

# Agency 28 - Department Of Veterans' Affairs

## Statutory Authority:

The Department of Veterans' Affairs was created by LB 187 and LB 240 of the 1947 Session of the Legislature. It's duties and organization are outlined in Article 3, Chapter 80, Section 314-322, Article 4, Chapter 80, Section 401-412 and Article 9, Chapter 80, Section 901-903, Article 13, Chapter 12, Section 1301. The agency also has a complete set of Rules and Regulations on file with the Secretary of State.

## Vision Statement:

It is the vision of the Department of Veterans' Affairs that all Nebraska veterans and their dependents will have a quality of life that is dignified and acceptable in our society, reflective of the appreciation Nebraskans have for the freedoms won and preserved by veterans.

## Mission Statement:

The mission of the Department of Veterans' Affairs is to provide assistance to Nebraska veterans and their dependents in acquiring county, state, and federal benefits to which they are entitled by virtue of their service to this country.

- 1) Administer state benefit programs for qualified Nebraska veterans and eligible dependents.
- 2) Prepare and present cases on state and federal benefits for qualified Nebraska veterans and their dependents before the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
- 3) Serve as the state's chief advocate for the veteran's position on all issues, legislative or otherwise, that impact their benefits, their status or their social well-being.
- 4) A State Veterans' Cemetery System has been created in statutes with the objective of operating and maintaining veteran cemeteries in Nebraska.

## Goals:

Goals for the Department of Veterans' Affairs are as follows:

- 1) Improve the quality of all services provided to veterans, their spouses or dependents.
- 2) Enhance relationships with other agencies, organizations, and individuals that impact the veteran community.
- 3) Increase the knowledge of all service officers and other appropriate officials about veterans benefits.
- 4) Increase the number of eligible Nebraska veterans and dependents who may receive state and federal benefits.
- 5) Increase the awareness and appreciation among Nebraskans for the sacrifices made by veterans.
- 6) Maintain or expand upon the range of state and federal benefits available to veterans.
- 7) Use every means possible to improve communications with veterans' advocates and organizations that serve veterans.

## Financial Data:

	Actual FY04	Approp FY05	Request FY06	Recom FY06	Request FY07	Recom FY07
General Fund	662,953	723,929	728,500	748,442	728,650	775,698
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	662,953	723,929	728,500	748,442	728,650	775,698

## Agency 28 - Department Of Veterans' Affairs Program 036 - Veterans' Affairs

### Program Objectives:

1) Administer the Nebraska Veterans' Aid Fund, provide aid to needy eligible veterans and their eligible dependents experiencing an unforeseen emergency; 2) Process applications for Waiver of Tuition for children, spouse, widow or widowers; 3) Maintain a permanent registry of military discharges for veterans who have left the military and requested Nebraska receive a copy; 4) Process applications for Tuition Credit for Active Reservists; 5) Maintain a permanent registry of graves for persons who shall have served in the Armed Forces of the US and whose mortal remains rest in Nebraska; 6) Maintain a Service Office that assists veterans and their dependents in applying for federal benefits; and, 7) Process applications for admittance to the Nebraska Veterans Homes.

### Financial Data:

	Actual FY04	Approp FY05	Request FY06	Recom FY06	Request FY07	Recom FY07
General Fund	662,953	718,329	722,900	742,842	723,050	770,098
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>662,953</b>	<b>718,329</b>	<b>722,900</b>	<b>742,842</b>	<b>723,050</b>	<b>770,098</b>

### Performance Measures:

Description	FY04 Actual	FY05	FY06 Request	FY07 Request
NVA Fund Applications Processed	1,486	1,600	1,700	1,700
NVA Fund Payments	\$968,773	\$1,050,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000
Waiver of Tuition Applications	298	310	315	320
Discharges Received and Filed	3,516	3,500	3,500	3,500
Discharges Requests	2,553	2,600	2,600	2,600
Tuition Credit for Reservists	55	55	55	55
Grave Registrations	1,491	1,500	1,500	1,500
State Service Office, new POA's	3,204	3,400	3,400	3,400
State Service Office, Hearings	130	130	130	130
State Service Office, Claims Filed	4,778	5,000	5,000	5,000
State Service Office, Ratings Reviewed	4,512	4,500	4,500	4,500
Veterans Home Applications Processed	298	320	325	330
# FTE Accredited w/Recognized Orgs	5	6	6	6
# FTE Accredited w/Other Organizations	4	4	4	4
Annual Accredited Training for SSO	6	8	8	8
Speak at NACO District & State	6	8	8	8
County Vet Serv Off Training	1	1	1	1
# Honorary Highschool Diploma	31	20	15	10

## Agency 28 - Department Of Veterans' Affairs Program 037 - Veterans' Cemetery System

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**Program Objectives:**

Operate and maintain a State Veterans' Cemetery System that will be responsive to the needs of veterans and reflect the appreciation Nebraskans have for veterans.

**Financial Data:**

	<u>Actual FY04</u>	<u>Approp FY05</u>	<u>Request FY06</u>	<u>Recom FY06</u>	<u>Request FY07</u>	<u>Recom FY07</u>
General Fund	0	5,600	5,600	5,600	5,600	5,600
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>5,600</b>

**Performance Measures:**