES ODVA WITH
GREATER ABILITY TO
ENSURE APPROPRIATE
USE OF FUNDING

- MOST COUNTIES USE FUNDING APPROPRIATELY
- A FEW COUNTIES DO NOT USE FUNDING AS APPROPRIATELY
- THIS PROVIDES GREATER CONTROL OVER DISBURSEMENT TRACKING FOR SECURING CVSO OUTCOMES

COUNTY RECORDS: VETERAN DISCHARGE PAPERS

PROTECTS VETERANS
FROM ACCIDENTAL AND/OR
COLLATERAL IMPACTS
ASSOCIATED WITH PUBLIC
RECORDS LAW

- CLARIFIES ACCESS TO VITAL
RECORDS OF VETERANS WITH
DD214 FILED WITH COUNTY
CLERKS

VETERAN EDUCATIONAL BRIDGE GRANT PROGRAM

PROVIDES INCREASED
FLEXIBILITY FOR
CHANGING NEEDS

- PRIMARY FOCUS REMAINS
- PROVIDES INCREASED
FLEXIBILITY FOR
DETERMINATION AND
DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS

VETERANS' TREATMENT COURT

PROVIDES GREATER
INTEROPERABILITY AND
STRUCTURE FOR
VETERAN COURT
PROTOCOLS

- CLARIFIES DEFINITIONS,
PROCEDURES, AND RULES FOR
OPERATIONS OF VETERANS'
COURTS

FUNDING

AS DRAFTED

- PROVIDES AUTHORIZATION FOR TRANSFER OF UNEXPENDED AND UNOBLIGATED FUNDING FOR VETERANS
- EMPLOYER INCENTIVE FUND
- SCHOOL DISTRICTS UNFUNDED LIABILITY FUND
- PLAN WAS TO LIBERATE THE MONIES ASSOCIATED WITH INTEREST ON UNUSED MONIES MADE POSSIBLE BY IRREGULAR SCHEDULING AT PERS THIS CYCLE *
- ONE-TIME EFFORT
- AN AMENDMENT TO DELETE IS IN THE WORKS IF THE COMMITTEE CHOOSES THAT PATHWAY

- **QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE**