

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. Its duties and organization are outlined in Article 3, Chapter 80, Section 314, 317-321, 323 and 324, Article 4, Chapter 80, Section 401-412 and Article 9, Chapter 80, Section 901-903. 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 to coordinate or supply all available assistance that will help Nebraska veterans and their dependents maintain a quality of life that is dignified and acceptable in our society.

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. Responsibilities include: 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; and 3) Serve as the state's chief advocate for the veteran's position on all issues that impact their benefits, their status or their social well-being.

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 knowledge of county and post/chapter 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.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	622,765	578,394	590,274	606,095	590,859	637,052
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	622,765	578,394	590,274	606,095	590,859	637,052

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Program Objectives:

Program objectives include:

1. Administer the Nebraska Veterans' Aid Fund to provide aid promptly to needy veterans and their eligible dependents;
2. Process applications for Waiver of Tuition for children, spouse, widow or widowers;
3. Maintain military discharges for all veterans leaving the military who request that Nebraska be provided a copy;
4. Process applications for Tuition Credit for Active Reservists;
5. Maintain a permanent registry of the graves of all persons who shall have served in the Armed Forces of the United States and whose mortal remains rest in Nebraska; and
6. Maintain a Service Office that assists veterans and their dependents in applying for federal benefits.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	622,765	578,394	590,274	606,095	590,859	637,052
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
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Total Agency	622,765	578,394	590,274	606,095	590,859	637,052

Performance Measures:

Description	FY98 Actual	FY99 Current	FY00 Request	FY01 Request
NVA Fund applications processed	1,857	1,900	1,950	2,000
NVA Fund payments	\$1,330,754	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000
Waiver of Tuition applications	126	125	130	135
Discharges received & filed	2,383	2,400	2,450	2,500
Discharge requests	2,339	2,500	2,550	2,600
Tuition Credit for Reservists	107	110	110	110
Grave Registrations	1,626	1,700	1,750	1,800
State Service Office, new POA's	1,530	1,600	1,700	1,800
Veterans Home applications processed	306	310	320	330
Vet Organizations recognized by the	8	8	8	8
NDVA Accredited w/State recognized Orgs	5	5	5	5
NDVA Accredited w/others	2	2	2	2
Accreditations by # FTE	5	5	5	5
Annual Accreditation Training for SSO 4-FTE	6	8	8	8
Newsletter articles & mailings	96	110	120	130
County Vet Serv Off Training	2	2	2	2
Speak at NACO District & State meetings	7	7	7	7
# of Presentations by Director	25	30	36	40
# of Presentations by Staff	55	60	60	60