

Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Fact Sheet

John E. Lee, director
360-725-2152
john@dva.wa.gov

What the Department of Veterans Affairs does:

- Three Washington state veterans homes provide nursing home care for veterans and their spouses/widows. These homes are certified as both Medicare and Medicaid facilities and provide short-term rehabilitative care as well as long-term care and hospice services.
- Veterans Service Centers and a statewide network of contracted service officers help veterans and their families access veterans benefits at the federal, state and local level. These benefits include health care, vocational rehabilitation, disability compensation or pensions, county veterans assistance programs and others.
- State veterans programs include a war trauma or PTSD counseling program, Veterans Innovations Program for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, transitional housing and a Veterans Reintegration Program for homeless veterans, Incarcerated Veterans Reintegration Program, estate management, transition services for military personnel in the Warrior Transition Battalion, Veterans Conservation Corps and others.
- The department is constructing the state's first veterans cemetery in Medical Lake to provide final honors for veterans living in Eastern Washington.

2007-09 Operating Budget	\$110.8 million
2009-11 Maintenance Level	\$111.7 million
2009-11 Operating Budget	\$110.2 million

Reductions and actions we are taking:

- Reduced staff by 11 positions. During this process, care was taken to ensure those reductions had the least possible impact on direct care in the state veterans homes.

Programs and services we will continue to deliver:

- Ensuring veterans and their families continue to receive excellent care and service in our state veterans homes, through our service centers and in all agency programs. Our focus

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is on connecting veterans with any and all entitlements and benefits they have earned through their military service.

- Examining opportunities for partnerships among other agencies. Partnerships with the Department of Social and Health Services and the higher education community are being developed to ensure veterans receive referrals to the department regardless of where they initially ask for help.

For more information, visit <http://www.dva.wa.gov/budget.html> or contact:

Heidi Audette

360-725-2154

heidia@dva.wa.gov