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# Virginia Department of Veterans Services

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## Commissioner's 2025 Annual Report

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

(Includes metrics from 2022 – 2025)

for

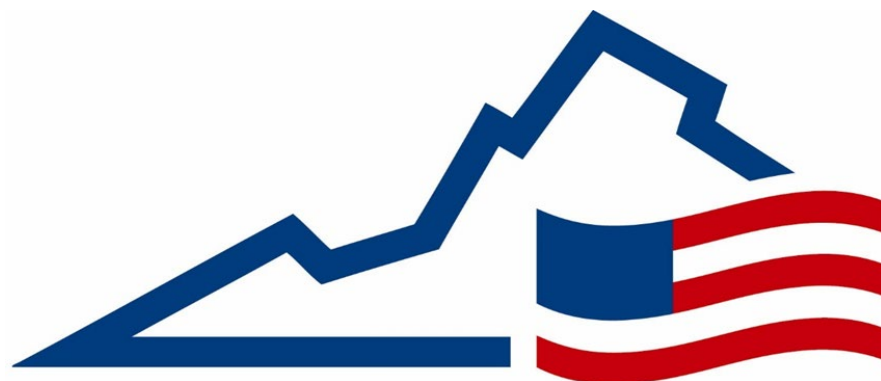
Governor Glenn Youngkin,

Secretary Craig Crenshaw,

and

The Virginia General Assembly

December 1, 2025



Virginia Department of Veterans Services

*Serving those who served*

# The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) COMMISSIONER’S 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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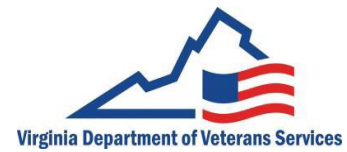
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# The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS)

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### Mission, Vision and Values

#### MISSION

To serve Virginia's veterans, members of the Virginia National Guard, Virginia residents in the Armed Forces Reserves, and their family members, by ensuring they receive timely transition, employment and education assistance, benefits, health care, long-term care and recognition they have earned through service to our country and Commonwealth.

#### VISION

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services will maximize services to make Virginia the best state in the Nation for veterans to live, work, and raise a family.

#### VALUES

**EXCELLENCE:** Provide exemplary service to Virginia's veterans and their families.

**COMMITMENT:** An enduring commitment to helping Virginia's veterans and their families receive all earned federal and state benefits and creating an economic environment that promotes veteran-owned businesses and Virginia companies hiring veterans.

**INNOVATION:** Continually find new methods to reach and serve Virginia's veterans and their families.

**TRANSPARENCY:** Communicate with all stakeholders in a direct and sincere manner.

**STEWARDSHIP:** Support a climate of ownership at the lowest possible level.

#### **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

- Sustain DVS as a resilient organization to meet the needs of the veterans and deliver on those needs.
- Grow community resources across the Commonwealth to provide greater depth and breadth of service.
- Continuing development of the Virginia Veterans Network (VVN) as a critical tool to navigate the resources, programs and opportunities available throughout the Commonwealth to active-duty service members, veterans and their families.
- Grow partnership with other Commonwealth agencies and departments.
- Continued engagement with executive and legislative leaders to glean feedback from their constituents.

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## Commissioner's Message

In 2025, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) remained committed to its mission of making Virginia the best state in the nation for veterans and their families to live, work, and thrive. DVS communications throughout the year emphasized transparency, responsiveness, and a deep respect for military service, while expanding access to benefits, programs, and community support.

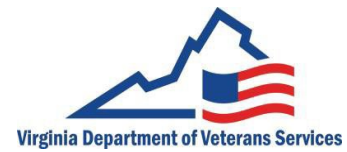
DVS significantly expanded its community outreach in 2025, responding to a far too common unfamiliarity among transitioning service members, veterans and families that are unaware of state programs and initiatives to provide support. The department hosted veterans' events and engagements across the Commonwealth, from its 51 locations across Virginia, to community centers, VFW and American Legion Posts, to state parks and state fairs. DVS also hosted numerous veteran job fairs, including the Richmond Veterans Benefits and Resource Fair, which served more than 1,300 attendees. It also promoted the Virginia Has Jobs Initiative, which highlighted over 250,000 job openings and connected veterans with [Virginia Values Veterans \(V3\)](#) partner employers. We have extended partnerships with American Corporate Partners and Virginia State and Regional Chambers of Commerce to co-sponsor employment initiatives for veterans and spouses. Additionally, DVS supported Military Signing Day and ROTC recruitment efforts, celebrating young Virginians who chose to enter military service. The department continues to encourage community feedback and invites veterans to share ideas and request DVS participation in local events.

[Virginia's Benefits and Claims](#) personnel continue to deliver nation-leading assistance to hundreds of thousands of veterans and their families, enabling their earned benefits for their service and sacrifices. DVS [Veterans and Families Services](#) have extended services, partnerships, and grant programs to assist those veterans and families suffering from addiction, homelessness, food insufficiency, PTSD, despair, or suicidal ideation. They have redoubled their programs to support and address the needs of justice involved veterans and their efforts to transition to a better life and contributing status in our communities.

Over the last 24 months, we have added two new [Veteran Care Centers](#), nearly doubling the skilled nursing and memory care programs and access we offer to eligible veterans in each region of our state. These are significant investments in the care of veterans that have given so much to our Nation and Virginia's communities. Our three [State Veterans Cemeteries](#) continue to receive national recognition for excellence in their most honorable services and care for our deceased veterans and spouses. I would recommend that we develop long-term outlook efforts (e.g. 20 year projections) in order to continue similar investments for the future care and honor of our veterans and families across the Commonwealth.

To honor the service and sacrifice of Virginia's veterans, DVS led several commemorative events throughout the year. These included Memorial Day ceremonies at four state cemeteries and the [Virginia War Memorial](#), the launch of the inaugural "Say Their Names Marathon" which honored nearly 12,000 fallen Virginians, and observances for Vietnam War Veterans Day, Women Veterans Week, Patriot Day (9/11), and POW/MIA Recognition Day. DVS also partnered with the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission to celebrate the 250th anniversaries of the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps. These events underscored the department's commitment to remembrance, education, and fostering intergenerational awareness of military service.

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One of the biggest lessons that I have learned during my tenure as Commissioner is the evolving nature of need and challenge facing each generation of veterans. The demands are many; the lessons from this latest generation and the near quarter-century of conflict and continuous deployments to regions of war, loss of life, and life altering consequences for both service members and their families. To serve these and future generations of service men and women, and their families, DVS needs to continue to work more than ever to be connected. Outreach and communication, up to two years prior to retirement or separation from service is an imperative. Staying connected through multiple communication modes and technologies, and into their communities to provide them support and services where they live, work and thrive. The four-year effort to establish the [Virginia Veterans Network \(VVN\)](#) was visionary and has emerged as a cornerstone of DVS's digital transformation efforts; thank you Governor Youngkin! Over the past year, it has become an unparalleled portal connecting veterans to thousands of supporting entities, programs, and services -- from transition and employment, healthcare options, education programs, benefits, to support when they fall into unforeseen challenges and despair. The technology involved has enabled us nearly 50,000 new registrations in less than 6 months. New features planned for release include enhanced access to counseling, job placement services, and educational resources. DVS continues to solicit user feedback to guide future development, with suggestions such as rideshare integration and expanded community services under consideration.



We have certainly not done this alone. Support and advice have been instrumental from my very first day in this chair. The guidance delivered from the DVS Statewide Strategic Plan, with its carefully laid out goals, actions, and measures was clear and well-constructed. I would strongly advise that the Commonwealth invest in an “every-four-year” effort to produce this type of guidance for future commissioners and executives. The challenges facing our veterans and families change and DVS will benefit from both clarity of mission and purpose.

The direction and guidance by our Executive has been substantial and critical to every success. It DOES all start with leadership. Support and assistance from our Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, and his team has been stout and unfaltering. The legislators, led by leaders and members of the General Assembly Military and Veterans Caucus (GAMVC), has been significant and unwavering. Your wisdom, insight, and the feedback from your veteran constituents is critical to our success. I, and the DVS leadership team, thanks you all.

# The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS)

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As the year concludes, and we embark on our 98th year, I am confident that this is an organization that is poised to continue to evolve and grow to the challenge of making Virginia the very best place to attract and retain veterans; the best place for transitioning veterans and military spouses to find their next careers and gain highly challenging careers and opportunities for their families and their next chapters of their lives; and to make Virginia the best place for veterans to live, work and raise their families.

VDVS FY 2025 Highlights	Value
Claims submitted by DVS to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	<b>131,554</b>
Number of Veteran and Family Users of the Virginia Veteran Network	<b>28,585</b>
Individual services delivered by the Virginia Veteran and Family Support program	<b>5,254</b>
Interments conducted at Virginia's three state veterans' cemeteries	<b>2,460</b>
Visitors to the Virginia War Memorial	<b>64,3505</b>
Contacts with transitioning service members and spouses	<b>24,955</b>

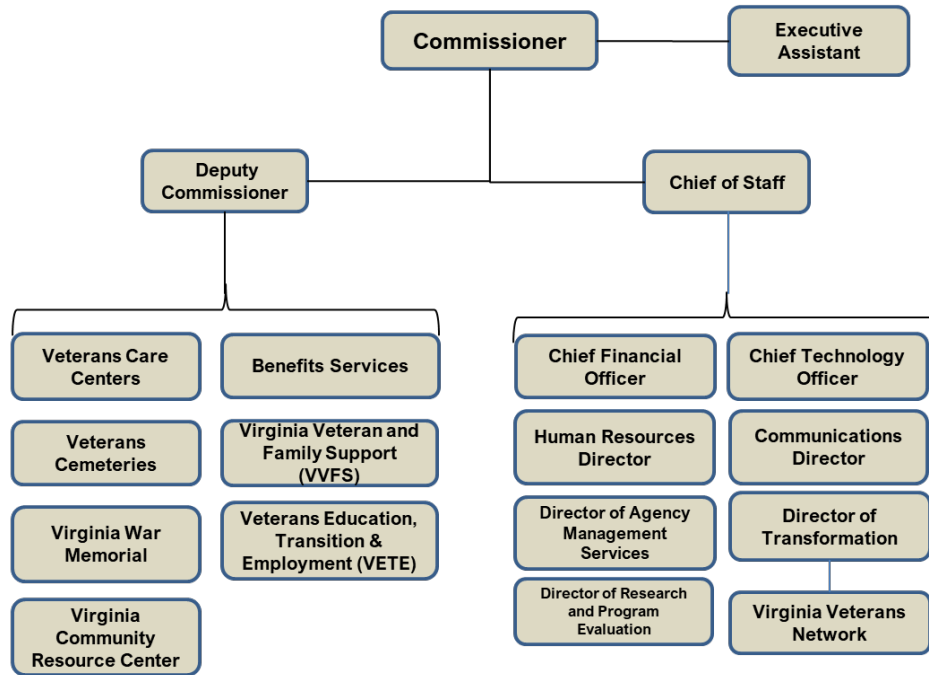
As we move out in 2026, the men and women professionals of DVS remain focused on strengthening partnerships with federal and state agencies, enhancing service delivery through technology and outreach, and advocating for policies that reflect the evolving needs of Virginia's veteran community. Our leaders have reaffirmed the department's commitment by stating; We are here to serve you. Your voice matters. Together, we will ensure Virginia remains the best place for veterans and their families.

Charles A. Zingler  
Commissioner

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## Organizational Overview





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## Objectives and Key Results

### ***Agency Objectives: Stay, Work and Thrive***

DVS set agency objectives to grow the number of transitioning service members and families that **STAY** in the Commonwealth, enhance their career opportunities through **WORK** initiatives and maximize services to enable Virginia's veteran and military family population to **THRIVE**. The key results listed below support these objectives.

### **Objective 1: Increase the community resources capability of DVS to support Virginia's Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) population by connecting them with needed resources through the Virginia Veterans Network (VVN).**

**Key Result:** The VVN is a virtual network which connects veterans and veteran families to organizations whose missions include providing services and support to veterans and create opportunities to share referral and service information. Three key lines of effort are increasing Virginia Veteran Community (VVC) membership in the VVN and resource partners. Increasing access and availability with vetted private resource partners that will address their dynamic needs within 30 miles of their residence. **In 2025 DVS has over 2,900 resource partners that provide services across the Commonwealth.**

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### **Objective 2: Increase the capability of the Department of Veterans Services to support Virginia's Veteran Community in the Virginia Veterans Network.**

**Key Result:** The VVN officially launched on Veteran's Day 2024. Prior to the launch the DVS team and contract partner conducted extensive testing to include beta tests and a pilot. VVN expands the access and awareness for community services and programs. At the time of the launch DVS had approximately 900 registered members. **Currently, the VVN has registered over 54,000 users and continues to grow.**

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### **Objective 3: Increase participation in VMSDEP to 9,000 students per year.**

DVS is responsible for certifying eligibility for benefits under the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP), which provides education benefits to spouses and children of military service members killed, missing in action, taken prisoner, or who have been rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) as totally and permanently disabled, or at least 90 percent permanently disabled because of military service.

**Key Result:** Through outreach and working with our university partners, **DVS enabled 10,333 survivors and dependents to utilize this program in 2025.** VMSDEP is a very strong incentive for qualifying veterans to remain in Virginia. It is crucial that VMSDEP remains a centerpiece of Virginia's offerings to the most deserving veterans and their survivors.

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## **Objective 4: Increase the number of V3 certified companies to 4,500.**

**Key Result:** Through the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program, DVS fulfills its mission to educate and train employers throughout the Commonwealth on the value of Virginia's veterans, and to help employers connect with these veterans. We are committed to assisting employers recruit, hire, train, and retain veterans. **In 2025 DVS certified 5,664 as V3 employers.** While efforts continue to recruit new companies, DVS focuses its efforts on partnership development with V3 certified employers this fiscal year to recruit more veterans. Efforts resulted in an increase of over 33% of Virginia veterans hired by V3 companies in FY25.

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## **Objective 5: Increase the number of V3 veterans hired by V3-certified companies to 20,000 per year.**

**Key Result:** The transition from military service is not complete on the date of discharge. The V3 Program provides transition resources and assistance to veterans who now call Virginia home. V3 assists transitioning veterans in connecting with employment, education, entrepreneurial, and supportive services, and helps educate participating veterans and veteran services providers on available resources and opportunities. Through these initiatives, the number of Veterans assisted increased by over 85.72% this year, with more than 154,000 veterans hired through V3 since program inception in 2012. **In 2025 we assisted 12,647 Veterans.**

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## **Objective 6: Integrate into the Federal Transition Assistance Program (TAP) to provide in-person briefings to 20,000 TAP participants per year.**

**Key Result:** TAP classes include briefings on benefits, work transition, and entrepreneurship opportunities for transitioning veterans. DVS works with local military base commanders and Department of Defense (DoD) TAP managers to allow DVS to brief in all TAP classes in Virginia, through formal partnerships and agreements. Currently, DVS' goal is to be in every TAP class at every installation as well as all virtual events and to brief 100% of the service members attending TAP. **During 2025 DVS team members briefed 30,596 participants through in-person and virtual meetings. The team also reached out to over 2,500 service members, via email,** who have elected to return to Virginia. This information was received from the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC).

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## DVS Locations – as of 12/01/2025

Full contact information for each office is listed on our website: [www.dvs.virginia.gov](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov)

## DVS Statewide Support



Map current as of December 2025.

### State Veterans Offices

#### ● Benefits + Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS)

- |                                      |                |  |                            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|--|----------------------------|
| 01 Abingdon                          | 07 Front Royal | 13 Norfolk   | 23 Staunton                |
| 02 Big Stone Gap                     | 08 Hampton     | 14 Petersburg, Virginia<br>Community Resource Center | 24 Virginia Beach–Oceana   |
| 03 Charlottesville                   | 09 Henrico     | 15 Salem VA Medical Center                           | 25 Virginia Beach–Pembroke |
| 04 Danville                          | 10 Loudoun     | 16 South Hill  | 26 Williamsburg            |
| 05 Fairfax                           | 11 Lynchburg   | 17 Springfield                                       | 27 Wytheville              |
| 06 Fredericksburg (Spotsylvania Ave) | 12 Manassas    |  |                            |

#### ● Benefits Only

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 28 Accomac                                 | 38 JBLE (Eustis)                 |
| 29 Arlington                               | 39 JBLE (Langley)                |
| 30 Emporia                                 | 40 Pentagon                      |
| 31 Fort Belvoir                            | 41 Portsmouth                    |
| 32 Fort Lee                                | 42 Quantico                      |
| 33 Fredericksburg VA Health Care<br>Center | 43 Richmond VA<br>Medical Center |
| 34 Hampton VA Medical Center               | 44 Roanoke                       |
| 35 Harrisonburg–JMU Valor Center           | 45 Tazewell                      |

#### ● Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) Only

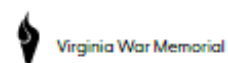
- 46 Blacksburg
- 47 Martinsville
- 48 Richmond
- 49 Suffolk
- 50 Warrenton

### Care Centers ■

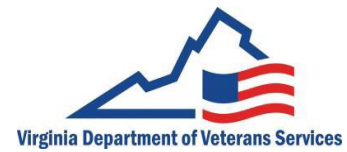
- 51 Davis & McDaniel Veterans Care  
Center, Roanoke
- 52 Jones & Cabacoy Veterans Care  
Center, Virginia Beach
- 53 Puller Veterans Care Center,  
Warrenton
- 54 Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care  
Center, Richmond

### Cemeteries ■

- 55 Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial  
Veterans Cemetery, Suffolk
- 56 Southwest Virginia Veterans  
Cemetery, Dublin
- 57 Virginia Veterans Cemetery,  
Amelia



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## Programs & Services

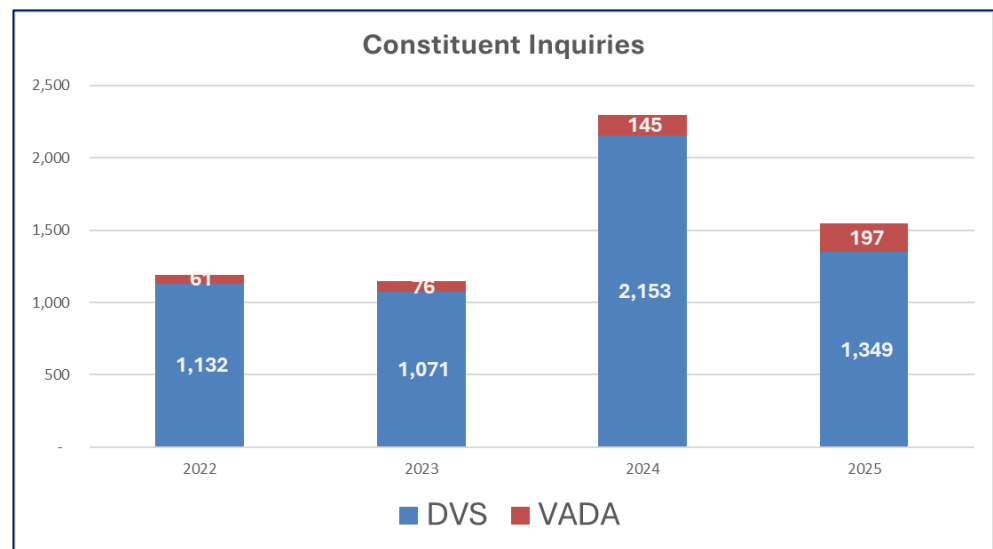
### Constituent Inquiries

Veteran constituent inquiries are direct communications from veterans, their families, caregivers, or affiliated service providers seeking assistance, information, or resolution regarding benefits, services, or policies impacting their well-being. These inquiries are received via phone, email, in-person meetings, outreach events, and typically fall into one or more of the following categories:

- **Benefits Navigation:** Questions about eligibility, application processes, or delays related to VA healthcare, disability compensation, pensions, education, or housing.
- **Resource Access:** Requests for referrals to local, state, or federal programs including employment support, mental health services, or financial assistance.
- **Policy Feedback:** Comments, concerns, or suggestions regarding proposed or existing legislation affecting veterans and their families.
- **Casework Support:** Appeals for help resolving issues with government agencies, such as stalled claims, service record corrections, or emergency interventions.
- **Community Engagement:** Invitations to events, offers to collaborate, or expressions of interest in advocacy initiatives.

These inquiries serve as a vital feedback loop, informing policy priorities, outreach strategies, and service improvements. Tracking and analyzing inquiry trends helps ensure that veteran-facing resources remain responsive, equitable, and aligned with real-world needs. Working together DVS and Veteran and Defense Affairs (VADA)

assist and resolve over 1,500 inquiries annually.



### Benefits Services

Benefit Services provides Virginia's veterans and their family members with accurate, timely, and ethical education and assistance in obtaining the federal and state benefits they have earned through their service and sacrifice.

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## FY 25 Benefits Services Provided

<b>131,554</b>	Total claims and supporting documents submitted to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in FY25 (+ 20,853 from FY24)
<b>21,306</b>	Compensation and Pension claims submitted to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in FY25 (+ 471 from FY24)
<b>92,046</b>	Client contacts in FY25 (+ 2,185 from FY24)
<b>\$6.98B</b>	Disability Compensation and Pension payments to Virginia veterans and dependents for Federal Fiscal Year 2024 (FFY24) (+\$700M from FFY23)

## Benefits Top Accomplishments, Achievements, Challenges

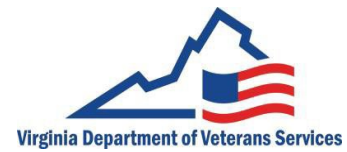
### 1. Staff Retention and Support.

Staff retention remained one of our most critical priorities in FY25, and we addressed it through a multifaceted strategy focused on compensation, workplace safety, leadership structure, and professional development. **These efforts contributed to a 1.5% annual drop-in vacancy rates, which have now stabilized at around 7.5%.** In FY25, we added compensation for our staff by scaling back less essential operational programs to offset the cost. Beyond compensation, we recognized the need to improve day-to-day working conditions for our clients and staff. This included addressing a continued rise in office-based threats and security incidents. DVS implemented a series of internal security measures, including reporting protocols, a review board to evaluate threatening behavior, and a process to bar individuals from services when necessary. We also continued training all employees in verbal de-escalation and active shooter response procedures and deployed contracted security guards to high-risk locations when needed. To ensure employees felt supported and had clear paths for growth, we also launched a formal Employee Professional Development Program. The program establishes eligibility criteria based on position and experience and allows employees to enroll in leadership training either after assuming new roles or in preparation for advancement. Participation includes a time commitment to the agency, reinforcing our goal of retaining and growing talent from within. Together, these efforts reflect a long-term investment in the well-being, safety, and advancement of our workforce.

2. **Reduce Regional Director Span of Control.** Reducing the span of control for our Regional Directors was another key FY25 objective aimed at improving supervision, communication, and support for front-line staff. Previously, each of our four Regional Directors directly supervised between 18 and 30 employees—a range that made it difficult to provide consistent oversight and timely guidance. **In FY25, we restructured our regional management model by splitting each of the four regions into two, effectively doubling the number of regions to eight.** To support this change, we created new Assistant Regional Director positions, which allowed us to cut the average span of control in half. This structural adjustment has strengthened leadership capacity at the regional level and improved the overall responsiveness and effectiveness of agency management.

3. **Leverage Virtual and Digital Technologies to Enhance Production and Streamline Services.** As part of our annual objectives for FY25, we focused on modernizing agency operations through the strategic use of digital and virtual technologies. We procured an AI plug-in to improve efficiency in our Appeals Research software, developed an internal intranet to strengthen agency-wide communication, and

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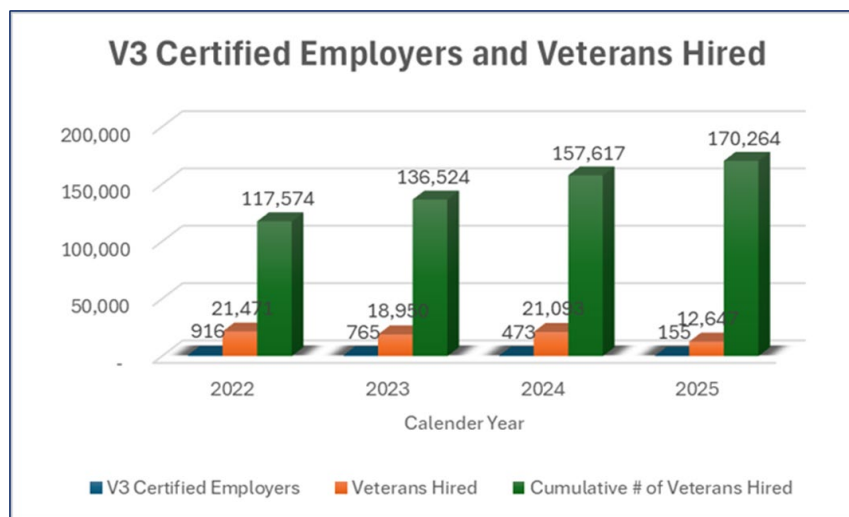


installed iPad kiosks in every office to collect real-time digital customer feedback. We also expanded the use of Adobe Pro to digitize veteran records, reducing reliance on paper forms and physical mail. In addition, we centralized printing operations by securing a contract for networked printers, eliminating the need for personal desktop printers. **This change is projected to reduce printing costs by 45%, saving the agency approximately \$28,000 annually.**

## Veterans Education, Transition, and Employment (VETE) Programs

### VETE Top Accomplishments, Achievements, Challenges

1. The Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) team set impressive new processing timelines. Despite a notable rise in applications driven by increased awareness and programmatic changes, **the team has managed to process requests within an average of just one business day.** This is a remarkable achievement, especially considering the standard processing timeframe is 10 business days. This efficiency is even more impressive given that staffing levels have not been adjusted annually to accommodate the surge in requests.



2. The V3 program in coordination with the Virginia Chamber Foundation established a new partnership with the Marine Corps Base Quantico (MCB Quantico). This location now participates in a monthly Hire Vets Now (HVN) employment event, which is more frequent than any other installation partnership. In addition, the V3 Program hosts bi-monthly “Employer Panels” with at least four V3 Certified Employers to share

insight about industry trends, recruiting preferences, and question-answer sessions. This relationship has yielded increased V3 Certified employers’ participation in Military Spouse Employment Events on MCB Quantico.

3. The V3 Program revived its MOU relationship with American Corporate Partners (ACP) to provide career coaching, entrepreneurship and mentorship assistance to veterans and their families. Nearly 40 employers have been referred to ACP to establish mentorship opportunities for Service Members, Veterans, and their families. **Executive leadership has partnered with ACP to secure an increased commitment for mentors totaling 1,000 Virginia coaches and mentors.**

4. The V3 Program has entered a review and maintenance phase to facilitate the re-launch of the recertification and recommitment process for Virginia employers. This process will provide employers

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with the opportunity to reassess their hiring goals, evaluate their ongoing participation, and reaffirm their commitment.

### GI Bill® Programs: The State Approving Agency for Veterans Education & Training

The Virginia State Approving Agency (SAA) for Veterans Education and Training approves educational courses and programs of instruction provided by Virginia institutions to enable eligible veterans and their dependents to enroll and receive financial assistance (GI Bill® benefits) from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA). Because the SAA relies on federal funding, data is reported by Federal Fiscal Year (FFY).

<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	Commonwealth's ranking among the states in the percentage of Veterans using their GI Bill® benefits in FFY24 ( <i>no change from FFY24</i> )
<b>\$849M</b>	Amount of GI Bill® benefits paid to Virginia recipients in FFY24 (+ 8% <i>from FFY23</i> )
<b>900</b>	Instructional institutions in Virginia approved to provide training to Veterans and dependents in FFY24 (-4.55% <i>from FFY23</i> )

Notes: This does not include Veterans who attended school but have not received GI Bill® Benefits payment. .

### Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP)

The VMSDEP provides education benefits to spouses and children of military service members killed, missing in action, taken prisoner, or who became at least 90 percent disabled because of military service. Many VMSDEP beneficiaries also qualify for a stipend of up to \$2,200 per year to offset the cost of room, board, books, and supplies.

#### **FY 25 VMSDEP Annual Services Provided**

<b>5,331</b>	New applications for VMSDEP benefits received in FY25 (+11% <i>from FY24</i> )
<b>5,074</b>	New applicants approved for VMSDEP benefits in FY25 (+8% <i>from FY24</i> )
<b>9,876</b>	Unique students used VMSDEP benefits in FY25 (+22% <i>from FY24</i> )
<b>6,153</b>	Unique students received stipend award for FY25 (+28% <i>from FY24</i> )
<b>\$10,054,563</b>	Value of stipends awarded for 2024-25 academic year (+36% <i>from FY24</i> )
<b>40</b>	Virginia public colleges and universities that applied VMSDEP benefits to students' accounts in FY25. Students used VMSDEP benefits at all 40 public institutions ( <i>no change from FY24</i> )

### Military Education & Workforce Initiative (MEWI)

The Military Education and Workforce Initiative (MEWI) assists Veterans and service members with their transition from active duty to the workforce by providing a pathway to education, training, certifications, and the technology needed to achieve their academic endeavors. MEWI enhances employment, training, and upskilling opportunities for Virginians who have served in the United States Military and their families.

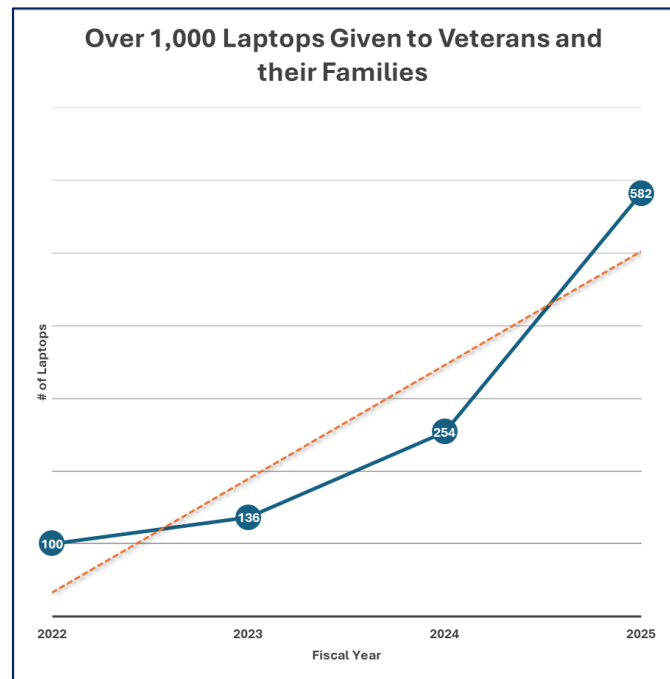


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In 2025, MEWI continued its partnership with the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) and Tech for Troops assisting military-affiliated students across Virginia. In partnership with the Virginia Community College System (VCCS), MEWI developed the Virginia Veterans Laptop Project (VVLN), as a first-in-the-nation initiative. **VVLN provided 582 laptop computers to community colleges in Virginia and Virginia Commonwealth University.**

High-paying careers are made possible by industry-leading educational certifications made available to veterans, spouses, and active-duty service members free of charge through the Department of Veteran Services' partnership with the Community College Workforce Alliance (CCWA), Altria Group, and the Veteran Service Foundation. Through these partnerships, MEWI currently offers 11 certifications and credentialing opportunities at no cost to the service member or dependent.



## Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program

The Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program assesses, coordinates, and disseminates opportunities for connecting members of the armed forces and their spouses transitioning from military to civilian life by providing a pathway to employment, education, and entrepreneurship with V3 Certified Organizations. V3 increases employment opportunities and promotes economic development, by training and certifying organizations in veteran's workforce best practices while creating connectivity opportunity and activities.

### FY 25 V3 Annual Services Provided

<b>22,836</b>	Virginia veterans hired by V3 companies in FY24 (33% increase from 22,270 in FY24)
<b>244</b>	Companies became V3 Certified in FY24 (-56.74% decrease from 564 in FY24)
<b>1,268</b>	Referrals of veteran/transitioning service member/spouses to DVS service lines and partner organizations for direct services outside of employment, education, and entrepreneurship. (-12% decrease from 1,441 in FY24)
<b>291</b>	Visits to Virginia military installations to conduct outreach and work with TSMs and their spouses in FY24 (46.23% increase from 199 in FY24)
<b>2,196</b>	Inquiries fielded and services provided to transitioning service members, Veterans and military spouses by V3T Transition Coordinators. (-22.06 decrease from 2,841 in FY24)
<b>34,994</b>	Veterans, transitioning service members (TSMs), and spouses reached through the V3 transitions services outreach efforts in FY25.



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## Military Medics and Corpsmen (MMAC) Program

The Military Medics and Corpsmen (MMAC) Program provides pathways to careers and credentialing in civilian healthcare for former service members with healthcare-related training and experience. In FY25, the Military Medics and Corpsmen (MMAC) Program began the fiscal year by continuing its core mission of delivering healthcare career coaching and employment assistance to veterans. Midway through the year, the program pivoted to prioritize strategic planning and innovation, laying the groundwork for future growth and enhanced service delivery.

**In FY25, the total of Healthcare Associates statewide grew to 65 with 28 signed MOAs.** The MOA allows MMAC-Qualified employees to apply their extensive clinical skills and experience under supervision while they obtain required civilian clinical credentials. **MMAC placed a total of 858 total hires and received 90 applications, which resulted in 46 hires in 2025.**

### FY 25 MMAC Annual Services Provided

<b>90</b>	Applicants for MMAC FY25 (36.17% <i>increase from 141 in FY24</i> )
<b>22</b>	MMAC Hires reported in FY25 (-48.84% <i>decrease from 43 in FY24</i> )
<b>18</b>	No Medics and Corpsmen Left Behind Hires FY25 (-53.85% <i>decrease from 39 in FY24</i> )
<b>4</b>	Leadership Hires FY25 (-60 % <i>decrease from 10 in FY24</i> )
<b>12</b>	Military Spouse Hires FY25 (-20% <i>decrease from 15 in FY24</i> )

## Virginia Women Veterans Program (VWVP)

The Virginia Women Veteran Program (VWVP) is a port of entry to provide referrals and ease of access to community resources to educate, unify, and empower Virginia's women veterans who have served in the military in all eras by ensuring they receive timely yet appropriate transition and benefits support, employment, education outreach, health and community advocacy.

In March, the Virginia Women Veterans Program hosted its annual Pinning Ceremony at the Virginia War Memorial to honor the sacrifices and contributions of women veterans across the Commonwealth. This year's theme, **"Her Valor, Her Voice: Honoring Women Veterans of Virginia,"** highlighted the courage, leadership, and enduring impact of women who have served in the armed forces. The event drew 294 RSVPs for the ceremony and 180 for the accompanying luncheon. Notably, this was the second year a luncheon was held, but the first time it featured a formal program, including a keynote speaker, elevating the significance of the gathering.

## Military Spouse Services

In FY25, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (VDVS) established a formally defined service area titled **Military Spouse Services**, marking a significant shift from previous years where efforts were primarily centered around the Military Spouse Liaison's engagement activities. This new direction is designed to offer distinct and targeted services for military spouses, resulting in the creation of a comprehensive Military Spouse Services Work Plan in March 2025.

The work plan introduced clearly defined services. A few to highlight include: licensure reciprocity referrals, with FY25 serving as the baseline year for establishing performance metrics. A major focus was placed on connecting military families to childcare options. This included curating a list of providers who

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accept the Department of Defense (DoD) Military Fee Assistance program, conducting outreach to providers through partnerships with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF), and encouraging their participation in the fee assistance program. Military Spouse Services collaborated with the agency's Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program to refer providers for certification and workforce solutions, and conducted childcare provider surveys to identify real-world challenges.

### Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) Program

The Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) Program provides comprehensive coordination of and referrals to behavioral and rehabilitative health care and supportive services to Virginia's veterans, National Guard, Armed Forces Reserves, caregivers, and family members.

The Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) Program is a focused response to improve and expand services to service members, veterans and their family members and caregivers coping with the impact of deployment, military service, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), operational stress, traumatic brain injury (TBI) and/or other behavioral health concerns. It is operated by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) in cooperation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) and the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). VVFS serves transitioning service members, veterans of all eras, members of the Virginia National Guard or Armed Forces Reserves, and their caregivers and family members.

### FY 25 VVFS Annual Services Provided

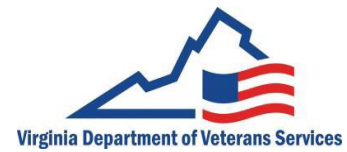
<b>2,720</b>	New Veteran and family members served in FY25 (+694, FY24)
<b>5,254</b>	Total individual services provided in FY25 (+804, FY24)
<b>814</b>	Total behavioral health services provided in FY25 (+252, FY24)
<b>100</b>	Total rehabilitative/medical services provided in FY25 (+25, FY24)
<b>3,597</b>	Total supportive services provided in FY25 (+331, FY24)
<b>65</b>	Individuals participating in peer support groups provided in FY25 (-132, FY24)
<b>902</b>	Individuals trained in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) by VVFS (-349, FY24)
<b>828</b>	Individuals trained in Military Cultural Competency Training by VVFS (-269, FY24)
<b>621</b>	Veterans who received Behavioral Health/Financial Assistance through Veterans Services Foundation (+118, FY24)

### VVFS Top Accomplishments, Achievements, Challenges

1. VVFS saw a significant increase in overall client services in FY25. During this time period, **VVFS created 34% more clients than the previous FY and saw a 15% increase in service needs** (help veterans and families sought assistance with housing, behavioral health, financial assistance etc.) for SMVF than the previous FY.
2. VVFS added a new Veteran Justice Specialist position in East Region, this brings statewide capacity to seven positions to assist justice-involved veterans (JIV) in jails, Department of Correction facilities, on

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community supervision, and on treatment dockets with critical needs such as housing, healthcare, and behavioral health services. The VVFS services for JIV are recognized nationwide as a best practice model to bridge Federal, State, and local stakeholders and resources by the National Institute of Corrections, Veterans Affairs, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

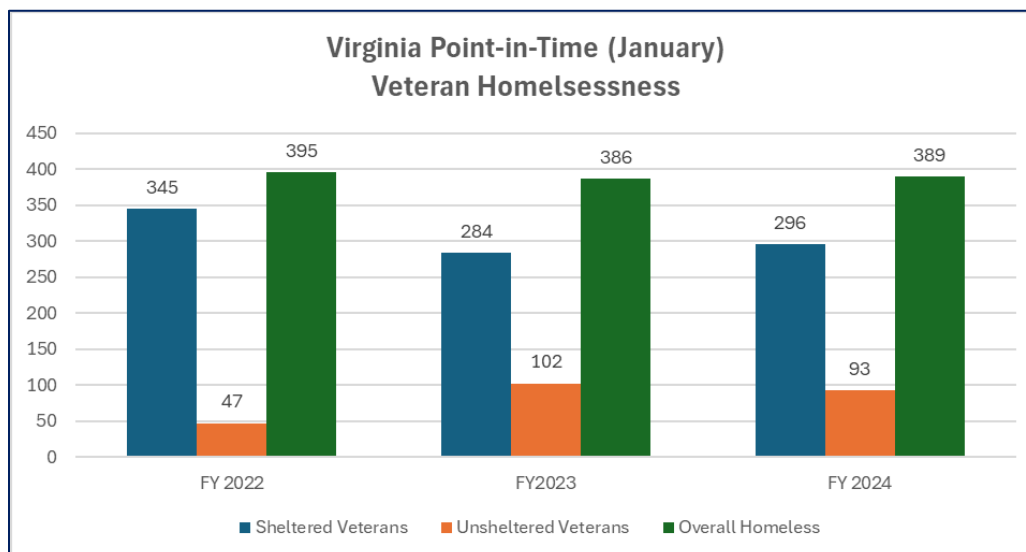
3. VVFS completed a year of technical assistance with the Veterans Affairs Suicide Mortality Review (SMR) Cooperative Agreement (one of just 12 States and Territories nationwide) to develop capacity for comprehensive reviews for military-connected suicide deaths. The SMR process identifies resources and system changes needed to prevent suicides. The SMR team (including Federal, State, and local stakeholders) hosted best practice training and mock reviews, with the goal to launch official reviews in 2026 in Greater Hampton Roads.

4. The VVFS Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services (SOS) program continues to grow technical assistance, outreach, and grant-making functions. The team currently oversees 59 community and 8 research grants and anticipates continued growth in community grant awards in FY26.

In 2025, VVFS continued to expand and sustain partnerships with federal, state, and community partners in connecting service members, veterans, and their families (SMVF) to resources and services. VVFS provides regular training, such as Military Cultural Competency (MCC), Mental Health First Aid, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), and Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), to state agencies and community partners to enhance knowledge and resource connections. Creating a continuum of care for SMVF for behavioral health, rehabilitative, and supportive services is a continual priority to ensure there is no wrong door and SMVF can quickly access services when needed.

### Homelessness and Housing

Virginia held the 2024 Point-in-Time Count on the night of January 2024. Based on the PIT count there were **389 veterans experiencing homelessness (296 sheltered, 93 unsheltered)**. The unsheltered number of veterans decreased from 102 (in 2023) to 93 (2024). The PIT count in January 2023 accounted for 386 total



homeless veterans. The 2024 count is 0.7% higher than the 2023 count, but there is a decrease in unsheltered veterans this year. NOTE: the 2024 numbers reflect the most recent data released by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which lags 1+ years.

VVFS continues to work with communities in sustaining efforts of reducing veteran homelessness through coordinated entry and targeting of resources. The VVFS team assists communities with resources, technical assistance and support, and information-sharing across agencies.

### **Governor's Challenge and Mayor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among SMVF**

VVFS continued coordination of the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among SMVF<sup>1</sup>. The City of Richmond was one of the first eight cities in the nation to join the Mayor's Challenge, and Virginia was one of the first seven states to participate in the Governor's Challenge. The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) sponsor both initiatives.

### **Supportive Services**

VVFS provides hands-on assistance navigating behavioral health, rehabilitative, and other supportive services, including peer and family support services to the most vulnerable veterans. This includes justice-involved veterans and those at risk for/or experiencing homelessness. IN FY25, VVFS assisted with 5,254 individual service needs in the key areas below.

VVFS focuses on supportive services in six areas:

1. Care Coordination and Management
2. Housing and Homeless Services
3. Justice Involved Services program (JIS)
4. Veteran Peer Support (VPS) Services
5. Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services (SOS)

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### **Virginia Veterans Network (VVN)**

**VVN is a digital hub for veterans and military families that allows access to state veterans' services, along with local community and national resources and services, in one easy-to-access and convenient portal.** Five other states have similar portals; however, no other system offers the full portfolio of services, including a full range of transition and employment services, suicide risk assessment and support programs, artificial intelligence technologies, and over hundreds of national, state and community organizations and programs.

### **VVN Top Accomplishments, Achievements, Challenges**

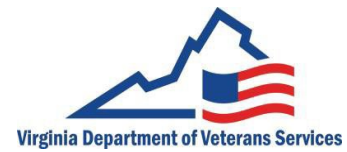
1. Transitioned from a contractor-based system to an internally owned and built portal.
2. Hit 42K users this calendar year; on track to hit 60K users by year end.
3. Brought in ID.me as an authentication device to allow veterans to easily access their VVN account as well as get current Veteran Affairs claims information directly to the VVN.
4. VVN has brought in the first AI chatbot in the history of Virginia.
5. VVN has consolidated three separate projects: the Self-Service Portal, Veterans Information Management System (VIMS), and the VVN portal, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our resource allocation and the timeliness of our delivery of services to veterans and their families.

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<sup>1</sup> Governor's and mayor's challenges to prevent suicide among service members, veterans, and their families. SAMHSA. (n.d.). R.f. <https://www.samhsa.gov/smvf-ta-center/mayors-governors-challenges>

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6. Created independent social media accounts and optimizing SEO/paid placement/and social media to enhance veteran awareness of DVS services.

### Veterans Care Centers (VCC)

Virginia's Veterans Care Centers provide long-term care, memory care/dementia care, and short-term rehabilitative care to Virginia's veterans. Domiciliary (assisted living) care is provided in Roanoke.

### **Veteran Care Centers Top Accomplishments, Achievements**

1. Opened the Jones & Cabacoy Veterans Care Center (Virginia Beach) in November 2023. This state of the art 128-bed facility was built to serve Hampton Roads-area veterans. It reflects the latest in resident-focused care, being organized around a "household" model with individual rooms/bathrooms and common living/dining spaces in a community setting.
2. The Davis & McDaniel Veterans Care Center (DMVCC), in Roanoke, was recognized as a "Top 5" among all nursing homes in Virginia (public, private, and non-profit) by Newsweek Magazine, for the second year in a row, for providing outstanding care to DMVCC residents and support to their families.
3. The Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center in Richmond recently re-opened 20 beds that had been closed for renovation, allowing the center to care for more vulnerable veterans.
4. The Puller Veteran Care Center, located in Vint Hill, Virginia, will open in December 2025.

#### **FY 25 Sitter & Barfoot Veteran Care Center — Richmond**

<b>160</b>	Beds in private rooms providing skilled nursing or post-acute skilled rehabilitative care for veterans transitioning back into the community
<b>40</b>	Bed in private rooms in a secure memory care/dementia unit
<b>58,124</b>	Patient days of nursing and memory care/dementia care provided in FY24 (80.0% capacity of 200 beds) (+1.5% from FY24)

#### **FY 25 Davis & McDaniel Veterans Care Center — Roanoke**

<b>120</b>	Beds in semi-private rooms providing skilled nursing care
<b>60</b>	Beds in semi-private rooms in a secure memory care/dementia unit
<b>16</b>	Beds in private rooms dedicated to providing post-acute skilled rehabilitative care for veterans transitioning back into the
<b>8</b>	Community
<b>69,623</b>	Beds in semi-private rooms providing assisted living/domiciliary care
<b>1,533</b>	Patient days of nursing and memory care/dementia care provided in FY24 (93% capacity of 204 beds) (+18% from FY24)

#### **FY 25 Jones & Cabacoy Veterans Care Center — Virginia Beach**

<b>128</b>	Beds in private rooms providing skilled nursing care (memory/ dementia care services to begin in FY25)
<b>21,646</b>	Patient days of nursing care provided in FY24 (46% capacity of 128 beds)

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## Veterans Cemeteries

Virginia's three state veterans' cemeteries serve the memorial and perpetual care needs of veterans and eligible dependents. Virginia's veterans' cemeteries commemorate the personal sacrifice of those who served and those who stand ready to defend our freedom.

### **FY 25 Veteran Cemeteries Annual Services Provided**

<b>2,460</b>	Interments conducted at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery (Suffolk), the Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Amelia), and the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Dublin) in FY25.
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*Note: National cemeteries at Quantico, Culpeper, and Arlington are federal facilities and not under the purview of DVS.*

## **Veteran Cemeteries Top Accomplishments, Achievements, Challenges**

1. The Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk celebrated its 20th anniversary on November 4, 2024. The same day, the cemetery conducted its 20,000th interment, only the 10th state or tribal cemetery to reach this milestone.
2. The Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin receive the "Operational Excellence Award" from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration (NCA) in recognition of superior performance. This award is only given to 5-6 state veterans cemeteries a year (out of 122 nationwide). The Dublin Cemetery also exceeded 21,000 burials in FY 25.
3. DVS completed federally funded phase development projects at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia (\$2.3M) and the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin (\$1.2M) to add additional columbaria burial niches (above ground inurnment of cremated remains). A current phase expansion at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk (\$7.1M) will add additional columbaria, a second committal shelter for memorial services, and a cortege lane. The VA awarded Virginia an additional \$14.1M for phase development projects in FY25.

## Virginia War Memorial (VWM)

VWM mission is to honor our veterans, preserve our history, educate our youth, and inspire patriotism in all.

### **FY 25 Virginia War Memorial Annual Services Provided**

<b>61,275</b>	Visitors to the Virginia War Memorial (+8,435 from FY24)
<b>85,000</b>	On-line (TV and Streaming) viewership of Commonwealth's Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies (+13,213 from FY24)
<b>320</b>	Volunteers / Guests for Hill of Heroes (+45 from FY24)

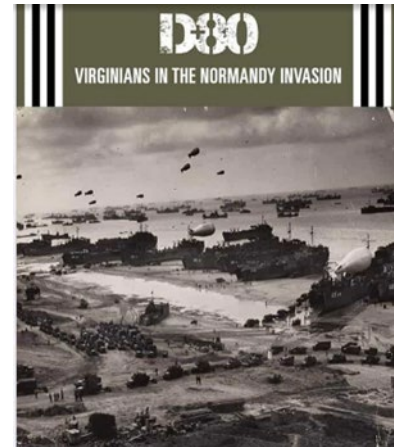


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## VWM Top Accomplishments, Achievements, Issues

1. D+80: Virginians in the Normandy Invasion: this was a highly successful exhibit featuring oral history interviews of WWII veterans, memorabilia, and other displays to highlight the role Virginia and Virginians played in the Normandy Invasion, including the 116th Infantry Regiment of the 29th Division.



2. Beirut 40th Ceremony, October 23, 2023: this ceremony marked the 40th anniversary of the attack on the Marine Corps barracks. It was well attended to include 10 Gold Star Families and coincided with the release of our latest documentary: One Week in October, about Beirut and the Grenada invasion.

3. Veteran Oral History Program: Oral history partnership with Scouts and Retirement Communities – the program has created new partnerships, greatly expanding our outreach for Oral Histories.

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## VDVS Information Technology (IT)

### IT Top Accomplishments, Achievements, and challenges

1. The Veterans Engagement and Scheduling Application (VESA), a component of the VVN platform, was launched in March 2023. By August 2024, it had facilitated over 50,000 appointments, reaching 100,000 by April 2025. Multiple enhancements were implemented to streamline the scheduling process, including support for virtual appointments. These improvements significantly enhanced the user experience, making it more intuitive and efficient for both the Veterans and Benefits Service line.

2. Transitioned application development from vendor-managed solutions to in-house development, accelerating delivery timelines and establishing a scalable enterprise platform capable of supporting all service lines. This initiative laid the foundation for seamless internal referrals and data sharing across programs, strengthened the user feedback loop for continuous improvement, and delivered a more cost-effective and sustainable solution.

3. Managed the negotiation and procurement of ID.ME by successfully navigating VITA's security and procurement approval processes. This identity verification solution enables Veterans to securely access their DVS accounts to view benefits and service interactions. The contract was structured to support rapid onboarding of other Virginia state agencies, facilitating a unified single sign-on experience for Veterans across both state and federal services using a single account.

4. DVS will be the first agency in Virginia to develop an AI-driven chatbot, built in collaboration with VITA and AWS. Using content from DVS websites and internal documentation, the chatbot is designed to provide Veterans and their families with accurate, real-time answers and step-by-step guidance through available services and processes. This solution enhances accessibility and user experience through intelligent, automated support.



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5. Completed the installation of IT network infrastructure and network security systems at the Puller Care Center, including firewalls and cabling. Set up alerting and communication systems such as the facility-wide paging system. DVS is working on installing televisions and entertainment systems for residents. Also in progress is the deployment of medical IT applications essential for resident care, in preparation for upcoming inspections and the grand opening.

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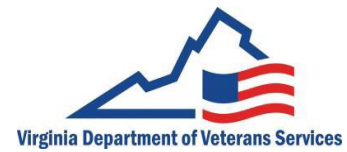


**Financial Summary**

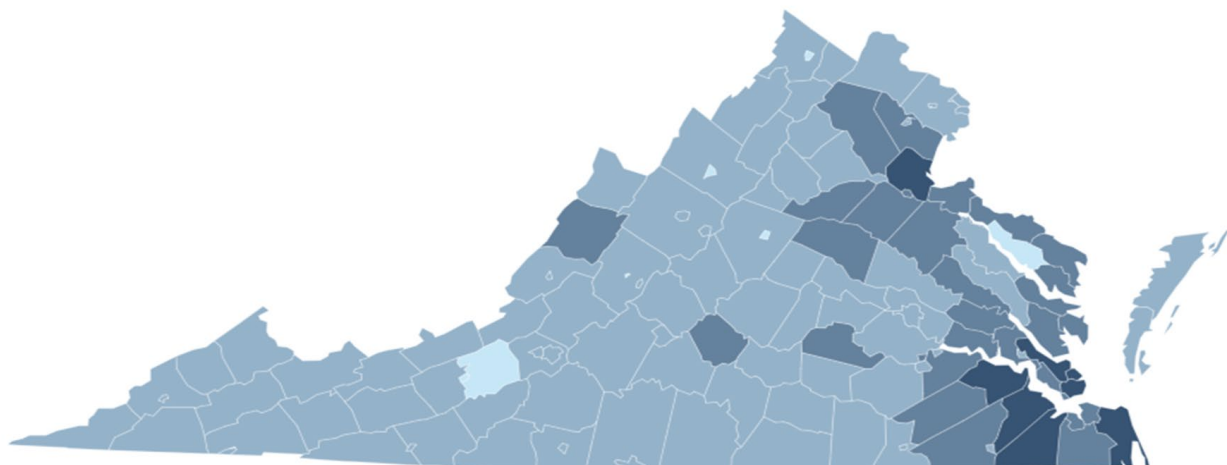
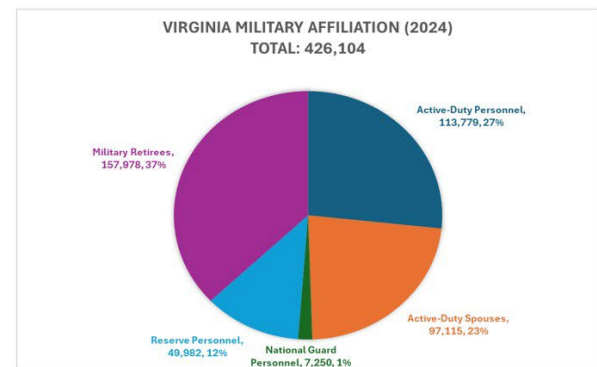
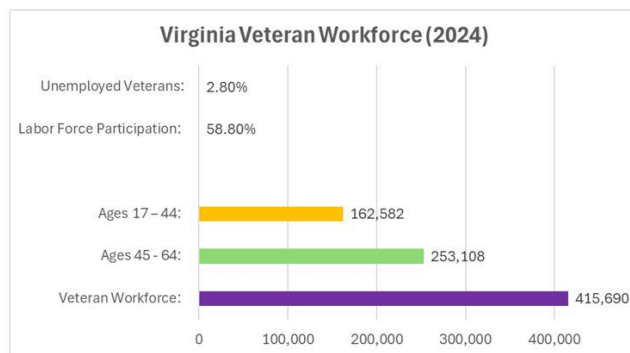
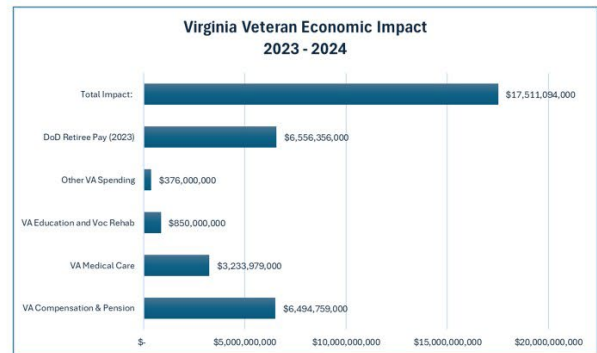
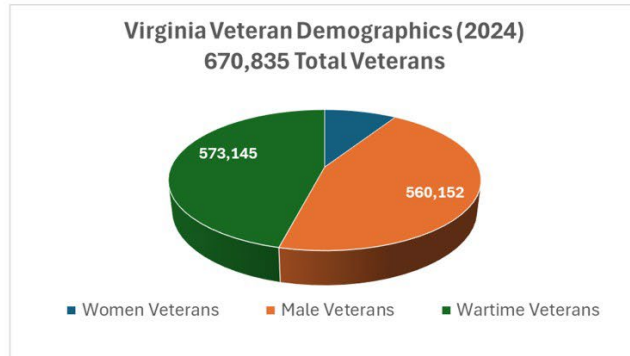
**DVS FY25 Spending Budget**

FY25 Actual Spending					
Program	General Fund	Special	Dedicated Special	Federal	Total
Benefit Services	\$ 12,606,209	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,606,209
Virginia Veteran and Family Support	\$ 12,019,853	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,019,853
Education, Transition, and Employment	\$ 5,242,464	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 840,656	\$ 6,083,120
Care Centers	\$ 29,868,526	\$ 34,844,160	\$ -	\$ 39,454,879	\$ 104,167,566
Cemeteries	\$ 3,284,322	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,353,335	\$ 4,637,657
Virginia War Memorial	\$ 1,901,852	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,901,852
Administration	\$ 4,710,461	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,710,461
Granting Freedom	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Donated Funds (through the Veterans Services Foundation)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,080,493	\$ -	\$ 1,080,493
<b>DVS Total:</b>	<b>69,633,688</b>	<b>34,844,160</b>	<b>1,080,493</b>	<b>41,648,870</b>	<b>147,207,211</b>

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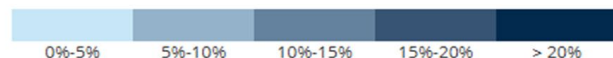


## 2024 Veteran Impact Statistics



\*Virginia Beach: Has a high concentration of veterans, with 16.8% of its adult population being veterans. – Military Times

Source: [Map of Veteran Population, 2023 - Rural Health Information Hub](#)



Sources: USDVA, VetPop2023, Table 6L; USDVA, VetPop2023 Table 7L; [NCVAS State Summary Virginia FY2023 | Department of Veterans Affairs Data Hub](#); [Catalog | Department of Veterans Affairs Open Data Portal](#)

# The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) **COMMISSIONER'S 2025 ANNUAL REPORT**



## **Partnerships & Collaborations**

### **Board Of Veterans Services**

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) works with the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) to ensure the welfare of Virginia's veterans and advise DVS on policies that enhance their support throughout the Commonwealth. The Board remains committed to serving as a vital advisor to DVS. The BVS has 26 members including seven legislative members, fifteen non-legislative citizen members and four ex officio members.

This year marked a smooth and effective leadership transition, with Matthew Miller elected as Chair and Joyce Henderson as Vice Chair. Building upon the solid foundation laid by previous leadership, the Board brings fresh perspectives and renewed energy while maintaining our collaborative vision and steadfast commitment to supporting DVS and its mission.

Our strategic partnerships remain strong and have been further enhanced this year. We established a collaborative planning process for the 2026-2027 funding initiatives to support Memorial programs and exhibits. We continue to work closely with the Joint Leadership Council, the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation, and the Virginia War Memorial Foundation to promote the best interests of Virginia's veterans.

On the legislative front, the Board proudly supported successful bipartisan efforts, including legislation addressing veterans' verification status spearheaded by Senators Carroll Foy and Tara Durant. We continue to advocate for the sustainability and long-term protection of the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP).

Outreach and awareness remain a top priority. Board members have personally committed to expanding veteran outreach in their communities, serving as ambassadors for DVS programs. While many veterans are still unaware of the full range of services available, we see this as an opportunity to improve outreach and connect veterans to the resources they deserve. Our ongoing engagement includes on-site meetings at DVS facilities across the Commonwealth, enabling direct dialogue with service line directors and a deeper understanding of operational needs.

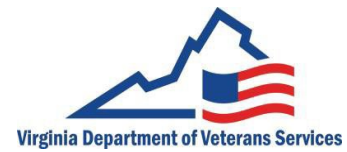
Looking ahead, the integration of the final gubernatorial appointees is expected to strengthen the Board's capabilities further. We are seeing enhanced member engagement in policy initiatives and veteran services, alongside a strengthened bipartisan spirit in addressing the needs of Virginia's veterans.

The Board looks forward to another impactful year supporting DVS and advancing Virginia's position as the most veteran-friendly state in the nation.

Very respectfully,

Matthew Miller  
Chair, Board of Veterans Services

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## **Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC)**

The Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) is made up of 27 Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) found throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. The council informs the Governor and General Assembly about the interests of Virginia military service members, veterans, and their families. In partnership with the Board of Veterans Services, the Veterans Services Foundation, and the Virginia War Memorial Foundation, the JLC remains steadfast in its commitment to enhance the quality of life and well-being of those who have served.

During the 2025 General Assembly Session, the JLC advocated in support of five legislative and budget priorities to support military servicemembers, veterans and their families. A historic achievement was the successful establishment of the Commonwealth's first-ever Women Veterans Day, officially observed on June 12, 2025, recognizing the invaluable contributions of women veterans to our state and nation. Additionally, critical legislation was enacted to improve veteran services, including Verification and identification of veterans in jails and prisons; transition the Virginia National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program to an upfront payment model. Additionally, budget funds were allocated to expand the Suffolk State Veterans Cemetery.

Looking ahead, the JLC continues to champion initiatives during the 2025-2026 legislative session. Priority proposals include: prohibit nonaccredited companies from exploiting veterans seeking to obtain or modify their benefit claims; ensure access to Vital Record death certificates, and other information for the Department of Veterans Services Suicide Prevention Program; allocate funds for a book stipend for veterans attending Virginia universities and colleges; exempt Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) from use of gaming proceeds requirements; inclusion of the United States Public Health (USPHS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Commissioned Corps in state income tax subtraction provisions. Different VSOs sponsor these initiatives year-round and January 15, 2026 is JLC Day on the Hill, a day JLC members are recognized and engage members of the General Assembly.

Not only Day on the Hill, but year-round, JLC works closely with legislators, including Delegates and Senators on the bi-partisan General Assembly Military and Veterans Caucus (GAMVC). The JLC also collaborates with the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs and the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services to make Virginia the best state for veterans and their families.

The JLC is committed to meet military, veteran, and family needs, and we work together to meet needs, but also to enhance the strengths of servicemembers and veterans. We welcome continuing this cooperative work into 2026.

Very respectfully,

William ("Bill") Aramony, Chair, JLC  
The American Legion representative to the JLC

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### Appendices

#### Appendix A – Benefits Services

**Mission.** To provide Virginia’s veterans and their family members with accurate, timely, and ethical education and assistance in obtaining the federal and state benefits they have earned through their service and sacrifice.

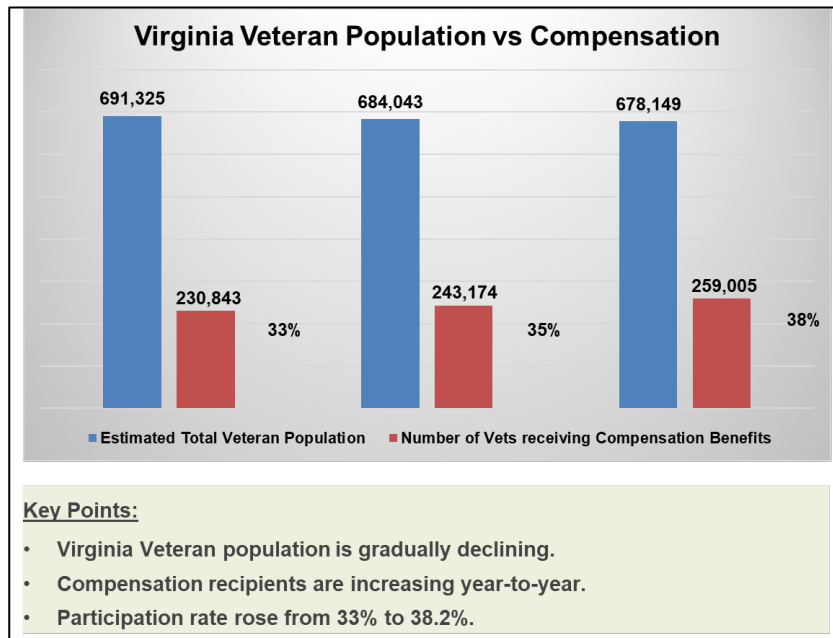
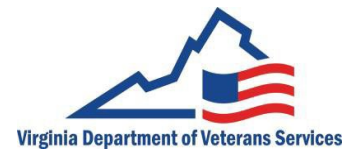
Benefits Services assist Virginia’s veterans in gaining access to the federal and state benefits. These benefits and services include:

- Compensation for service-connected disabilities or death.
- Income-based pensions.
- Survivor pensions.
- Aid and Attendance claims.
- Appeals assistance and legal representation.
- Burial benefits, flags and markers.
- VA Health Care eligibility.

Benefits Annual Services Provided	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY 25
Compensation & Pension Claims submitted to USDVA	19,726	22,194	21,861	22,332
All Claims submitted to USDVA	86,847	67,648	110,727	131,580
Client contacts	275,915	145,746	89,861	92,046
New Veteran Clients	13,360	14,941	15,992	15,627
Benefits Delivered at Discharge	1,722	2,444	2,269	2,284
Virginia Disabled Veterans Receiving Disability Comp.	221,856	221,856	249,289	214,030
Disability Compensation and Pension payments to Virginia veterans and dependents	\$4.63B	\$5.66B	\$6.289B	\$6.285
Appeals Hearings Conducted	323	430	452	855
Retroactive Benefits secured	\$11.92M	\$7.42M	\$6.2M	\$9.8M
Number of offices	34	36	38	39
Itinerant sites	41	43	42	42

Throughout FY25 Team Benefits provided needed services to develop and submit claims to assist veterans and their families in Virginia. The team filed **22,332** disability compensation claims, with a total of **131,580** submissions. The team met and worked with **15,627** new veteran clients. Outreach to Transitioning Service Members (TSM) increased through briefings on military installations, which ultimately led to **2,284** Benefits Delivered at Discharge claims developed and filed during FY25. The Benefits team’s efforts contributed to the **\$6.94 billion** in federal compensation and disability payments to Virginia veterans in **FFY 2024**. This is a **\$980M (16%)** increase over FFY23.

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Benefits team members also refer veterans to other service lines. The client interview process includes a suicide screening that may result in a referral to the VVFS Program, a community partner, or a VA Medical Center (VAMC). **Veterans Services Representatives (VSR) screened 15,627 veterans for suicide risk** in FY25, which is 99% of the new veterans we served this year. The VSRs and Veterans Services Administrators also refer veterans with a 90% or higher rating to the VMSDEP to determine potential eligibility for the program.

The East Region joined the Hampton Roads Military Advisory Council, providing VDVS with a valuable platform to advise military and community leaders on how best to support service members, veterans, and their families, as well as to promote effective engagement with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Benefits staff in the East Region continued conducting weekly briefings at Naval Station Norfolk, reaching an average of **350 transitioning Navy and Marine Corps personnel and their families**. These efforts were coordinated closely with Virginia Veterans & Family Support (VVFS) and Virginia Education, Transition & Employment (VETE) teams to ensure comprehensive support. Additionally, the East Region established an off-site benefits assistance location at the newly commissioned Jones & Cabacoy Veterans Care Center in Virginia Beach, significantly improving access to benefits and claims services for some of the region's most vulnerable veterans and their families, reducing the need for travel and enhancing convenience.

In the West Region, the strong collaboration between the Salem VA Benefits office and the Salem VA Medical Center remained a cornerstone of our efforts throughout the year. The Benefits team actively participated in quarterly Town Hall meetings, providing important updates and maintaining open lines of communication with veterans and patients served by Salem VAMC. This ongoing engagement helped to ensure that veterans were well-informed about available benefits and services, while also fostering trust and responsiveness within the community. Outreach continued to be a key priority for the region. In the spring, the West Region partnered closely with the VA to attend the VEAC Event in Norton, Virginia, where our representatives engaged directly with approximately **125 veterans in a single day**. These interactions not only facilitated access to vital resources but also strengthened the agency's presence and reputation within the veteran community.

The North Region spent FY25 building upon the successes achieved in 2024 while actively expanding partnerships across the area. Outreach remained a top priority, with team members engaging local elected officials and participating in numerous events, including those held at Quantico and Fort Belvoir, as well as collaborative efforts with the National Science Foundation, the Secret Service, and various state and local



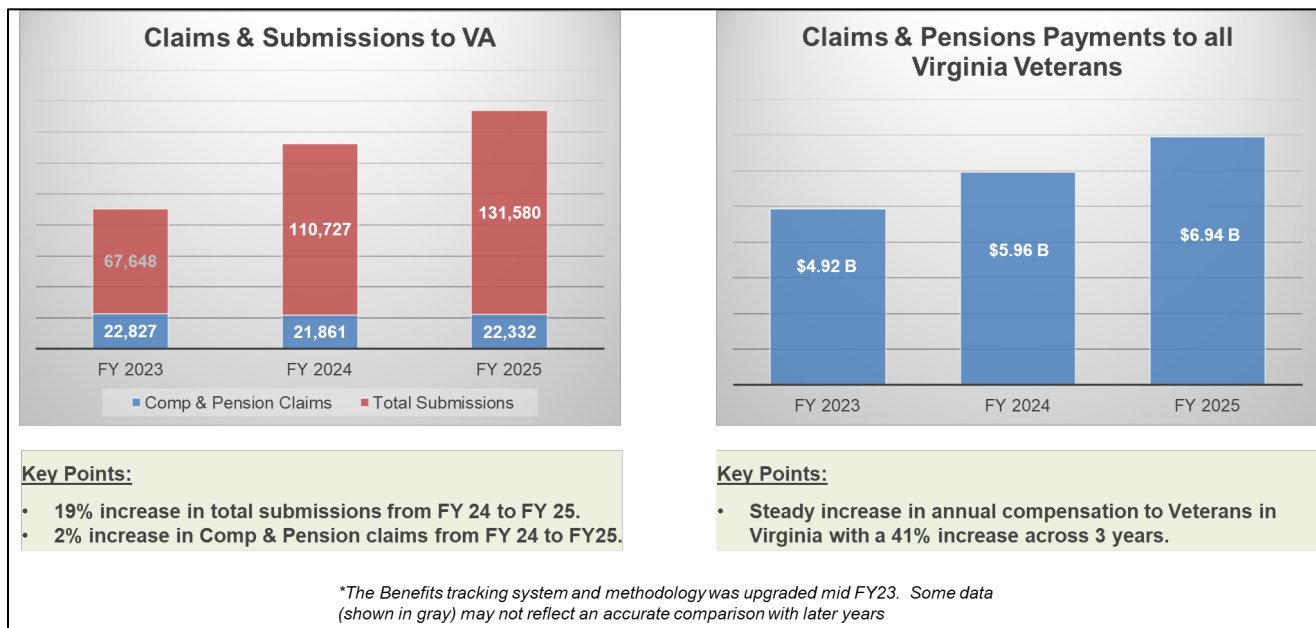
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organizations. Notable engagements included the Apple Blossom Festival Veterans Dinner, and partnerships with AARP and the Prince William Area Agency on Aging. In addition to broadening community connections, the region focused on improving direct services to veterans by implementing walk-in days designed to address quick claims questions and assist with claims filing. This initiative significantly reduced wait times, ensuring veterans receive timely support and enhancing overall customer satisfaction.

The Benefits Central Region solidified its partnership with the Fredericksburg Health Care Center, which officially opened in March 2025. Building on a strong foundation established in 2024 through off-site services provided at the Massaponax Health Care Clinic, the Central Region was well-prepared to support the new 470,000+ square foot facility that replaced three smaller Fredericksburg clinics. The DVS Benefits Team staffed the center with two Veterans Service Representatives and one Veterans Service Administrator, delivering comprehensive assistance to veterans and their families in the area. In addition to strengthening healthcare partnerships, the Central Region continued its commitment to community outreach by supporting **First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin's Women+Girls (W+G)** events in Petersburg and Richmond, further extending its engagement with local veterans and community organizations.



The Benefits Center of Excellence (COE) serves as the hub for the Benefits service line's quality assurance, data analysis, performance metrics, and process improvement functions. As part of its quality assurance role, the COE rigorously reviewed all claims submitted by Veterans Service Representatives (VSRs) to ensure compliance with legal requirements, policies, and procedures, thereby maximizing the likelihood of claims being granted by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). COE Claims Specialists not only conducted thorough quality reviews of all submissions but also tracked and analyzed submission errors to identify patterns that informed targeted training opportunities. Throughout the year, the COE continued to enhance workload management and tracking by implementing improved Individual Objectives and Key Results (IOKRs) tools. These tools generated efficiency scores by measuring work volume across all offices, enabling leadership to pinpoint underutilized offices or individuals with capacity to assist those facing higher workloads, thereby optimizing resource allocation and improving overall productivity.

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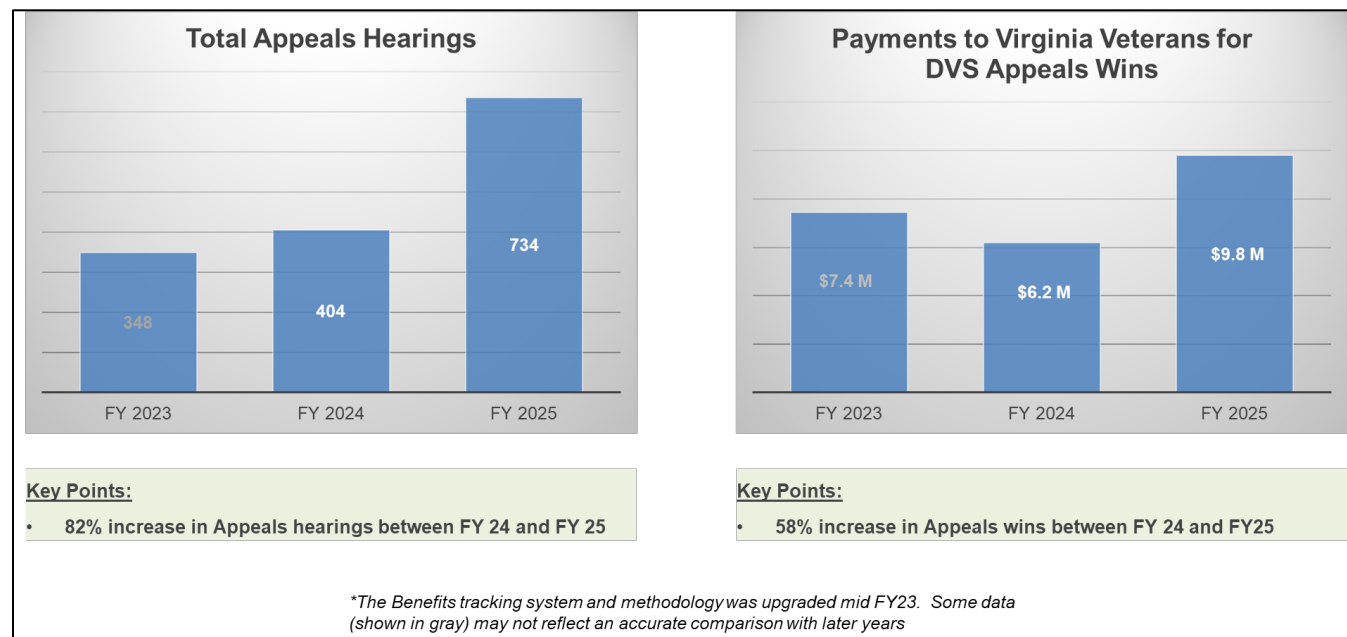
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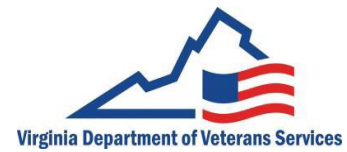
In partnership with Supervisors, the COE, and the Appeals Team, the Training Team worked throughout FY25 to support front-line staff and drive ongoing improvements essential to our continued success. These efforts focused on enhancing training content, availability, and delivery, as well as ensuring compliance with VA standards. To enhance training availability and delivery, the Training Team was reorganized by transitioning the former Training Manager position into a Training Developer role—based at Headquarters and reporting to the Deputy Director—and by assigning the four trainers to the regions under the supervision of their respective Regional Directors.

With this new structure, the **Training Team continued to deliver all VA accreditation, professional development, and continuing education for 135 Benefits personnel.** The training events covered a wide range of topics, including basic and advanced veterans' law, customer service, train-the-trainer instruction, and remedial training in support of front-line supervisors. As part of onboarding, all new personnel completed a week-long basic training course followed by a proficiency examination, both of which were required before they could work independently with veterans. In FY25, the Training Team conducted basic training courses for 24 new employees. In parallel, the Training Developer began modernizing the basic training module for VSRs and developing a new module tailored for administrative personnel. Both redesigned modules were structured as seven-week training cycles, scheduled for pilot implementation in FY26. Additionally, in collaboration with the COE and the VA, Benefits leadership and the Training Team identified the need to realign with the VA's formal training for Veteran Service Officers, which had evolved in recent years. As a result, all current benefits staff were required to complete and pass the updated VA training by October 1, 2025, and all new hires would complete the training as part of the redeveloped basic training modules.

The Appeals Team, consisting of six Appeals Attorneys, one Appeals Specialist, a Legal Liaison, an Administrative Assistant, and the Director of Appeals, applied their legal expertise to advocate for veterans contesting unfavorable VA decisions. They represented veterans before the VA Regional Office and the Board of Veterans Appeals and provided direct advisory support to DVS staff, enhancing both employee



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knowledge and the quality of appeals filed. Beyond disability appeals, the Legal Liaison facilitated referrals to external legal service providers and coordinated clinical events offering free legal assistance to veterans and their families. **In FY25, the Appeals Team conducted 855 hearings—an 89% increase from FY24—**with 99% held virtually, improving access for veterans unable to travel. They also filed 684 Informal Hearing Presentations (IHPs), a 37% rise over the previous year. **Their advocacy secured approximately \$9.8 million** in retroactive benefits for DVS clients.

### Partnerships, Innovation & Engagement

In FY25, the benefits team continued to strengthen and expand its network of partnerships, fostering innovative collaborations that enhanced service delivery and outreach to veterans across Virginia. The longstanding partnership with the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) remained a critical resource, enabling veterans to pursue appealed VA decisions through the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC).

The East Region notably deepened its ties with Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) posts in Norfolk and Hampton, **facilitating off-site assistance for over 200 veterans and family members** annually to submit benefits claims. Additionally, VDVS launched a new partnership with the Petersburg Virginia Community Resource Center (VCRC) and Richmond-based law firm McGuire Woods to provide free legal services, including Wills, Powers of Attorney, and Advanced Medical Directives. The inaugural clinic in August 2024 served 38 veterans and spouses, with plans to replicate these events statewide. Furthermore, in significant development, the state and national VFW entrusted VDVS with managing their disability claims, pensions, and appeals in Virginia, marking a new chapter in collaboration.

These partnerships are complemented by ongoing efforts to engage veterans and communities through innovative programs and outreach initiatives. The West Region's participation in major events such as the Veteran Experience Action Center (VEAC) conference and the Veterans Race of Remembrance Military and Veteran Resource Fair underscored a commitment to direct engagement. The Central Region supported statewide initiatives like **First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin's Women+Girls (W+G)** events, enhancing visibility and support for veteran families. Meanwhile, virtual and digital technologies, including AI tools, intranet platforms, and digital kiosks—were leveraged across regions to streamline services and improve access. Through these combined efforts, VDVS not only expanded its reach and impact but also ensured veterans received timely, high-quality benefits and legal assistance, reinforcing the agency's role as a trusted partner in the veteran community.

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### Appendix B - Veterans Education, Transition, & Employment (VETE)

#### GI Bill® Programs: The State Approving Agency for Veterans Education & Training

Mission. Enable access to post-secondary education opportunities for veterans and eligible family members.

The State Approving Agency (SAA) for Veterans Education and Training, operating under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), reviews, evaluates, and approves post-secondary education and training programs offered by educational institutions, businesses, and industries in Virginia, helping veterans and eligible family members to use their GI Bill® benefits to attain their educational goals.

The SAA provides support and supervision for 900 institutions that offer a minimum of one program, each requiring individual review and approval. The SAA must approve programs before veterans and eligible family members can enroll and receive financial assistance from the VA through the GI Bill®. In addition, the SAA ensures compliance with federal and state education regulations through on-site visits to active institutions throughout the Commonwealth. The SAA provides oversight of approved programs to ensure compliance with VA and state regulations. The SAA completed almost 450 re-approvals set to expire this fiscal year. This includes supervisory visits, risk-based reviews, technical site visits, and inspections.

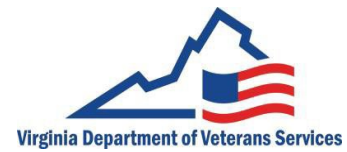
The SAA conducts compliance visits, awards actions for accuracy, and ensures payments made to eligible veterans are within VA regulations to verify enrollment data. The Virginia SAA FFY25 cooperative agreement required 90% of assigned surveys to be conducted by September 15, 2025. **This year, the SAA conducted and completed 12 Risk-Based Surveys and 32 Supervisory Visits, 100% of the assigned surveys before July 15, over one month ahead of the USDVA deadline.**

SAA Annual Services Provided	FY 22	FY23	FY24	FY 25
Education and training institutions supported	962	939	943	900
Educational program approval actions	7,405	14,123	7,006	9,186
Number approved/% approved	6,482 / 88%	13,487 / 95%	6,706 / 98%	8617/94%
Other approval actions	2,178	2,381	2,077	2359
Number approved/% approved	1,967 / 90%	2,293 / 96%	2,155 / 96%	2488/95%
Educational institution compliance/risk-based visits	56	42	36	44
% of required compliance/risk-based visits completed	100%	100%	100%	100%
Veteran student population	49,558	44,045	46,150	50,472

In 2025, the State Approving Agency (SAA) marked several milestones in advancing its mission to provide access to quality education and protect and promote the integrity of veterans' education benefits. The SAA proudly celebrated the 81st Anniversary of the GI Bill® in partnership with the Virginia Association of School Certifying Officials (VASCO). This Lunch & Learn event highlighted the historic impact of the GI

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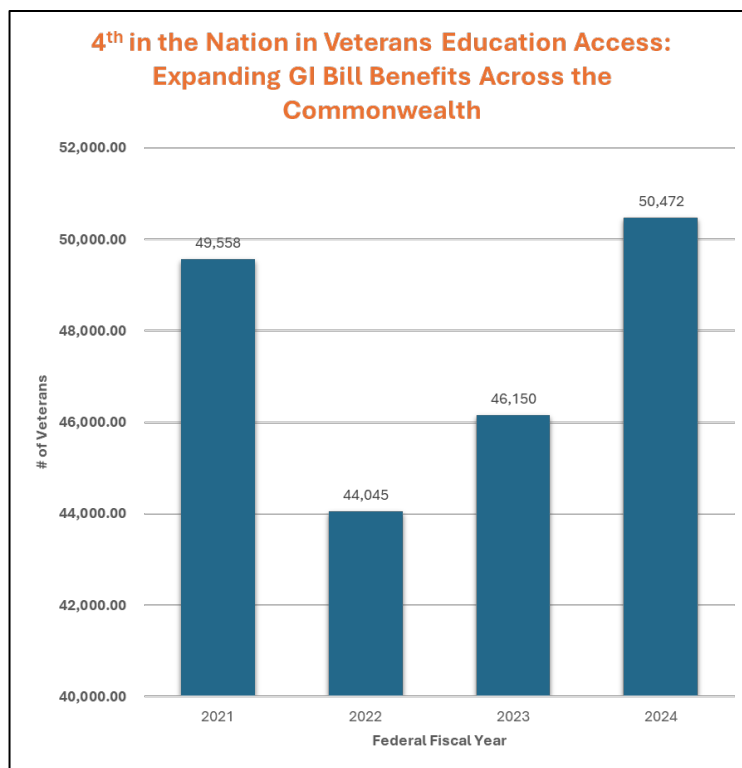
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Bill®, shared personal experiences from beneficiaries, and reinforced the program’s continued relevance in supporting veteran success.

SAA Internal Performance Measures	FY 22	FY23	FY24	FY 25
Process 100% of GI Bill® approval requests within 30 days of receipt	98%	99%	99%	100%
Complete 100% of Veterans Affairs assigned compliance visits	100%	100%	100%	100%

To strengthen statewide partnerships, the **SAA engaged with nearly 500 On-the-Job Training (OJT) and Apprenticeship facilities**, reaffirming collaborative relationships, updating records, and ensuring the accuracy of training data.



At the national level, the SAA collaborated with the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) in a pilot program focused on Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs). These visits addressed the disproportionate ratio of School Certifying Officials (SCOs) to trainees and fostered direct engagement with campus leadership. As a result, participating institutions increased budgets, expanded staffing, and heightened awareness of the critical responsibilities carried by SCOs. The SAA also reinforced its commitment to safeguarding veterans’ benefits by withdrawing approval from facilities that failed to meet regulatory compliance standards or were found to have engaged in fraudulent practices, following thorough investigations of veteran complaints.

Additionally, the SAA advanced interagency collaboration through participation in the Annual Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Awards Summit, promoting SAA awareness, sharing best practices, and supporting the Commonwealth’s commitment to veteran education and workforce development.

In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 24, the **SAA achieved a significant milestone by receiving a “Satisfactory” rating in the Joint Peer Review Group (JPRG) review**. The JPRG, conducted jointly by the USDVA and NASAA, evaluates performance under the annual cooperative agreement, and **“Satisfactory” represents the highest rating an SAA can earn**.

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This year, members of the State Approving Agency were recognized for their outstanding service and leadership at the 2025 National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) Summer Conference and Business Training Meeting for their leadership on national initiatives. In addition, the SAA staff continue to serve in key leadership roles across NASAA committees, underscoring Virginia's strong representation in shaping national veteran education policy while furthering NASAA's mission and maintaining a steadfast commitment to serving the Commonwealth's veterans, service members, and their families.

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### **Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP)**

The mission is to provide education benefits to spouses and children of qualified military service members killed, missing in action, taken prisoner, or who became totally and permanently disabled or at least 90 percent permanently disabled because of military service. Military service includes service in the United States Armed Forces, United States Armed Forces Reserves, or the Virginia National Guard.

The Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) waives tuition and required fees at Virginia public colleges and universities for qualified survivors and dependents. Some VMSDEP beneficiaries also receive a stipend to partially offset the cost of room, board, books, and supplies.

The Code of Virginia, §23.1-608 defines qualified survivors and dependents as “the spouse or a child between the ages of 16 and 29 (i) of a military service member who, while serving as an active duty member in the Armed Forces of the United States, Reserves of the Armed Forces of the United States, or Virginia National Guard, during military operations against terrorism, on a peacekeeping mission, as a result of a terrorist act, or in any armed conflict, was killed, became missing in action, or became a prisoner of war or (ii) of a veteran who served in the Armed Forces of the United States, Reserves of the Armed Forces of the United States, or Virginia National Guard and, due to such service, has been rated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as totally and permanently disabled or at least 90 percent permanently disabled and has been discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. However, the Commissioner of Veterans Services may certify dependents above the age of 29 in those cases in which extenuating circumstances prevented the dependent child from using his benefits before the age of 30. For purposes of this section, a child who is a stepchild of a deceased military service member described in this section shall receive all benefits described in this section as a child of such military service member if the military service member claimed the stepchild on his tax return or on his Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System while serving on active duty. Domiciliary or physical presence requirements also apply and are detailed in the Code of Virginia.”

Eligibility for VMSDEP benefits includes dependents of veterans with non-combat service-connected disabilities. Two tiers of benefits now exist: Tier 1 waives tuition and mandatory fees for the dependents of veterans who are rated at least 90% with permanent disabilities, but the beneficiaries do not receive a stipend; Tier 2 beneficiaries are the dependents of the veterans or service members who meet all the previous criteria but are also related to combat-related disabilities. Tier 2 beneficiaries receive the stipend as well as the waiver.



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VMSDEP Annual Services Provided	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
New Applications Submitted	4,511	4,354	4,789	5,331
New Applications Approved	3,499	3,695	4,680	5,074
Unique students using VMSDEP benefits	4,451	6,120	8,091	9,876
Unique students receiving stipend	2,065	3,338	4,800	6,153
Total stipend dollars awarded	\$2,833,654	\$4,950,572	\$7,384,571	\$10,054,563
Outreach Activities	2	14	16	22

The Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Fund provide the Tier 2 stipend funding. The stipend partially offsets room, board, books, and supplies. The stipend amount may vary based on determinations by the Virginia General Assembly, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), and the amount appropriated to the fund.

Based on the current average cost of tuition and mandatory fees at Virginia's public colleges and universities, each dependent would receive over \$58,000 in waivers for a 4-year degree.

In FY25, VMSDEP continued to use the application portal to administer the program with support from all DVS staff, SCHEV, applicants and the schools. The portal has allowed schools and students to see the benefits of usage in real-time, making the approval process more efficient over the last year.

The VMSDEP staff conducted outreach including Lunch and Learn sessions and visiting back-to-school and college nights at high schools, to provide information about the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program through multiple communications channels, including:

- DVS website, and VVN;
- SCHEV website;
- State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training;
- Virginia public college and university websites and catalogs;
- "Opportunities: Preparing for college guide and workbook" created by SCHEV and the Educational Credit Management Corporation annually. Printed copies are distributed to students and guidance counselors free of charge, and an electronic version is on the SCHEV website;
- DVS-developed VMSDEP informational brochure; and
- Direct outreach to veterans whose disability rating and period of service would potentially make their dependents eligible for VMSDEP benefits.

#### Number of VMSDEP Stipend Recipients and Amount Awarded

The report and data for the 2024 – 2025 VMSDEP Stipend Recipients is found in RD406 - Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program – 2024-25 report to the General Assembly.

<https://rga.lis.virginia.gov/Published/2025/RD406>



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## Military Education & Workforce Initiative (MEWI)

The Military Education and Workforce Initiative (MEWI) program assists Veterans and service members with their transition from active duty to the workforce by providing a pathway to education, training, certifications, and the technology needed to achieve their academic endeavors. MEWI enhances employment opportunities for Virginians who have served in the United States Military and their families.

In 2025, MEWI continued its partnership with the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) and Tech for Troops (a Richmond, Virginia based technology firm) assisting military-affiliated students across Virginia. In partnership with the Virginia Community College System (VCCS), MEWI developed the Virginia Veterans Laptop Project (VVLP), as a first-in-the-nation initiative. **VVLP provided 582 laptop computers to community colleges in Virginia and Virginia Commonwealth University.**

MEWI Annual Services Provided	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Laptop Distribution	136	254	582	582
Student Veteran/Spouse Certifications	117	79	45	45
Virginia SkillBridge Employers	60	91	138	143

Note: The decrease in Student Veteran/ Spouse Certifications is due to the exhaustion of Altria grant funds in FY24.

Continuing our efforts in offering no-cost credentialing and certification opportunities to our military-affiliated student population, MEWI created the Eastern Education Project in partnership with the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation (VSF), Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII), and Tidewater Community College. Through this initiative, seven (7) additional industry-leading certifications are offered at no cost to the student.

The DoD-approved Department of Veterans Services, Virginia SkillBridge program allows transitioning service members to network with Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Certified employers offering 4-to-24-week internships to eligible applicants, with commander approval, up to six months before separation. Participation in a fellowship program while still serving in the military allows service members to gain marketable skills and experience to enhance their civilian career opportunities.

In February 2025, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) ceased serving as a third-party provider for external employer applications due to changes with the Department of Defense (DoD) to the SkillBridge program's approval requirements. All 143 of the VDVS providers must be approved through the DoD's approval process. However, DVS will continue to provide and host internal internship opportunities for service members, ensuring that participants still have access to valuable career development experiences within the agency.

Despite these changes, Virginia's SkillBridge program remains strong. In 2025, **more than 44 service members completed internships** with the 143 approved providers across high-demand industries such as cybersecurity, shipbuilding, and construction. **76% of these internships led directly to high-paying careers**, underscoring Virginia as the place for veterans to **STAY, WORK, and THRIVE**.

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## Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program

The Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program assesses, coordinates, and disseminates opportunities for connecting members of the armed forces and their spouses transitioning from military to civilian life by providing a pathway to employment, education, and entrepreneurship. V3 increases employment opportunities and promotes economic development, by training and certifying organizations in veteran's workforce best practices while creating connectivity opportunity and activities.

The V3 Program supports military service members, veterans, and their families as they transition to civilian life by reducing unemployment and expanding career opportunities. Through strategic employer partnerships, workforce training, and certification programs, V3 equips employers to recruit, hire, train, and retain veterans and military spouses.

V3 Annual Services Provided	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25
New Employers certified	554	1,225	564	244
Veterans hired by certified companies	17,846	17,005	22,760	22,836
Training events conducted	19	24	31	49

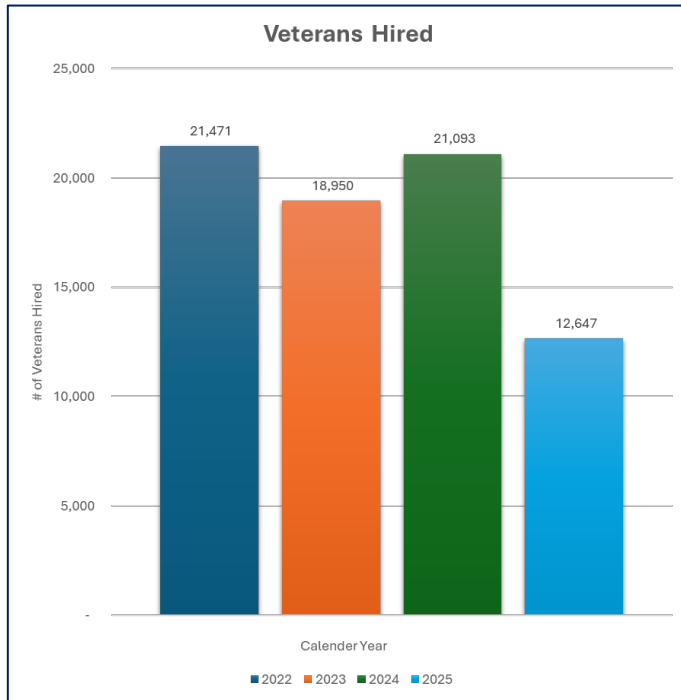
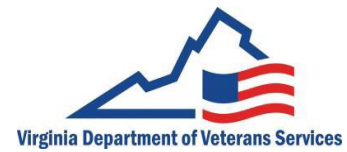
Employers participating in V3 receive free training and certification, reinforcing their commitment to veteran employment. V3 also connects job seekers with V3 Certified Employers, offering clear pathways in employment, education, training, and entrepreneurship.

In addition to direct support, V3 advocates for recognizing military experience in professional licensing and facilitates wraparound services through innovative public-private collaborations.

Since its launch in 2012, as a pilot initiative, V3 has become a national leader, **educating thousands and certifying over 3,700 organizations**, thus demonstrating that hiring veterans is not only the right thing to do, but a smart business decision.

Our team understands that transition from military service is not complete on the date of a service member's discharge; the process of transition may take years beyond the actual transition date. The V3 program offers a suite of services applicable to each veteran's and transitioning service member's unique journey. The V3 team serves as the guide and entry point to all of what the Department of Veterans Services and the Commonwealth have to offer for veterans, Transitioning Service Members (TSMs), and military families.

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In FY25, V3 connected with veterans, transitioning military, and spouses **through a variety of outreach methods and hired over 22,836 veterans**. As a national leader in training employers to recruit, hire, and retain veterans, V3 remains a preferred provider with both the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) and the Human Resources Certification Institute (HRCI). In FY25, the V3 Program remained committed to its mission of training and certifying Virginia employers. However, the team strategically shifted its focus from recruiting new certification partners to enhancing efforts around preparing military-connected talent such as transitioning service members, veterans and spouses, for meaningful careers with V3 Certified Employers. As part of this initiative, V3 hosted 49 targeted training events designed to equip job

seekers with the skills and insights needed to thrive in the civilian workforce.

The V3 Program continued to strengthen its partnership with the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and Virginia Chamber Foundation through partnership events such as Hire Vets Now (HVN). In FY25, the **V3 Program co-hosted 35 HVN events on military installations resulting with approximately 2,058 registered attendees**. In addition, the V3 Program collaborated with Virginia Works to host a virtual hiring event which resulted in 339 attendees interested in Virginia Veteran Network registrations and **589 job vacancies shared with over 185 veteran and TSM job seekers**.

Moreover, the V3 employment grant provides small business employers with 300 and fewer employees \$1,000 for every veteran hired (on or after July 1, 2014) and retained for one-year full time, within five years of separation of active duty. Employers can receive a total of \$10,000 annually. **For FY25, \$100,000 in grant monies were distributed. The V3 Program approved 131 applications resulting in the full disbursement of the \$100,000 V3 grant allocation.** 76 of the grants approved during the FY25 fiscal year are awarded in FY26.

Annual Report on the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Employment Grant Program				
Fiscal Year	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of new applications approved	75	108	98	176
Number of grants awarded	921	1082	1003	100
Number of approved grants that could not be awarded in current FY	0	0	454	76
Available funding	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Amount of grant funds disbursed	\$92,000 <sup>1</sup>	\$108,000 <sup>2</sup>	\$100,000	\$100,000
Unspent amount	\$8,000	\$0	\$0	\$0

### Military Medics and Corpsmen (MMAC) Program

The Military Medics and Corpsmen (MMAC) program provides pathways to healthcare careers and employment for transitioning servicemembers, veterans and military spouses with healthcare background and education.

In FY25, MMAC began the fiscal year by continuing its core mission of delivering healthcare career coaching and employment assistance to veterans. Midway through the year, the program pivoted to prioritize strategic planning and innovation, laying the groundwork for future growth and enhanced service delivery.

The unique and measurable aspect of the MMAC Program is that it not only keeps veterans in Virginia, but it draws veterans from across the world to come to live and work in the Commonwealth. The veterans hired in healthcare directly contribute to the state and local tax base, economy, and community. The MMAC Program also fosters a new awareness and appreciation of veterans and what they offer the healthcare workplace.

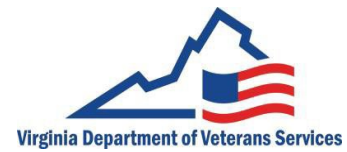
In 2016, MMAC began with six Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) with Partner Healthcare Systems (PHS). In FY25, the total stood at 65 Healthcare Associates statewide with 28 signed MOAs. The MOA allows MMAC-Qualified employees to apply their extensive clinical skills and experience under supervision while they obtain required civilian clinical credentials. **As of June 2025, MMAC has obtained 858 total hires, and the MMAC program received 90 applications, which resulted in 46 hires.**

Throughout FY25, the MMAC team has actively traveled across Virginia to engage with healthcare employers, industry associations, strategic partners, and military-affiliated individuals — including veterans, transitioning service members, military spouses, and members of the National Guard and Reserve. These efforts have continued to strengthen and expand the MMAC program, with a focused commitment to supporting veteran employment and facilitating successful transitions into civilian healthcare careers.

MMAC Annual Services Provided	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Program Applicants	179	98	17	64
Total Hires	124	163	202	241
MMAC Qualified Hires	22	45	68	91
No Veteran Left Behind Hires	64	75	86	97
Leadership	33	26	19	12
Military Spouses	5	17	29	41

The team delivered in-person presentations at key military installations, including Fort Belvoir, Fort Myer-Henderson Hall, Fort Lee, Fort Walker, Fort Eustis, NAS Oceana, Norfolk Naval Base, and Portsmouth Naval Base, among others, building awareness and fostering connections across the Commonwealth.

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Beyond local outreach, MMAC extended its impact nationally by participating in workforce development conferences. A notable milestone was presenting at the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP) “30 Minutes of Excellence” event, where the team shared insights on veteran workforce transitions. This opportunity has positioned the Education, Transition, and Employment teams to present at the NAWDP National Conference in May 2025 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center, offering a national platform to showcase Virginia’s leadership in veteran career development.

MMAC also played a key role in the Hire Vets Now Networking events, held in partnership with the Virginia Chamber Foundation. **Over the course of 15 events across five military installations, the team engaged with more than 1,500 transitioning service members and military spouses**, providing direct support and strengthening pathways to employment.

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### Virginia Women Veterans Program

The Virginia Women Veteran Program (VWVP) is a port of entry to provide referrals and ease of access to community resources to educate, unify, and empower Virginia’s women veterans who have served in the military in all eras by ensuring they receive timely yet appropriate transition and benefits support, employment and education outreach, and health and community advocacy.

The Virginia Women Veteran Program (VWVP) ensures women veterans have easy access to transition and benefits support, workforce and education services, and health and community advocacy. VWVP is enabling Virginia to become the most women veteran-ready state in the nation.

In March, the Virginia Women Veterans Program hosted its annual Pinning Ceremony at the Virginia War Memorial to honor the sacrifices and contributions of women veterans across the Commonwealth. This year’s theme, **“Her Valor, Her Voice: Honoring Women Veterans of Virginia,”** highlighted the courage, leadership, and enduring impact of women who have served in the armed forces. **The event drew 294 RSVPs for the ceremony and 180 for the accompanying luncheon.** Notably, this was the second year a luncheon was held, but the first time it featured a formal program, including a keynote speaker, elevating the significance of the gathering.

In addition to commemorative activities, the program conducted targeted research in collaboration with a Governor’s Fellow to identify pressing issues affecting women veterans in Virginia. The findings revealed that homelessness remains a major challenge for this population. In response, the program identified an opportunity for strategic impact by partnering with the Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) program. VVFS, supported by the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF), provides emergency financial assistance to eligible clients regardless of discharge status or service era. Assistance is determined based on individual circumstances and documentation such as rental agreements, utility bills, or eviction notices. Support is offered when all other options have been exhausted, ensuring that vulnerable women veterans receive timely aid.

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During FY 25, the Women Veteran Program also advanced its Transition and Assistance Strategic Plan within the Veterans Education, Transition, and Employment (VETE) Directorate. Key initiatives included planning monthly networking events, hosting quarterly roundtables with resource providers, and organizing listening sessions with state leaders and legislators to advocate for women veterans. The program-initiated effort to renew its partnership with the Virginia SBSD Women Veteran Entrepreneurship Program and expanded its collaboration with American Corporate Partners to offer mentorship opportunities. Additionally, a premier list of veteran service organizations was curated for referrals, and a video archive project was launched in partnership with the Virginia War Memorial. Initial outreach began to establish a Women Veteran Advisory Committee to further elevate the voices and needs of this community.

As a result of strategic engagement and research, the program defined several key service areas for future focus. These include support for Military Sexual Trauma (MST), safe-space fellowship opportunities, personal wellness and identity restoration, maternity and childcare services, homelessness prevention, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) support, and reintegration services. These efforts reflect the program's commitment to addressing the unique challenges faced by women veterans and ensuring they receive comprehensive, compassionate, and effective support throughout their transition and beyond.

**The Women Veteran Program, in collaboration with the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program was awarded \$50,000 with the support of the Virginia Veterans Service Foundation to provide two new grant opportunities.** The Dislocated Worker Upskilling/Reskilling reimbursement grant is designed to help both Women Veterans and Military Spouses affected by federal layoffs. **Applicants may be eligible to receive a \$1,000 grant to support career advancement through upskilling or reskilling.** This initiative is aimed at reducing employment barriers and enhancing competitiveness in today's job market, ultimately improving quality of life for those who have served and their families. The Career Transition Grant provides \$1,000 to Women Veterans within 6 to 12 months of separating from military service upon completion of the Virginia Military Transition and Career Planning journey, which helps participants explore career options and develop a personalized employment plan. Both grants are available due to the generosity of Altria.

Lastly, the Commonwealth of Virginia was recognized as a premier partner for its leadership in collecting and preserving the service stories of women veterans. These efforts directly support the expansion of the Military Women's Memorial archive project, which aims to ensure that the contributions of military women are documented and honored for future generations, due to the coordination through the Women's Veterans Program.



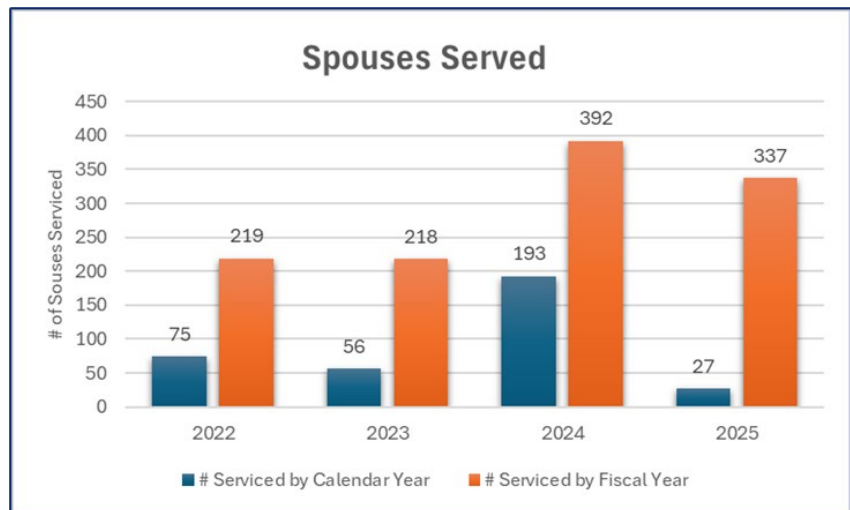
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## Military Spouse Services

Military Spouse Services is an advocate for military spouses across the Commonwealth through legislation and program initiatives by conducting outreach, research, identifying barriers and creating pathways for spouses to find meaningful employment in Virginia.

DVS Military Spouse Services collaborates with key stakeholders within federal, state, local government, military installations, and the private sector to develop and implement a resource system to provide access to childcare, licensure, and community resources. The program is responsible for outreach and provides advocacy for military families.



In FY25, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (VDVS) formally established a dedicated service area titled *Military Spouse Services*, representing a strategic evolution from prior years when efforts were primarily driven by the Military Spouse Liaison's engagement activities. This new direction—marked by a shift from broad outreach to focused strategic planning—was designed to deliver distinct, targeted support for military spouses. As a result, VDVS developed a comprehensive *Military Spouse Services Work Plan* in March 2025 to guide service delivery and program development. The work plan introduced clearly defined services. A few to highlight include licensure reciprocity referrals, with FY25 serving as the baseline year for establishing performance metrics. A major focus was placed on connecting military families to childcare options. This included curating a list of providers who accept the Department of Defense (DoD) Military Fee Assistance program, conducting outreach to providers through partnerships with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF), and encouraging their participation in the fee assistance program. VDVS also collaborated with the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program to refer providers for certification and workforce solutions, and conducted childcare provider surveys to identify real-world challenges.

The work plan emphasized **innovation in outreach and engagement with military spouses**. Key goals included **launching a Military Spouse Advisory Board, conducting a Military Spouse and Family Assessment**, and initiating outreach to military spouse social groups. The plan also called for regularly scheduled roundtables to gather feedback, educate spouses, and connect them to resource providers. Additionally, the Military Spouse Liaison is scheduled to begin hosting recurring information sessions to showcase available services to military installation offices and their patrons. New initiatives included the development of the **Welcome to Virginia – Spouse Edition transition workshop and a caregiver outreach webinar**. The first engagement event after the adoption of the Military Spouse Services Work Plan was the Caregiver Roundtable, which was successfully held in August 2025, with additional events scheduled to continue through the first quarter of 2026.



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In a significant policy advancement, the Military Spouse Liaison submitted a legislative request to join the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Commission, overseen by VDOE and VECF. During the 2025 General Assembly, **legislation was passed granting VDVS a seat on the ECCE Commission to represent military families, a demographic previously unaddressed by existing Commission positions.** The first ECCE meeting with VDVS participation occurred July 2025.

In June 2025, the Liaison **conducted outreach to over 3,600 licensed childcare providers located near major military installations in Northern Virginia, Richmond/Central Virginia, and the Peninsula side of Hampton Roads.** (Southside Hampton Roads was excluded due to Ready Region Southeastern conducting its own survey.) Providers were asked to complete a brief survey assessing their awareness of the Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood (MCCYN) program, their current enrollment status, and challenges they face. Of the respondents:

- 73% were aware of MCCYN
- 67% were enrolled in the Virginia Quality Birth to Five (VQB5) program
- 56% accepted state and local subsidies
- 67% currently cared for military children

**The survey revealed a significant gap among family day homes: while 86% were eligible for MCCYN, only 29% were actively participating. Among licensed child development centers, 79% were eligible and 62% were participating.** A key barrier identified was confusion around the application process, particularly for providers required to use Child Care Aware of America (CCAoA) for Army, Air/Space Force, and Marine Corps families. Many providers lacked national accreditation, which is still listed as a requirement on the CCAoA website, despite Virginia's shift to VQB5 enrollment for public funding eligibility. Additionally, providers expressed frustration with having to enroll in two separate systems—CCAoA and Military Child Care, which do not communicate with each other, resulting in duplicate applications and documentation.

To address these challenges, the Liaison will host a webinar in FY26 focused on MCCYN and MCCYN-PLUS, in collaboration with VDOE and VECF, to educate and support interested childcare providers.

The Liaison continues to serve on the Hampton Roads Military Affairs Council (HRMAC) Childcare Subcommittee, which includes local childcare providers, Ready Region Southeastern, HRMFFA, higher education institutions, installation Child and Youth Program Directors, and military childcare advocates. The Subcommittee meets monthly to share data and discuss challenges impacting military families. In January 2025, the Liaison engaged Joint Base Langley-Eustis to ensure representation from all military branches and support commuting service members.

Additional outreach efforts in FY25 included the creation of one-page flyers to help military families navigate childcare options and licensure reciprocity processes. Additional informational one-pagers created included information about accessing state unemployment services and state/national surviving spouse benefits. Future plans include building out a repository of one-pagers and quick reference guides on a variety of spouse areas of interest. The Liaison also developed the Welcome to Virginia: Spouse Edition webinar, which is scheduled to launch in FY26.

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## Appendix C – Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS)

The mission of VVFS is to monitor and coordinate resource connections and care coordination for behavioral health, rehabilitation, and other related supportive services to transitioning service members, veterans, National Guard, Armed Forces Reserves, caregivers, and families.

The Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) Program is a focused response to improve and expand services to service members, veterans and their family members and caregivers coping with the impact of deployment, military service, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), operational stress, traumatic brain injury (TBI) and/or other behavioral health concerns. It is operated by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) in cooperation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) and the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). VVFS serves transitioning service members, veterans of all eras, members of the Virginia National Guard or Armed Forces Reserves, and their caregivers and family members.

VVFS Annual Services Provided	FY 22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Individual Services Delivered	2,683	2,832	4,449	5,254
Outreach and Training Events	408	1,092	1,200	1,038

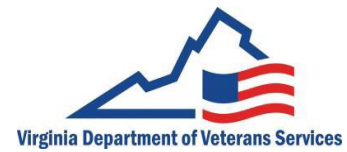
In accordance with Virginia Code 2.2-2001.1, the purpose and priorities of the VVFS program are:

- Build awareness of veterans' service needs and the availability of the program through marketing, outreach, and training for first responders, service providers and others,
- Collaborate with relevant agencies of the Commonwealth, localities, and service providers,
- Develop and implement a consistent method of determining how many veterans in the Commonwealth are currently in need of mental health, physical rehabilitation, or other services, or may need such services in the future,
- Work with veterans to develop a coordinated resources plan that identifies appropriate service providers to meet the veteran's service needs,
- Refer veterans to appropriate and available providers based on their needs identified in the coordinated resources plan, and
- Monitor progress toward individually identified goals in accordance with the coordinated resource plan.

### VVFS's five internal Objectives and Key Results (OKR):

1. Open at least 2,400 new clients for services as a total program (**FY25: 2,720 clients opened for services**),
2. 90% of all new VVFS clients will have a needs assessment completed within seven days of initial client contact for the purpose of creating a coordinated resource plan (**FY25: 98% out of 2,720**),
3. 90% of veterans with an identified behavioral health need will be connected to an appropriate resource (**FY25: 99% out of 814**),

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4. 90% of veterans experiencing literal homelessness will be connected to a shelter/housing resource (**FY23: 99% out of 364**), and
5. DVS field office staff (VVFS and Benefits) will screen 95% of new Service Members, Veterans, and Families for suicide risk per month (**FY25: 98% out of 18,446**).

In 2025, VVFS continued to expand and sustain partnerships with federal, state, and community partners in connecting **service members, veterans, and their families (SMVF)** to resources and services. VVFS provides regular training, such as Military Cultural Competency (MCC), Mental Health First Aid, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), and Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), to state agencies and community partners to enhance knowledge and resource connections. Creating a continuum of care for SMVF for behavioral health, rehabilitative, and supportive services is a continual priority to ensure there is no wrong door and SMVF can quickly access services when needed.

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### Governor's Challenge and Mayor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide

VVFS continued coordination of the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide. The City of Richmond was one of the first eight cities in the nation to join the Mayor's Challenge, and Virginia was one of the first seven states to participate in the Governor's Challenge. The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) sponsor both initiatives.

The Virginia team is implementing the VA's National Strategy for the Prevention of Veteran Suicide, which provides a framework for using a comprehensive public health approach to address the growing challenge among the veteran population.

Governor's Challenge teams focus on three main priorities:

- To identify SMVF and screen for suicide risk;
- To promote connectedness and improve care transitions;
- To increase lethal means safety and safety planning.

Tying into these national priorities, the theme of the Virginia's Governor's Challenge team is the **"3C's – Care, Connect, and Communicate"**:

- **Care:** The provision of accessible and culturally competent behavioral health services. Strategy: Identify, screen, and refer SMVF at risk of suicide in community services.
- **Connect:** Bringing military/veteran specific resources and community services together; forming systemic partnerships. Strategy: Increase engagement between Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS, and partner organizations for SMVF referrals.
- **Communicate:** Educating the SMVF population on resources and behavioral health providers on military culture and suicide prevention best practices. Strategy: Expand lethal means safety (particularly firearm safety) training to community stakeholders.

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As part of the Governor's Challenge, VVFS and Benefits service lines participated in Virginia's Identify SMVF, Screen for Suicide Risk, and Refer for Services (VISR) program. The goal of the VISR program is to develop military culture, suicide prevention, and safety planning infrastructure in community agencies (including hospitals, local departments of social services, Community Service Boards (CSBs), Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs)).

In DVS, suicide prevention work continues after the initial VISR pilot implementation in 2020. VVFS serves on the Steering Committee for statewide VISR to coordinate best practice training (examples include training in grant writing, suicide risk screening and intervention, and safety planning) for all stakeholders and leads the VSO working group. **As of October 2024, 137 individuals (providing services and/or support to SMVF) received VISR training certification.** The VISR Steering team will begin work on development for a new learning management system to streamline training access and certification in 2025.

Suicide Risk Level Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS) <sup>2</sup>	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
	(All VVFS and Benefits)			
No risk	5,699	9,508	13,541	17,487
Low risk	570	1,185	2,288	714
Moderate risk	87	130	120	155
High risk	23	40	80	90
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,379</b>	<b>10,863</b>	<b>16,199</b>	<b>18,446</b>

### Supportive Services

VVFS provides hands-on assistance navigating behavioral health, rehabilitative, and other supportive services, including peer and family support services to the most vulnerable veterans. This includes justice-involved veterans and those at risk for/or experiencing homelessness.

#### VVFS focuses on supportive services in six areas:

1. Care Coordination and Management
2. Housing and Homeless Services
3. Justice Involved Services program (JIS)
4. Veteran Peer Support (VPS) Services
5. Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services (SOS)

#### Care Coordination and Management: Regional Highlights

VVFS consists of 46 direct services staff located in 28 offices across four regions. Supervised by Regional Directors, staff provide resource connections, care coordination, and individual and group peer support to

<sup>2</sup> The C-SSRS (Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale) is a widely used, evidence-based tool for assessing suicide risk. It helps identify whether someone is at risk, the severity of that risk, and the immediacy of needed support

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veterans and their family members. In addition, VVFS implements the following regional capacity-building initiatives:

**Virginia's *Identify Service Members, Veterans, and Families (SMVF)*, *Screen for Suicide Risk*, and *Refer for Services* initiative (VISR).** It's a structured framework designed to help providers and communities recognize at-risk individuals and connect them to timely support. VVFS staff continue to train all new DVS Benefits staff in suicide prevention, risk screening, and safety planning. In addition, VVFS staff promote military culture and suicide prevention best practices among community partners such as Veterans Service Organizations, human services providers, employment support and faith-based programs. VVFS has consulted with multiple states on the VISR program including KY, MD, MN, NC, NY, RI, and WI. VISR (2.0) launched in January 2023 and includes 82 State and local agencies. VISR 2.0 offers training certification in military culture and suicide prevention. VISR was featured at the national conferences for the American Academy of Suicidology, Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense Suicide Prevention national meeting and National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs. Over 130 community providers received VISR certification so far. DVS partnered with George Mason University to bring the VISR courses in military culture, suicide prevention/risk screening, and lethal means safety to a wider audience. The new courses are planned to launch in FY 2026.

**Community Services Board Collaboration:** VVFS is assisting DBHDS and Community Services Boards (CSBs) with the military and veterans services in the public mental health system. VVFS staff provide military culture and resource training to CSB staff, partner on care coordination and peer support services delivery and expansion of suicide prevention initiatives including the **Lock and Talk Virginia** lethal means safety campaign. VVFS staff work closely (meeting at least quarterly) with regional SMVF Navigator (and other military/veteran focused) positions in the CSBs.

**Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training:** VVFS staff provide SMVF crisis intervention team training to partner agencies, law enforcement, and first responders. This training builds capacity in communities and solidifies partnerships throughout the regions for referral resources and care coordination. CIT trainings provide the program with referrals at vital intercept points to connect veterans experiencing crises to care treatment and other related supportive services.

**Virginia National Guard:** VVFS staff continue to support ongoing planning and training with the Virginia National Guard. Through the Commander's Ready and Resilient Council (CR2C) and with the Risk Reduction, Readiness and Suicide Prevention (R3SP) office, VVFS streamlines behavioral health and supportive services referral partnerships with Readiness Centers and units statewide. VVFS staff attend key outreach events to reach service members and families such as Yellow Ribbon and Medical Readiness events.

**Military Cultural Competency (MCC) training:** VVFS staff continue to provide MCC training to community agencies, state agencies, and other providers serving veterans. VVFS is the lead MCC trainer for the VISR program through the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide. This training builds community provider knowledge in serving SMVF and provides information on key resource connections including Veterans

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Affairs and DVS services. **Staff provided both virtual and in-person MCC to approximately 828 community services providers and partners in FY25.**

### Housing And Homelessness

VVFS supports the Commonwealth in sustaining efforts to ensure that veteran homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring. Communities continue to use the strategies to prevent and address homelessness by using “by-name” lists, assessment tools, and coordinated entry. The term, “functional zero for veteran homelessness” means that the community never has more veterans experiencing homelessness than it has demonstrated it can house in an average month (minimum threshold is three veterans). Currently, the 30-day timeframe is not attainable because of the aftereffects of the pandemic, housing shortages, high eviction rates, and limited bed space at shelters/Veteran transitional housing. So, although Virginia is still operating under functional zero standards, it is under more difficult circumstances for individuals, families, and community services providers.

VVFS continues to be recognized as a national leader. The VVFS Housing and Criminal Justice Director (HCJD) and VVFS Housing and Criminal Justice Coordinator (HCJC) provide technical assistance and housing resources to housing and criminal justice partners. They also provide housing resources and support to the VVFS staff. The VVFS regional staff work with community partners to access housing resources for veterans experiencing homelessness. The VVFS Housing and Criminal Justice Director and Housing and Criminal Justice Coordinator continue to provide statewide coordination and leadership with federal, state, and community organizations. They also serve on several work groups, including the Virginia Housing Supportive Solutions Advisory Council, the Permanent Supportive Housing committee, and the Balance of State Steering Committee. The Housing and Criminal Justice Coordinator started statewide quarterly meetings with the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) team to provide transparency between both the DVS and SSVF staff and to track housing and program needs for veterans experiencing homelessness.

Virginia held the 2024 Point-in-Time Count one night in January 2024. Based on the PIT count there were **389 veterans experiencing homelessness (296 sheltered, 93 unsheltered)**. The unsheltered number of veterans decreased from 102 (in 2023) to 93 (2024). The PIT count in January 2023 accounted for 386 total homeless veterans. The 2024 count is 0.7% higher than the 2023 count, but there is a decrease in unsheltered veterans this year.

VVFS continues to work with communities in sustaining efforts of reducing veteran homelessness through coordinated entry and targeting of resources. The VVFS team assists communities with resources, technical assistance and support, and information-sharing across agencies.

The DVS Homeless Fund continues leveraging Veterans Service Foundation (VSF) funds, coordinating with SSVF partners across the state to fill gaps in housing veterans experiencing homelessness, and provides prevention funds for previously chronically homeless veterans. Allowable expenses include rental deposits/arrears, utility assistance, beds, and other one-time expenses that may prevent a veteran from being housed. **In FY25, VVFS used \$318,517.02 in VSF and agency funds to assist 310 veterans with moves into permanent housing or homeless prevention.** There has been an increase in spending



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compared to last FY24 (\$287,517.37) due to increased eviction rates, higher housing costs, and affordable housing shortages.

Virginia's Homeless Point in Time, January	FY 2022	FY2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Sheltered Veterans	345	284	296	
Unsheltered Veterans	47	102	93	
Overall Homeless	395	386	389	
Funding for Permanent Housing	\$ 230,000	\$ 239,256	\$287,517	\$318,517
# of Veterans housed		237		310
Veteran EnergyShare (VES) program	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$800,000	\$800,000
VES Vouchers Issued	1,524	1,011	1,166	889

NOTE: numbers reflect the most recent data released by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which lags 1+years.

The Dominion Veteran EnergyShare program, administered by VVFS and Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) providers across the state, continued in FY25 to provide utility assistance to homeless veterans who move into permanent housing. **The Veteran EnergyShare program is continuing with \$800,000 for calendar year 2026.** This partnership has received national recognition as a best practice and has been vital in sustaining efforts in Virginia. For calendar year 2024, VVFS and SSVF providers utilized 1,166 Veteran EnergyShare vouchers for veterans experiencing homelessness or were at-risk. For annual calendar year 2025 (as of September), VVFS and SSVF providers have utilized 889 vouchers. In addition, the VVFS Housing and Criminal Justice Director and the VVFS Housing and Criminal Justice Coordinator are a part the Justice and Housing workgroup based on a grant received by the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH). The Justice and Housing workgroup is a national project with a geographic focus area to explore the need and address challenges for justice-involved individuals to secure housing.

### VVFS Justice Involved Services (JIS) Program

The VVFS Justice Involved Services (JIS) program provides resource connections, care coordination, and support to Virginia's veterans and service members across the criminal justice spectrum, including diversion, incarceration and while on supervision in the communities. The VVFS Veteran Justice Specialists (VJS) offer direct assistance to veterans and service members of any era, regardless of discharge status. The program provides services to veterans in treatment dockets, in local jails and state prisons, and on probation and/or parole supervision.

**In FY25, the case load for VJS has continued to increase** since last fiscal year (despite capacity challenges with staff leave and/or vacancies). **In FY25, VVFS served 189 justice-involved veteran clients.** There are currently six VVFS VJS in the program that provide resource connections and support justice-involved veterans statewide. As noted earlier in the report, an additional VJS was added to the East region to assist in providing statewide support to justice-involved veterans. The JIS program staff provide virtual and in-person services for justice-involved veterans. The VJS, HCJC, and HCJD provide marketing and outreach to justice-involved veterans, criminal justice and community partners.



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## Justice Involved Veterans in Virginia Data:

Justice Involved Veterans	FY23	FY24	FY 25
Institutions	1,519	1,513	1,740
	6.13%	6.50%	7.60%
Community Supervision	2,014	2,241	3,714
	3.24%	3.67%	6.20%
Jail / Incarcerated	23	65	139

VVFS has been instrumental in providing capacity support to veteran treatment dockets. Below is a list of active veteran treatment dockets:

- Chesterfield County General District Court
- Fairfax General District Court
- Fairfax Circuit Court
- Fairfax Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court
- Henrico County General District Court
- Loudoun County General District Court
- Norfolk Circuit Court
- Prince William County General District Court
- Pulaski General District Court
- Rappahannock Regional Circuit Court (multi-jurisdictional veteran treatment docket)

To address the needs of justice-involved veterans (JIVs) with serious medical and mental health conditions, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veteran Justice Outreach program staff, VVFS VJS staff, and VADOC formulated the **Justice Involved Veterans with Special Needs discharge planning work group**. The group meet as needed to coordinate housing placements for veterans releasing from incarceration in need of assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

The VVFS Housing and Criminal Justice Director (HCJD) conducts statewide collaborative quarterly meetings between the VA Veteran Justice Outreach and Healthcare for Reentry Veterans (HCRV) specialist staff and VVFS VJS staff. The group discusses program updates, issues related to the justice-involved veteran population, and training opportunities. The HCJD continues to provide statewide technical assistance and advocacy on addressing the needs of the justice-involved veteran population. The VVFS HCJD and HCJC serve on the VADOC Veterans Stakeholders group along with the VVFS VJS staff to address the needs of incarcerated veterans and work on streamlining referrals. In order to increase support for veterans on community supervision, the VVFS JIS program continues to have an active collaboration with the VADOC Probation and Parole Officers in assisting veterans on their caseloads that need resource connections. VADOC added a referral link in their current case management system (CORIS) to track referrals to the VVFS JIS program. DVS is also a collaborative partner in the Governor's Stand Tall-Stay Strong-Succeed Together Reentry Initiative ([EO-36-Establishing-The-Stand-Tall---Stay-Strong---Succeed-Together-Reentry-Initiative---FINAL.pdf](#)) to work on reentry efforts for justice-involved veterans.

The JIS program team provide marketing and training to criminal justice and community partners on identifying justice-involved veterans. Criminal justice partners have been encouraged to use the VA's

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Veterans Reentry Search Services (VRSS) system to identify veterans. **There are currently only 21 of 60 local and regional jails using the VA's VRSS system.** In FY25, DVS supported a Senate Bill patroned by Senator Durant, Senator Carroll-Foy, and Senator Craig which directs DVS to assist local and regional jails with using the VA's VRSS system (SB1251 - 2025 Regular Session | LIS). The General Assembly also authorized one additional VJS to help support veteran identification and resource connection efforts for justice-involved veterans. The VJS staff and HCJD have been working with local jails to increase veteran identification. DVS has also consulted with the State Compensation Board as they pursue using the VA's VRSS system to upload all jail data in the state. The enhanced collaboration with VADOC and increased veteran identification in the jails will likely increase referrals to the VVFS JIS program.

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### Veteran Peer Support (VPS) Services

The VVFS Veteran Peer Support (VPS) program leverages professional peer training and personal experiences to provide support in increasing self-reliance, health, wellness, and quality of life. The program has a specific focus on veterans struggling with behavioral and rehabilitative needs but presently disinterested in clinical treatment. VVFS Peer Specialists link with veterans who share similar military and post-military experiences to build a supportive relationship and connect to services. **VVFS currently employs 8 VPS representatives across the state.**

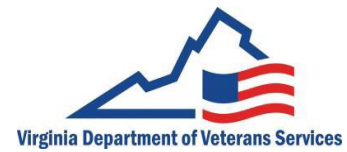
The VPS program facilitates veteran support groups that promote personal growth, self-awareness, coping strategies, and the opportunity to interact with other veterans. VVFS facilitates three virtual groups and also facilitates a virtual peer support group for women veterans.

The VPS Program continues its work to sustain and grow partnerships with Department of Defense (DoD) and the Virginia National Guard (VaNG) to assist service members who experiencing anxiety, depression and other issues associated with military service. In addition, the program continues outreach efforts to Veterans Affairs and other state and community peer support programs such as DBHDS and DMAS by coordinating with these partners to expand VVFS training and resource opportunities. These partnerships increase the identification of veterans who cannot access VA services due to discharge and/or reluctance to accept services. VVFS continues to provide peer support presentations, webinars, and technical assistance to nonprofit partners such as VOCAL Virginia, Mental Health America, CSBs, Virginia Employment Commission, Virginia Department of Health, and peer specific organizations throughout Commonwealth.

**In July 2024, VVFS partnered with Cabana**, a modern mental health provider offering confidential, tech-enabled support, to provide free, comprehensive mental health resources to Virginia's veterans, Guard and Reserve members, as well as their spouses and caregivers. This collaboration expands access to Cabana's digital mental health services, including live peer support groups moderated by Virginia-certified Veteran Peer Specialists.

With this partnership, eligible Virginia users gain full access to Cabana's digital suite, which includes the full range of virtual, professionally facilitated groups offered by Cabana, as well as dedicated Virginia Veteran peer-led support groups. Participants can connect discreetly on topics such as transitioning to

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civilian life, managing family relationships, and coping with stress, all within a secure and confidential environment accessible from any device. **As of September 2025, VVFS secured over 258 users on the Cabana platform and integrated it into the VVN.**

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### Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services (SOS) Program

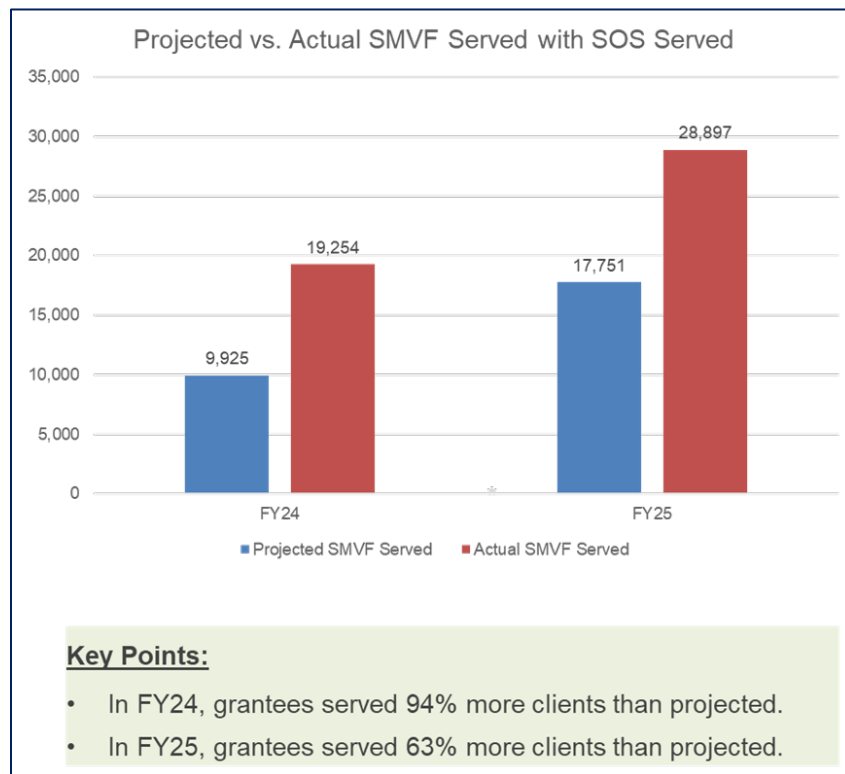
The General Assembly of Virginia, through the Appropriations Act (Chapter 2, 2022 Acts of Assembly Special Session I, Item 470.F) earmarked general funds of **\$5,000,000** for the first year (FY23) and **\$5,000,000** the second year (FY24) to the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) to establish a program for prevention and intervention of suicide and opiate addiction for service members, veterans, and their families throughout the Commonwealth.

Specifically, DVS is to collaborate with federal, state, local and community organizations, public and private institutions, and other service providers to develop programs to prevent suicide among service members and address opiate/opioid addiction suffered by service members and veterans.

The Appropriations Act directed DVS to coordinate with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), and the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), whenever possible, to promote the use of evidence-based practices in continuity with other suicide and opioid misuse prevention and intervention programs administered by the Commonwealth.

Dr. Angela Porter joined DVS in September 2022 as the Director of the Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services (SOS) Program. Initial program development research and partnership formation began in December 2022. The SOS program provides outreach and training to federal, state, and local partners and initiated a community and research grant program to enhance prevention, intervention, and recovery services statewide.

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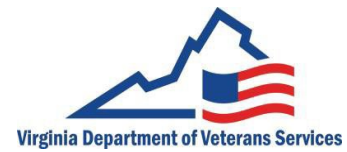
SOS Grantees served 62.8% more Service Members, Veterans, and Family (SMVF) members than was projected in FY25.

The SOS team was awarded one of 7 slots for the Veterans Affairs/SAMHSA's Suicide Mortality Review (SMR) Academy and a later **Cooperative Agreement with an award of \$281,086** to assist in Lethal Means Safety training, project management and a landscape/data analysis. The Federal Veterans Affairs and SAMHSA Suicide Mortality Review Academy and Cooperative Agreement was awarded to the Commonwealth of Virginia as one of just ten States and two Territories nationwide.

The Suicide Mortality Review (SMR) process is a multidisciplinary process to help us better understand why people in our community die by suicide and to help us identify how we can prevent these unnecessary deaths. Suicide Mortality Reviews (SMR) are systematic and comprehensive reviews of deaths that are intended to help develop strategies to prevent future deaths. SMRs are conducted by a committee of stakeholders (SMRC), which access multiple sources of clinical and non-clinical information to provide a deeper understanding of the circumstances surrounding a death. The SMRCs then develop recommendations for action to prevent similar deaths in the future. The Suicide Mortality Review – Cooperative Agreements (SMR-CA) was created by section 303 of Division V of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328), which states that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with States, territories, and American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes for the development and implementation of veteran suicide prevention through the Governor's Challenge Program. The population of focus for the SMR-CA is Virginia veterans. Virginia veterans are included as a population of focus for SMR-CA's as well as lethal means safety education and training. **The SMR-CA Team will be able to deliver Lock and Talk Lethal Means training to 6 military connected communities** within the commonwealth and have partnered with a prestigious Veteran Service Organization, America's Warrior Partnership (AWP) for SMR Project Management and landscape/community analysis.

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The SOS team continues to deepen its partnership with the Virginia Department of Health's Office of Vital Records related to suicide deaths. The Virginia Department of Health will be an integral stakeholder in the SMR process along with local change makers/stakeholders. The SMR-CA Team has completed their first SMR Training with world renowned Author and Epidemiologist Dr. Kimberly Repp as well as a mock Suicide Mortality Review of 2 mock cases. The process will be intensive, but we hope to discover crucial data that will inform our outreach efforts and allow for more directed prevention, intervention, and postvention efforts.

Developing this program was a collective effort with many Federal, State, and local partners. Specifically, the SOS team collaborated with various state agencies including the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), and the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to share informational resources, data, and evidence-based practices and alignment with other suicide and opioid misuse prevention and intervention programs administered by the Commonwealth.

The SOS team collaborates with Commonwealth of Virginia stakeholders in key working groups such as:

- **"Right Help Right Now" Initiative** (serves on the Support for Substance Use Disorders workstream)
- The Community Engagement Partnership Coordinators (CEPC) Working Group (provides connection to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) suicide prevention staff and veteran-focused community coalitions in multiple Federal healthcare service networks including D.C., Maryland, West Virginia, and North Carolina)
- Suicide Prevention and Interagency Group or SPIAG (hosted by DBHDS and VDH and includes members from local suicide prevention and behavioral health services programs statewide)
- Community Services Board (CSB) Service Member, Veteran, and Family SMVF Navigator Working Group (includes veteran-focused staff from CSBs statewide)
- 988 Virginia Campaign (streamlines behavioral health and suicide lifeline support statewide)
- Virginia Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide (GCPS) among SMVF (National Call to Action for a comprehensive public health approach to suicide prevention that started in Virginia in 2018)

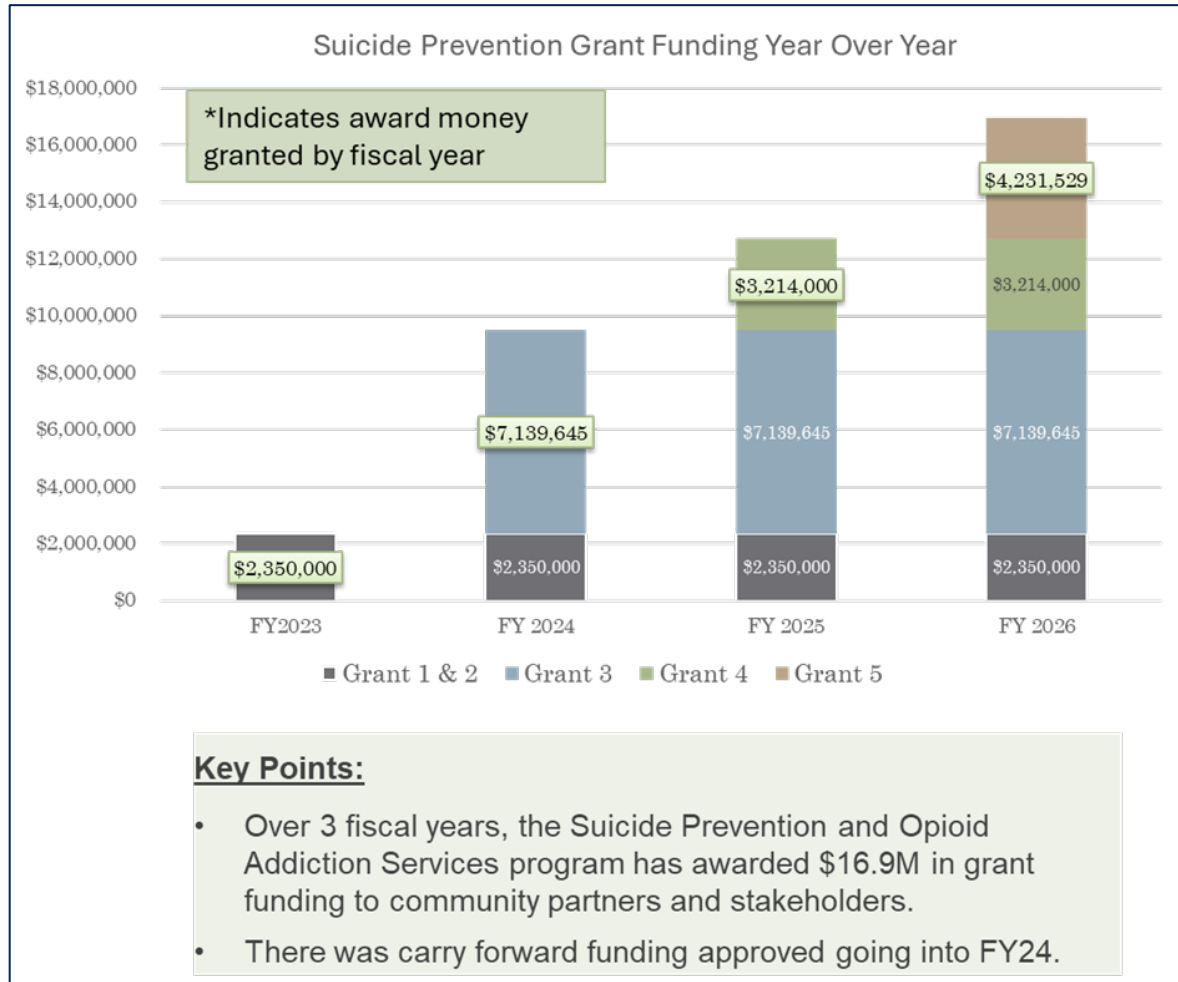
Over the past 3 years, the SOS team has worked closely with leaders and stakeholders in the National GCPS, including Veteran Affairs (VA), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and national Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs). The team joins monthly working groups and the National Governor's Challenge Community of Practice meetings with the other 54 states and territories participating in the challenge.

The SOS team continues to serve on the Steering Committee for the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide's (GCPS), Virginia's Identify, Screen and Refer (VISR) initiative. The VISR initiative provides training and technical assistance for community services providers in military and veteran culture and resources, suicide prevention, and lethal means safety. The SOS team leads the VSO working group and coordinates best practice training (Examples include training in grant writing, suicide risk screening and intervention, and safety planning) for all VISR stakeholders. To date, over 130 individuals have become VISR certified with many of our community partners boasting large numbers of VISR certifications within their agencies.

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As of June 2025, the **SOS program has awarded ninety-eight community grants and eight research grants, with 4 awarded a 2nd year of funding, totaling \$16,653,645 in grants.** Grantees will implement, study, and expand best practices in veteran peer support, caregiver support, justice involved veterans, financial literacy, homeless veterans, women veterans, suicide prevention training, risk screening, and clinical therapies for SMVF across the Commonwealth. The SOS team also hosts several Suicide Prevention Symposiums and Virtual Recovery Day events throughout the year to commemorate National Suicide Prevention month and National Recovery month.





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## Appendix D – Virginia Veterans Network

The Virginia Veterans Network (VVN) is a comprehensive, state-supported digital platform created to serve veterans, transitioning service members, and their families across the Commonwealth. It was launched by Governor Glenn Youngkin on November 11, 2024 and is managed by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (VDVS).

### Key Features of the Virginia Veterans Network:

**Centralized Access Point:** VVN brings together hundreds of trusted organizations, government agencies, and veteran service groups into a single, easy-to-use online portal.

**Personalized Resource Matching:** Based on a client's location and needs, the platform connects users to relevant local, state, and federal resources. For example, a veteran in Central Virginia would be directed to services in that region.

### Services Offered Include:

- Online Appointments: Users can schedule appointments with VDVS representatives directly through the platform.
- Disability compensation claims and appeals
- Employment and job training opportunities
- Health care access and behavioral health support
- Legal assistance
- Education benefits (e.g., GI Bill®)
- Housing and homelessness prevention
- Support for women veterans and military spouses
- Peer support and daily stress resources
- Veterans' cemeteries and memorials





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Built by Veterans, for Veterans: The platform was developed with input from the veteran community to ensure it meets real-world needs effectively

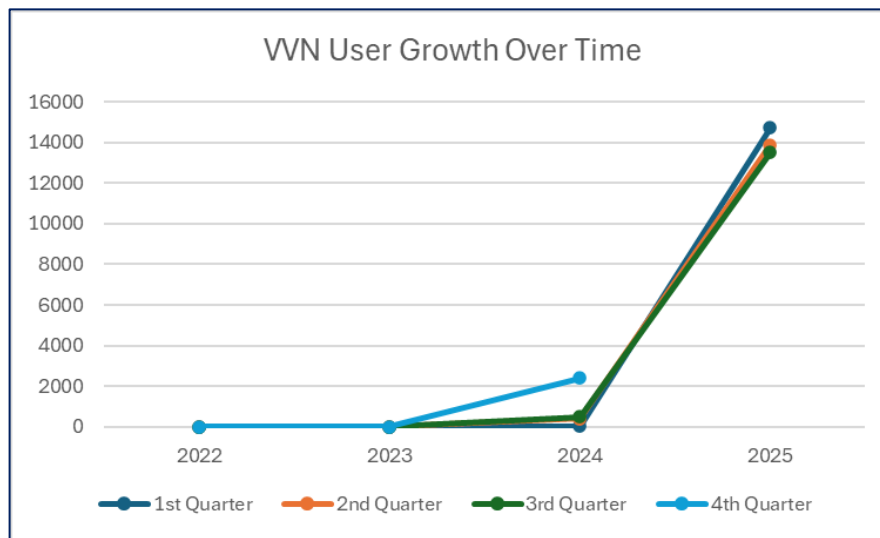
**2022** - DVS had 51 brick-and-mortar locations and offered the ability to connect via telephone, in person, and by email exclusively. DVS had a traditional webpage with no digital response or outreach capability.

**2023** - DVS entered into a 1-year pilot to develop a digital platform with Combined Arms, a 501c3 organization based out of Houston, Texas.

**2024** - DVS launched its digital platform and, during 8 months of operation, reached 6000 users.

**2025** - DVS reconfigured the VVN to be solely internally developed and operated, and has since accelerated to reach over 42,000 users, now averaging 5000 per month. Our year-end goal is 60,001.

The VVN portal 2.0 launched on October 8, 2025, and continues to set a new national standard for accessibility, technological capability, and services offered. These include Artificial Intelligence



technologies employed in an intuitive chatbot feature, enhanced capabilities in offering virtual hiring fairs, corporate mentorship opportunities, and sign-in capabilities offered through the **ID.me system**.

VVN 2.0 makes fast, easy access for veterans to a multitude of services not previously offered in a one-stop shop design.

User definition - An individual or entity that interacts with a computer system, application, or digital service to perform tasks, access resources, or consume information.

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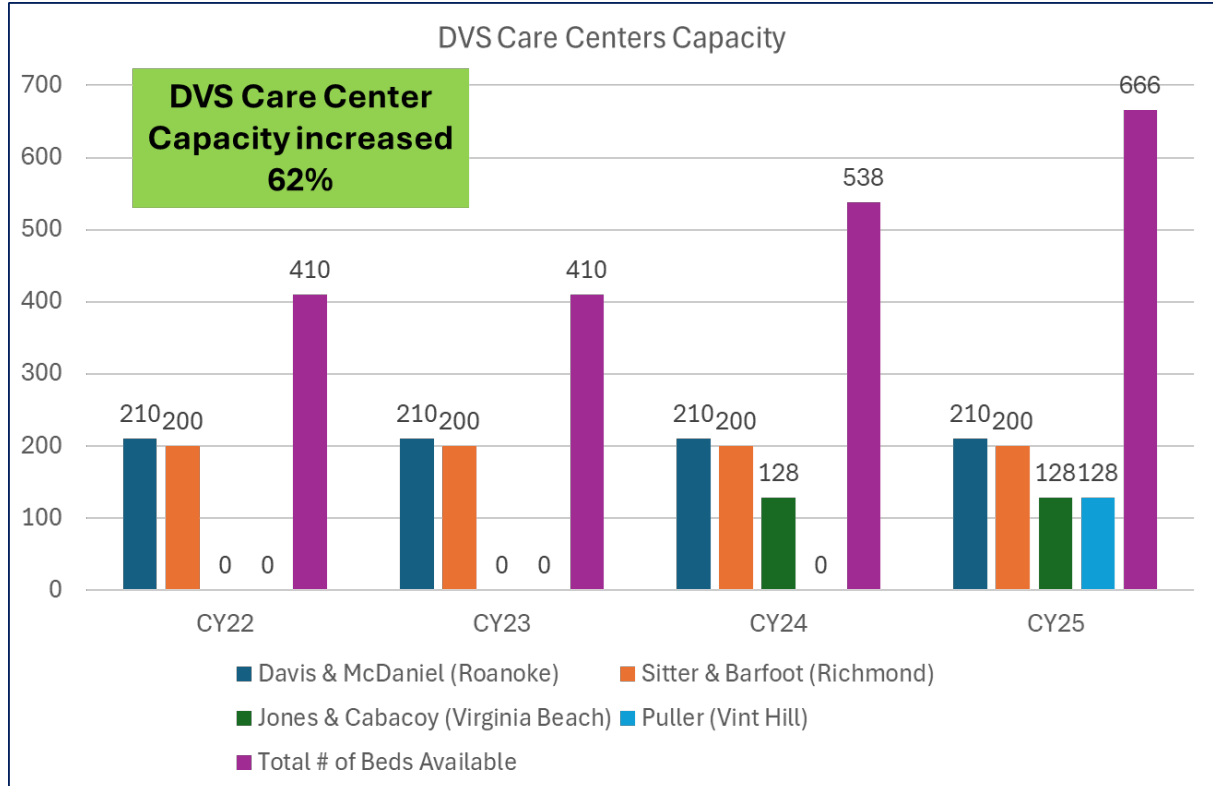


## Appendix E – Veterans Care Centers

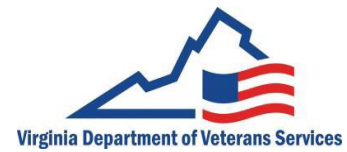
The DVS Veteran Care Centers (VCC) provide veteran residents with exceptional care in a home-like environment that enhances their sense of well-being. To achieve this, DVS veterans care centers:

1. Take a “whole person” approach that focuses not just on providing physical health care to residents, but also providing recreational, spiritual, therapeutic, and social opportunities that contribute to overall physical and mental health.
2. Operate the care centers as symbols of the Commonwealth’s commitment to her veterans; and
3. Serve the greatest possible number of veterans by maintaining the highest practical facility census.

Virginia’s veterans’ care centers provide residential (in-patient) care services to Virginia veterans, including skilled nursing care, dementia/memory care, and short-term rehabilitative care. Domiciliary (assisted living) care is also provided at the Davis & McDaniel Veterans Care Center (DMVCC) in Roanoke. **All 532 beds (204 in Roanoke, 200 in Richmond, 128 in Virginia Beach) are certified for both Medicare and Medicaid.** The 128 beds at the Puller Veterans Care Center in Fauquier County will be certified after it comes online in 2025. **Revenue sources include Medicaid, Medicare, per diem payments from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), VA payments for veterans rated 70-100% service-connected disabled, and private funding sources.** Honorably discharged veterans who reside in or entered active duty from Virginia with a need for skilled nursing care are eligible to reside at one of Virginia’s veterans care centers. It is an honor to care for all our Virginia veterans, whether short or long term.



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All care centers provide high-quality, on-site physical, occupational and speech therapy, as well as many other ancillary health care services. They offer amenities such as Wi-Fi, a library with computer access, a chapel, solariums on each hallway, wheelchair accessible nature trails and decks, and a no charge on-site barber shop.

All care centers continue to follow strict adherence to all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) infection control and prevention guidelines. With near-universal vaccination of staff and residents across all care centers, operations have returned to normal.

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### Davis & McDaniel Veterans Care Center

The Davis & McDaniel Veterans Care Center (DMVCC) in Roanoke, adjacent to the Salem VAMC, is a 204-bed facility (196 skilled, 8 assisted living) providing high-quality, short-term rehabilitative and long-term health care. 60 of the 204 beds are dedicated solely to the care of veterans who require a secure environment related to the effects of Memory care/dementia. An 8-bed unit serves the needs of veterans who require assisted-living/domiciliary care. It is a multi-story facility. Most resident rooms are shared (semi-private) with shared (“Jack and Jill”) bathrooms between two rooms.

DMVCC is named in honor of Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Paris Davis, US Army (Retired) and Navy Cross recipient Captain Eugene “Red” McDaniel, US Navy (Retired).

**In FY25, DMVCC provided 69,473 patient days of skilled nursing or memory/dementia care, which is 94% occupancy of 204 beds, and 1,533 patient days in assisted living.** DMVCC nursing and rehab census has increased by 11% since FY23.



DMVCC recently was recognized by Newsweek Magazine as a top 5 nursing home in the Commonwealth of Virginia for the second consecutive year.

Staff work throughout the year in coordination with veteran’s service organizations (VSOs) and over 120 individual volunteers, on an array of activities that historically includes trips to the D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Salem Red Sox baseball games, the Fishing Rodeo, bowling, shop-ping excursions, Dining out

experiences, movie outings, transportation museum trips and other community events. On-site activities are planned as well pet therapy, an annual spring carnival and entertainments. DMVCC staff also help facilitate resident participation with Honor Flight.

DMVCC recognizes special events and occasions, such as Military Branch Birthdays, 9/11, Run For the Wall, and Women Veterans Week. **DMVCC raised over \$1,924 in support of the local Roanoke Walk to End Alzheimer's, and \$17,493 for Operation Holiday Spirit (OHS), to support the purchase of individualized holiday gifts for all care center residents.**

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### **Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center**

The Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center (SBVCC), located on the campus of the Richmond VAMC in Richmond, has 200 skilled nursing care beds in private rooms, of which 40 beds are dedicated to the care of Memory care/Alzheimer's care. It is a single-level facility. SBVCC is named in honor of Medal of Honor recipients Colonel Carl Sitter, US Marine Corps (Retired) and Colonel Van Barfoot, US Army (Retired).

**In FY25, SBVCC provided 57,439 patient days, which is 78.5% occupancy, or an average of 157 beds filled.** Along with long-term residents, SBVCC has some veterans on a short-term basis for rehabilitation, as they transition from hospital care back to their homes and families.

One wing (40 beds of 200 beds) was offline for most of 2025 for renovations. This wing has now reopened as the specialized dementia/memory care unit, providing exceptional space/programs for veterans with this level of need. The former dementia/memory care unit will have 20 beds offline for most of 2026 as it is renovated to be configured to serve as an isolation unit if needed.

Activities. SBVCC provides high-quality on-site physical, occupational, and speech therapy, therapeutic recreation, along with social and spiritual activities. Other amenities include on-site pharmacy, fully equipped barber and beauty shop, activity and game rooms, library, resident lounges in each nursing neighborhood, courtyards, and an outdoor walking trail.



SBVCC provides different activities daily, such as bingo, trivia, board games, bocce ball, music, sports documentary, Bible study, around the world iN2L, ice cream socials, cook-outs, movie days, entertainers, and food gatherings to name a few. A variety of excursions throughout the year are also enjoyed by the residents (such as scenic drives, Walmart, Target, Rosie's Casino, Uptown Alley Bowling, etc.). SBVCC also celebrates special events and occasions such as, Military Branch Birthdays, Women Veterans Week, Memory Care Awareness Month, 9/11, Veterans Day, etc. Staff work with different veteran services organizations and other volunteers to facilitate activities throughout the year.

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### **Jones & Cabacoy Veterans Care Center**

The Jones & Cabacoy Veterans Care Center (JCVCC) in Virginia Beach is named for Medal of Honor recipient Col. William A. Jones, III and SSgt. Christopher Cabacoy, a Virginia Beach native who was killed in action in Afghanistan.



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JCVCC has 128 skilled nursing care beds in private rooms. JCVCC is organized into eight 16-bed households and is a single-level facility. Any of the households can be configured as a memory care/dementia care unit. JCVCC will begin offering those services in FY25.



JCVCC admitted its first resident in November 2023 and has been admitting new residents and adding new staff. **JCVCC is projected to reach occupancy targets of 95% or better in April 2025. In FY24, JCVCC provided 2,698 patient days, which is 6% occupancy, or an average of 7 beds filled.**

JCVCC provides high-quality on-site physical, occupational, and speech therapy, therapeutic recreation, along with social and spiritual activities. Other

amenities include on-site pharmacy, fully equipped barber and beauty shop, activity and game rooms, library, resident lounges in each nursing neighborhood, courtyards, and an outdoor walking trail.

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### Puller Veteran Care Center

The Puller VCC is named for U.S. Marine Corps Lt. General Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller, his son, Marine Corps Lt. Lewis B. Puller, Jr. and Lewis Jr.’s wife, former state Senator Linda (Toddy) Puller. Senator Puller, along with Senators Bryce Reeves and Louise Lucas, and Delegates Kirk Cox, Rich Anderson, and Chris Stolle, among many others, was instrumental in securing funding for the new center. PVCC is a 128-bed facility with private rooms that provide residential (in-patient) care services (skilled nursing care, Memory care/memory care, and long/short-term rehabilitative care).



The Puller Veterans Care Center currently has 13 team members on board and will grow the staff to 60 before the first resident is admitted. It is scheduled to open in December 2025. Staffing will continue to increase ahead of increased admissions; the target is for each new care center to be at full occupancy 17-20 months after opening.

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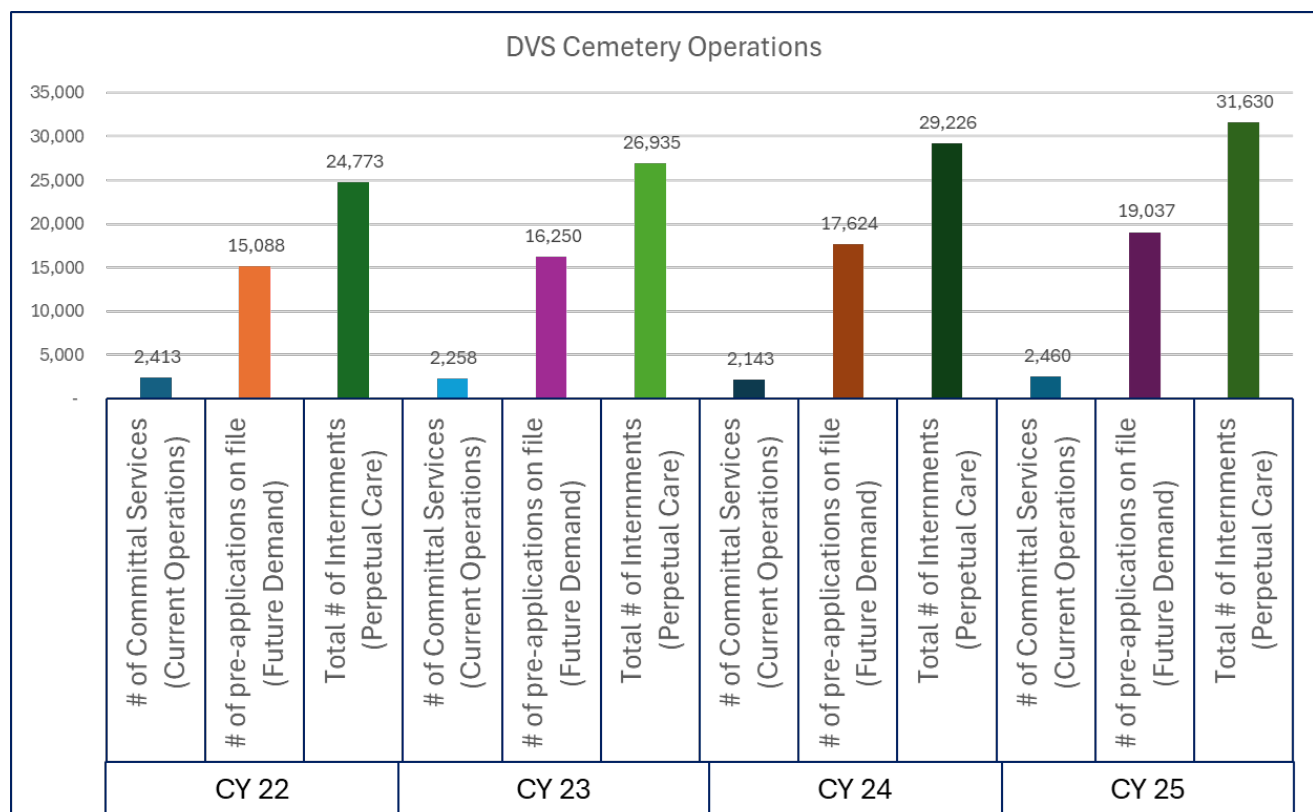


## Appendix F – Veterans Cemeteries

Virginia Veteran cemeteries provide dignified final resting places in places of honor in perpetuity for Virginia's veterans, members of the Guard and Reserve, and their eligible family members.

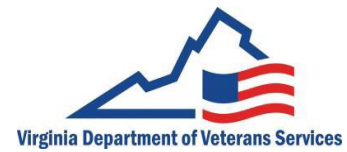
DVS' Cemeteries Division operates and maintains Virginia's three state veterans cemeteries: the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk; the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia; and the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin. All three provide final resting places for our veterans, members of the Guard and Reserve, and their eligible family members in places of honor, dignity, respect, and remembrance. All cemeteries can accommodate in-ground burial of casketed remains, in-ground inurnment of cremated remains, and above-ground inurnment of cremated remains in a columbarium. The Southwest Virginia State Veterans Cemetery also offers a green burial option for cremated remains in its scatter garden.

In FY25, Virginia's three state veteran's cemeteries conducted 2,460 committal services: 1,636 at the Suffolk cemetery, 572 at the Amelia cemetery, and 252 at the Dublin cemetery.



Virginia's state veterans' cemeteries follow burial eligibility requirements set by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Any member of the U.S. Armed Forces who dies on active duty, retires, or is discharged from military service under conditions other than dishonorable is eligible, as are Commissioned Officers with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and some WW2 Merchant Mariners. Veteran's spouses, including widows/widowers are eligible for internment in the same gravesite as the veteran. Additionally, certain dependents, including unmarried sons/daughters

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under age 21, and when applicable, an unmarried adult son/daughter, who before the age of 21 became permanently incapable of self-support due to physical or mental disability, are also eligible for burial at state veterans' cemeteries. For former Guardsmen and Reservists, an honorable separation from the service component is required.

DVS receives a plot allowance from the VA for each veteran buried in a Virginia state veterans cemetery. These VA plot allowance covers a portion of the cemetery operating costs, including burial operations, grounds maintenance, operating equipment replacement and maintenance, and the upkeep of cemetery buildings. The remaining Cemetery Division's budget comes from the General Fund and is used primarily for personnel costs.

The Burial Equity for Guards and Reserves Act of 2022 allows state and tribal cemeteries the option to inter former Guardsmen, Reservists, and current ROTC members without losing future VA grant opportunities. Virginia was the first state in the nation to begin interring these newly eligible individuals.

Following the passage of legislation by the 2023 General Assembly and funding in the FY24 Appropriation Act, all fees for dependents and Guardsmen/Reservists were eliminated.

All three cemeteries held wreath-laying events in December. Live wreaths with red bows, purchased by local non-profit organizations, were placed on each gravesite. In FY24, partner organizations supporting the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Dublin) received donated funds of approximately \$21,000, while partner organizations for the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery (Suffolk) received donated funds totaling over \$127,000. The Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Amelia) has a relatively new wreath committee, which, in partnership with Wreaths Across America, was able to raise enough funds to place a wreath on every gravesite in Amelia.

For those veterans who pass away without family, DVS cemetery staff work with local organizations and civic groups, law enforcement, public health officials, funeral directors, the Virginia Army National Guard Funeral Honors Program, and individual citizens to identify the unclaimed remains of veterans who deserve a dignified final resting place. In FY22 the SWVAVC Volunteers worked with cemetery leadership to develop and implement the Ambassador program, whose mission is to ensure that no veteran is ever buried alone. During FY24, the volunteer Ambassadors attended 179 veteran funerals at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery. Local funeral directors were also informed on procedures to request reimbursement for a casket or urn through the VA's Casket and Urn Reimbursement Program. Effective July 31, 2023, the VA changed the casket/urn reimbursement program for unclaimed veterans to a flat fee amount of \$1,273 for a casket and \$147 for an urn.

DVS encourages veterans and family members to complete a "pre-application" so that required documentation (discharge documents, marriage certificates, etc.) are on file to expedite scheduling in their time of need. Filing a pre-application is an indication of intent to be buried in a state veterans cemetery, in advance of the veteran's or spouse's death, and helps the families and the cemeteries successfully prepare for internment. Pre-application forms are available for download on the DVS website.



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All three cemeteries are open to the public for visitation daily during daylight hours. Cemetery administrative offices are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Cemeteries Division launched a toll-free telephone number where callers can obtain information about each cemetery, locate a loved-one's gravesite or schedule a burial. The new number was launched in March, 2023 and is 1-855-4VA-VETS. The staff understands the importance for families to visit on weekends and holidays, so each cemetery is staffed on Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Independence Day, and on Saturdays. These personnel can assist families with locating and accessing a loved-one's gravesite, as well as ensuring the public restrooms are clean and accessible. Each cemetery hosts various special events and services throughout the year, such as wreath-laying ceremonies, bench and monument dedications, and flag placements each Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

### Construction/Phase Development

Virginia's three state veterans' cemeteries were built on land purchased by or donated to the Commonwealth of Virginia and were constructed using federal grant funds from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration (NCA), Veterans Cemetery Grants Program (VCGP).

The NCA has set a goal that there be an operational (meaning that it has burial capacity) national, state, or tribal veteran's cemetery within 75 miles of 95% of the nation's veterans. If an area meets these requirements, NCA considers the veterans in that area to be "served." Veterans living more than 75 miles from an operational cemetery are considered to be "unserved."

Though Virginia has 16 national cemeteries (15 operated by USDVA, plus Arlington National Cemetery operated by the U.S. Army), only three are open to new burials: Arlington National Cemetery, Culpeper National Cemetery, and the National Memorial Cemetery at Quantico. Danville National Cemetery is open to cremated burials only.

As of FY24, 94% of the nation's veterans are considered "served" by NCA. In Virginia, it's 99%. Virginia is served by state veterans cemeteries in Amelia, Dublin, and Suffolk, and by national (NCA-operated) cemeteries in Virginia in Culpeper, Danville, and Quantico, and the national cemetery in Mountain Home, Tennessee (serving veterans in the Bristol/Abingdon area).

The initial VCGP grants to the Commonwealth of Virginia funded the construction of an administration building, maintenance complex, roads (for part of the cemetery) and the initial in-ground casketed, in-ground cremated, and above-ground cremated sites at each cemetery, providing an estimated 5-10 years of burial capacity. This initial development funding left a significant portion of each cemetery undeveloped for future phased expansion.

As one or more of the current burial options (in-ground casketed, in-ground cremated, and above-ground cremated) is 1-2 years away from being exhausted, VCGP will award a grant to develop the next phase to add an additional 5-10 years (estimated) of capacity.

Due to limited federal funds, VCGP is only funding state projects that expand current state veterans cemeteries (first priority) or create new state veterans cemeteries in unserved areas (second priority).

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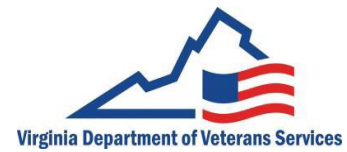
VCGP is authorized to fund repair projects at state veterans' cemeteries however does not do so because of limited federal funding.

In FY24, DVS completed federally funded phase development projects at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia (\$2.3M) in FY26 and the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin (\$1.2M) to add additional columbaria burial niches (for above-ground inurnment of cremated remains). A phase expansion project currently underway at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk (\$7.1M) will add additional columbaria, a second committal shelter for memorial services, and a cortege lane.

The VA has awarded Virginia an additional \$14.1M for phase development projects in FY25 to add additional in-ground casketed and in-ground cremated burial spaces at the Suffolk cemetery.

The Suffolk cemetery has an estimated 20 years of operational space, after which it will not have space for new burials. The Governor and General Assembly have approved state funding to purchase additional property to extend the operational life of the cemetery.

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## Appendix G – Virginia War Memorial

The Virginia War Memorial mission is to honor patriotic Virginians who rendered faithful service and sacrifice in the cause of freedom and liberty for the Commonwealth and the nation in time of war, honor all of Virginia's veterans, preserve their history, educate the public, and inspire patriotism in all Virginians.

### Top 3 – Accomplishments, Achievements, Issues

1. D+80: Virginians in the Normandy Invasion: this was a highly successful exhibit featuring oral history interviews of WWII veterans, memorabilia, and other displays to highlight the role Virginia and Virginians played in the Normandy Invasion, including the 116th Infantry Regiment of the 29th Division.
2. Say Their Names Marathon, May 26, 2025: For the first time in the history of the Virginia War Memorial, every one of the close to 12,000 names of the Virginia fallen since the beginning of WWII, was read out loud.
3. Veteran Oral History Program: Oral history partnership with Scouts and Retirement Communities – the program has created new partnerships, greatly expanding our outreach for Oral Histories.



Virginia War Memorial OKRs	FY 22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Increase visitation to the VWM by 10% annually	<b>48,250</b> <b>Visitors</b>	<b>51,910</b> <b>Visitors</b>	<b>52,840</b> <b>Visitors</b>	<b>64,350</b> <b>Visitors</b>
Expand education program participants by 10% annually (Metric: # of Students and Participants)	<b>7,205</b>	<b>7,703</b>	<b>8,380</b>	<b>12,330</b>
Grow veteran oral history program by preserving 30 oral histories annually and increasing number of special collections researchers each year.	<b>15</b> Oral Histories Collected  <b>73</b> Researchers	<b>24</b> Oral Histories Collected  <b>120</b> Researchers	<b>34</b> Oral Histories Collected  <b>129</b> Researchers	<b>32</b> Oral Histories Collected  <b>198</b> Researchers

### Activities

The Virginia War Memorial is the Commonwealth of Virginia's memorial and educational center honoring the memory of all Virginians who demonstrated a willingness to serve and fight in defense of the United States from World War II through today. The Memorial's walls are engraved with the names of nearly 12,000 service members from Virginia who perished in combat during World War II; the wars in Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf; and, more recently, those who have lost their lives in the Global War on Terrorism. Through educational outreach, exhibits, documentary films, patriotic programming, staff and volunteers ensure that veterans who live in Virginia will thrive.

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Over the past year, in-person access to the Memorial allowed for deeper engagement and collaborations with our partnerships, including the WWII Heritage Alliance, which includes the National D-Day Memorial, the Hampton Roads Naval Museum, the MacArthur Memorial, the Virginia Holocaust Museum, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum, and the Military Aviation Museum. The Virginia War Memorial is an active member of the Virginia Association of Museums.

### **Educational Programming Expands Virtually**

During FY25, the Virginia War Memorial provided educational programming to meet the needs of the State, with programs being offered virtually and in-person.

The virtual learning initiative “Livestreams: Learning from the Home Front” continues to take place about three times per month, with special programming for important dates and interesting topics:

These presentations were free to the public and reached audiences across the nation and internationally. During FY24, the Memorial conducted 31 public livestreams with 722 individual participants. Partnering with Streamable Learning, the Lifelong Learning Institute, and the Battle of the Bulge Association, programs were created for specific audiences based on the educational preferences of the groups totaling 9 private livestreams with 228 individual participants. Many programs are recorded and are available at [www.vawarmemorial.org](http://www.vawarmemorial.org).

Outreach programming continued as traveling interactive education tables were created for various organizations and events. Presentations were given at nursing homes, veterans posts, historic societies, schools, museums, and special events throughout the state. At schools, informational presentations would be set up and given to hundreds of students throughout the day. The education department did 51 offsite programs reaching 8739 learners. The education department would also set up activity stations and informational presentations for field trips coming into the Virginia War Memorial in total there were 52 formal tours on the Virginia War Memorial encompassing 2165 learners.

The annual Teacher Institutes were held in person this year, with 146 teachers who registered to attend. Two Teacher Institutes were held with two guest speakers. The topics for this year were: World War II: Eighty Years Later, The Vietnam War and the Fall of Saigon, and Connecting Students to History: A Workshop on Research, Writing and Photography.

### **USS Birmingham Research Library and Archives**

During FY24, the Virginia War Memorial Research Library and Archives expanded its collaboration with community partners and increased the accessibility of its collections.

Twenty-three oral history interviews were conducted with Virginia veterans in and out of the state, representing five branches of the military. Several of these interviews have been made accessible to the public via the Virginia War Memorial Vimeo Page.

This year, 242 collections, including oral histories, have been used by outside researchers and the VWM Educational and Curatorial departments. Other efforts to increase accessibility include working with the VWM Educational Department to use collections for livestreams, presentations, and other programming.

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## **2024/2025 EVENTS**

### **Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony – November 11, 2024**

The annual ceremony to honor all Americans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. General Gary M. Birto delivered the keynote address. Other speakers included Virginia War Memorial Director Clay Mountcastle and Major General James Ring, the Adjutant General of Virginia. Winners of the Virginia War Memorial's Veterans Day Essay Contest were recognized at this ceremony. There were over 1,000 in-person attendees and over 35,000 virtual views (TV and livestream).

### **Commonwealth's Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Ceremony – December 6, 2024**

Honored those killed during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. 100 in-person attendees.

### **.9K-K9 Veterans Day Memorial Walk – March 8, 2024**

The VWM celebrated K9 Veterans Day with the third annual .9K-K9 Veterans Day memorial walk around the VWM grounds. Honoring 7 K9 Working Dogs and their handlers. 138 in-person attendees.

### **Military Signing Day – May 16, 2025**

In coordination with the Virginia Department of Education, the VWM coordinated a Military Signing Day for graduating high school seniors who enlisted in the military. 163 young men and women took the Oath of Service at the Memorial. Governor Youngkin provided remarks.

### **Commonwealth's Memorial Day Ceremony – May 26, 2025**

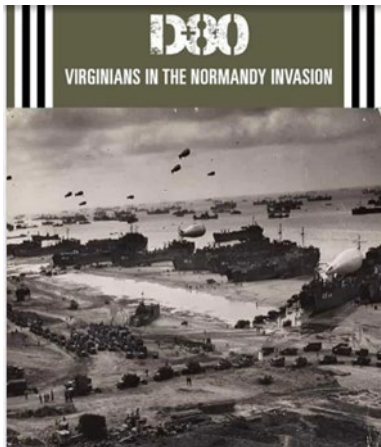
Broadcast on CBS-6 TV and livestreamed, the ceremony reached around 40,000 TV and online viewers across the Commonwealth and 1,000 people attended the ceremony. Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin was the keynote speaker. Other speakers were Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Craig Crenshaw and Major General James Ring, the Adjutant General of Virginia. Marocchi Memorial Scholarships were awarded to two graduating Virginia high school seniors and two Virginia university students.

### **Say Their Names Marathon – May 26, 2025**

For the first time in the history of the Virginia War Memorial, every one of the nearly 12,000 names of Virginia fallen since the beginning of WWII, was read out loud. All of these names engraved in the Shrine were read as they are listed. The public was invited to register to read a list of 50 names each. Over 300 people participated. The program began after the Commonwealth's Memorial Day Ceremony with the first name read at 12:45PM and the last name read at 12:27AM, Tuesday, May 27, 2025.



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## **D+80: Virginians in the Normandy Invasion**

June 6th, 1944, is one of the most recognizable dates in history. This was the day that the allied nations invaded occupied Europe and was the start of the end of the Axis regime and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reich. D-Day as it would become to be known, was the combined naval landing and airborne assault on a 50-mile stretch of the Normandy peninsula. Within ships, landing craft and aircraft were sailors, infantry and paratroopers many of which were from Virginia. Now 80 years later, the Virginia War Memorial opened the D+80 exhibit that ran from June 6, 2024 through the Summer of 2025.

Throughout the exhibit there were 10 touch screens on which visitors could watch 60 short segments of oral history interviews from over 40

different WWII veterans. Artifacts, uniforms, weaponry, photos, maps and other items from the Virginia War Memorial collections were also on display.

## **Richmond Philharmonic Orchestra – June 15, 2025**

The Richmond Philharmonic Orchestra performed in Veterans Hall. This concert was conducted by Assistant Conductor Will Pattie and more than 300 people attended.

## **Hill of Heroes – 6th Annual Community Event – June 28, 2024**

Memorial staff and community volunteers totaling over 320 people installed 12,000 American flags on the hillside in honor of each name inscribed on the Shrine of Memory. The flags were displayed through July 12, 2024.

## **Commonwealth's Patriot Day Ceremony – September 11, 2025**

Partnered with the Freedom Flag Foundation for the annual ceremony observing the attacks of 11 September 2001. The 2025 Program included keynote speaker Rear Admiral Samuel Cox, U.S. Navy (Ret.), and speaker John Riley, President of the Freedom Flag Foundation. 175 in-person attendees.

## **A Humble Gift of Gratitude – Veterans Art Gallery**

This unique exhibit, which opened on Memorial Day 2025, featured the artwork of Army Veteran Henry Kidd, and saw thousands of visitors over the summer.



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### Appendix H: Board of Veteran Services

The Board of Veterans Services supports the Department of Veterans Services by providing expertise and insight into best practices in benefits claims services, medical and health care management, and cemetery operations; performance measurements and general management principles; and nonprofit volunteer operations and management. The Board develops reasonable and effective policy recommendations related to the services provided to veterans of the armed forces of the United States and their eligible spouses, orphans, and dependents by the Department of Veterans Services.

#### § 2.2-2454. Powers and Duties of the Board

1. Advise and make recommendations to the Commissioner of Veterans Services upon such matters as may arise in the performance of his duties.
2. Investigate issues related to the provision of care and services to veterans, upon request of the Commissioner of Veterans Services or the Governor.
3. Study all matters affecting the welfare of Virginia citizens who are veterans or dependents or survivors of such veterans and make recommendations to the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services.
4. Develop recommendations for policies and procedures related to the efficient and effective delivery of the services provided by the Department of Veterans Services.
5. Establish policies related to the coordinated delivery of veteran services, in consultation with those agencies, entities, and organizations, including counties, cities, towns or other political subdivisions of the Commonwealth capable of providing such services.
6. Monitor the administration of all laws concerning veterans and their dependents.
7. Review and advise the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services on the Department's strategic plan.
8. Based on rigorous cost-benefit-value analysis, provide recommendations to the Department of Veterans Services regarding future projects and the acquisition of facilities that may benefit the State's veterans, including but not limited to veterans' cemeteries and veterans care centers; and
9. Provide recommendations to the Department of Veterans Services and the Veterans Services Foundation created in § 2.2-2715 regarding gifts, grants, and other resources from public and private entities and organizations to support veterans' services.

(2003, cc. 657, 670; 2004, c. 697; 2005, c. 758; 2008, cc. 467, 768; 2010, c. 64; 2012, cc. 33, 162; 2015, c. 319; 2017, cc. 89, 501; 2019, cc. 40, 204.)

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### Board of Veteran Services Membership – as of December 1, 2025

Name	City	Position
Matthew Miller, Chairman	Arlington	Board of Veteran Services Chair
Delegate Jason Ballard	Pearisburg	General Assembly of Virginia; U.S. Army veteran; U.S. Army Reserves
Senator Jennifer Carroll Foy	Prince William	General Assembly of Virginia
Senator Tara Durant	Stafford	General Assembly of Virginia
Robert Eisiminger	Fairfax Station	Founder Knight Point Systems, U.S. Army Veteran
Delegate Michael Feggans	Virginia Beach	General Assembly of Virginia, U.S. Air Force veteran
Claudia Flores	New Kent	Commander, U.S. Navy (Retired); President, Chimney Trail Foundation
Malcom Frost	McLean	Retired Major General, U.S. Army; President, Malcom Frost and Associates, LLC
Vanessa Gattis	Woodbridge	Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired); President & CEO, Prince William County Community Foundation
Delegate Jackie Glass	Norfolk	General Assembly of Virginia, U.S. Navy veteran
Vincent L. Griffith	Alexandria	President, MRO and International Solutions, Noble; RADM USN Ret
Joyce Henderson, Vice Chair	Alexandria	Retired Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Kevin Hoffman	Blackstone	Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Terence E. McKnight	Fairfax Station	VP Government Relations, CAES - Microelectronics Solutions; Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)
Kayla Owen	Stafford	Military Family Member; Co-Founder, Friends of VMSDEP
Senator Russet Perry	Loudoun	General Assembly of Virginia
Jeri Prophet	Virginia Beach	Chief Executive Officer, IntellecTechs, U.S. Navy Veteran
Delegate Joshua Thomas	Prince William County	General Assembly of Virginia, U.S. Marine Corps Veteran
Wendell Warner	Lorton	Retired Colonel, U.S. Army. Director for Combatant Command Support, Senior Executive Services, Under Secretary Defense
Chuck Zingler (ex officio)	Richmond	Commissioner, Virginia Department of Veterans Services, U.S. Navy Retired Captain
Joel Griffin (ex officio)	Yorktown	Chair, Veterans Service Foundation Board of Trustees
Bill Aramony (ex officio)	Alexandria	Chair, Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
Rick St. John (ex officio)	Richmond	Chair, Virginia War Memorial Foundation Board of Directors

## **Appendix J: Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC)**

Mission. The Council provides advice and assistance to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Department of Veterans Services on matters of concern to the veteran's community and provides a conduit of information to and from the veterans' service organizations on policy and legislation, pending and enacted, as well as information on existing services.

### **§ 2.2-2682. Powers and Duties of the Council**

A. The Council shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Advise the Department of Veterans Services and the General Assembly regarding (i) methods of providing support for ongoing veterans services and programs, and (ii) addressing veterans' issues on an ongoing basis;
2. Recommend issues that may potentially impact veterans of the armed forces of the United States and their eligible spouses, orphans, and dependents.
3. Advise the Department of Veterans Services and the Board of Veterans Services on matters of concern to Virginia-domiciled veterans and their eligible spouses, orphans, and dependents.
4. Promote and support existing veterans' services and programs.
5. Recommend and promote implementation of new efficient and effective administrative initiatives that enhance existing veterans' services and programs or provide for necessary veteran's services and programs not currently provided; and
6. Maintain a nonpartisan approach to maintaining and improving veterans' services and programs in the Commonwealth.

B. The chairman shall report to the Commissioner and the Board of Veterans Services the results of its meetings and submit an annual report on or before November 30 of each year.

C. The Council may apply for funds from the Veterans Services Foundation to enable it to better carry out its objectives. The Council shall not impose unreasonable burdens or costs in connection with requests of agencies.

(2003, cc. 657, 670; 2008, cc. 467, 768; 2014, c. 809.)

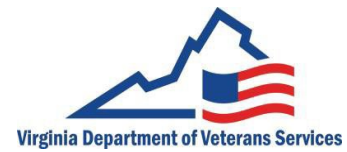
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**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) Membership as of December 1, 2025**

<b>Veterans Service Organization / Board / Department</b>	<b>JLC Representative/Member as of 12/1/2025</b>	<b>JLC Alternate Representative as of 12/1/2025</b>
Air Force Association	Garry Dean	
Air Force Sergeants Association	Richard Mansfield	John R. Cooper
American Legion	William Aramony	Bill Feasenmyer
AMVETS	Matthew Klym	Ralph Hensley
Association of the U.S. Army	Glenn Yarborough	Michael Flanagan
Association of the U.S. Navy	Matthew Laser	
Disabled American Veterans	Lisa Gregory	Charmonia Odom
Fifth Baptist Church Veterans Ministry	Thad A. Jones	Elaine Reed
Hope for the Warriors	Robin Kelleher	Hannah Hunt
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America	Lance Lesher	Richard Romano
Legion of Valor of the U.S., Inc.	Justin LeHew	
Marine Corps League	Timothy Taylor	
Military Officers Association of America	John Down	Monti Zimmerman
Military Order of the Purple Heart	James Cuthbertson	Mark Atchison
Military Order of the World Wars	Owen Waltman	
Navy Mutual Aid Association	Michelle Domingue	Meredith Burns
Navy SEAL Foundation	Angelina Campbell	Kelly Hulecki
Northern Virginia Veterans Association	Angela H. McConnell	John Demko
Paralyzed Veterans of America	Mark Hartney	
Reserve Organization of America	David Sitrer	Terrence Moore
Student Veterans of America	Katherine Martinez	
Veterans of Foreign Wars	Rick Raskin	Joanne Smith
Vets on Track	Jacki Gale	
Vietnam Veterans of America	George Corbett	Charles Montgomery
Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Associated	Carl Holcomb	Clifton White
Virginia National Guard Association	Jay Marts	
Wounded Warrior Project	Jose Ramos	Brent Reiffer
Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services (ex officio)	Matt Miller	Joyce Henderson
Chairman of the Veterans Services Foundation (ex officio)	Joel Griffin	James Poplar
Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (ex officio)	Chuck Zingler	

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## Acronym Bibliography

Acronym	Full Name / Description
<b>ACP</b>	American Corporate Partners – Career coaching, mentorship, and entrepreneurship support for service members, veterans, and families
<b>BVS</b>	Board of Veteran Services – Advisory board to the Virginia Department of Veterans Services
<b>CCWA</b>	Community College Workforce Alliance – Partnership delivering workforce training and certifications
<b>DMDC</b>	Defense Manpower Data Center – DoD entity providing data on service members, including transition/separation info
<b>DoD</b>	Department of Defense – Federal agency overseeing the U.S. Armed Forces
<b>DVS</b>	Virginia Department of Veterans Services – State agency serving Virginia’s veterans, Guard, Reserve members, and families
<b>FFY</b>	Federal Fiscal Year – U.S. government fiscal year (Oct 1–Sept 30)
<b>GI Bill®</b>	Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 (and updates) – Federal program providing education benefits to veterans and dependents
<b>GAMVC</b>	General Assembly Military and Veterans Caucus – Legislative caucus providing guidance and feedback on veteran issues
<b>HVN</b>	Hire Vets Now – Employment initiative connecting veterans with employers
<b>JIS</b>	Justice Involved Services – Program supporting veterans engaged with the justice system
<b>JLC</b>	Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations – Council representing veteran service organizations in Virginia
<b>MCB Quantico</b>	Marine Corps Base Quantico – Major U.S. Marine Corps installation in Virginia
<b>MEWI</b>	Military Education & Workforce Initiative – Virginia program supporting veterans’ transition to education, training, and employment
<b>MMAC</b>	Military Medics and Corpsmen Program – Pathways for former military medics/corpsmen into civilian healthcare careers
<b>PTSD</b>	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder – Mental health condition triggered by trauma
<b>SAA</b>	State Approving Agency – Approves educational programs for GI Bill® eligibility
<b>TAP</b>	Transition Assistance Program – Federal program providing briefings/resources to separating service members
<b>TSM</b>	Transitioning Service Member – Military personnel preparing to separate/retire
<b>USDVA (VA)</b>	United States Department of Veterans Affairs – Federal agency providing healthcare, benefits, and services to veterans
<b>VADA</b>	Veterans and Defense Affairs – Virginia Secretariat overseeing veterans/defense initiatives
<b>V3</b>	Virginia Values Veterans Program – Certifies employers in veteran hiring best practices
<b>VCCS</b>	Virginia Community College System – Statewide system of community colleges partnering with DVS

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Acronym	Full Name / Description
VETE	Veterans Education, Transition, and Employment – DVS division overseeing education/employment programs
VMSDEP	Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program – Provides education benefits to spouses/children of qualifying service members
VPS	Veteran Peer Support Services – Peer-based support program within VVFS
VSF	Veterans Services Foundation – Supports DVS programs through fundraising and partnerships
VVFS	Virginia Veteran and Family Support Program – Provides behavioral health, supportive services, and care coordination
VVLP	Virginia Veterans Laptop Project – Initiative providing laptops to military-affiliated students
VVN	Virginia Veterans Network – Digital platform connecting veterans/families to resources and services



