

State of Alaska
FY2003 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Veterans' Services
BRU/Component Budget Summary

BRU/Component: Veterans' Services

(There is only one component in this BRU. To reduce duplicate information, we did not print a separate BRU section.)

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Component Mission

Advocate for veterans' benefits to recognize the sacrifices and achievements of Alaska's veterans and their families. (Differs from SLA 2001, Ch90. Section 106)

Component Services Provided

This component provides grants to Veterans Service Organizations. The Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) initiate claims (and appeal claim decisions if necessary) through the Veteran's Administration for benefits due veterans in Alaska. In addition, the service officers maintain information and referral services for the following: how to solve problems arising out of military service; information and advice concerning educational, health, and vocational guidance and placement; upgrade of benefits; benefits counseling; veterans claim preparation and presentation, state benefits application preparation; assistance to homeless veterans, and statewide rural outreach services.

The Department advocates the Alaskan veteran view concerning programs or initiatives of state or federal government.

The FY002 grant was awarded to a joint venture consisting of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars. The grant provides for salaries and travel cost of VSOs.

Component Goals and Strategies

Advocate for veterans' benefits to recognize the sacrifices and achievements of Alaska's veterans and their families.

Develop solutions that will help meet the long-term care needs of Alaska' veterans.

Provide an interface and advocacy for veterans and veterans' organizations to identify and resolve problems related to veterans' affairs.

Establish the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council in statute.

Establish a Veterans Memorial Endowment Fund to maintain and construct memorials and monuments to veterans and the military.

Monitor the outreach and assistance services provided by the Veterans Service Organizations.

Provide a contact point for access to veterans' benefits and programs.

Expand efforts for veterans in Alaska's rural communities.

Allow use of Army Guard armories statewide as places for veterans to access veterans' program information.

Key Component Issues for FY2002 – 2003

Working with veterans to identify solutions for the long-term care needs of Alaska's veteran population.

Establishment of an Alaskan Pioneer and Veterans Home.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2001

The DMVA Veterans' program provided \$540.0 to Veterans Service Officers in the state. This money is used to advocate for veterans' federal benefits. During this past year, \$29.0 million or approximately \$53 in return for every dollar spent on this program obtaining benefits for Alaskan veterans. Without these Veteran Service Officers, it would be much more difficult for individual Alaskan veterans to obtain the benefits due to them.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 26

Key Performance Measures for FY2003

Measure:

The number of contacts with persons seeking information about veterans' benefits.
Sec 106(b)(1) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

Contacts through phone, office walk-ins, e-mail and outreach briefings.

American Legion: 9400

VFW: 7000

DAV: 5200

State DMVA: 5000

Benchmark Comparisons:

There is no benchmark for this measure.

Background and Strategies:

The main purpose of this program is to connect Alaskan Veterans with the agencies that can assist them with their benefits.

Measure:

The number of trips to assist rural veterans.
Sec 106(b)(2) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

American Legion: 48 (4 per month)

VFW: 51

DAV: 80 (includes Fairbanks office)

Benchmark Comparisons:

There is no benchmark for this measure.

Background and Strategies:

The grantee is required to provide services statewide. Statistics are provided to DMVA by the grantee on the number of visits to rural areas to assist rural veterans

Measure:

The change in the number of veterans served each year.
Sec 106(b)(3) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

Collectively there has been a significant increase. In some areas as much as 75% (Kenai Peninsula), but as low as 20% (Western Alaska). The largest increase is Southcentral Alaska (primarily the Anchorage bowl @ 43% of the veterans population base). The aging population of veterans also has to be considered.

Benchmark Comparisons:

There is no benchmark for this measure.

Measure:

The change in the estimated monetary value of benefits obtained.
Sec 106(b)(4) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The recovery of benefits has continually increased over the 17 years of the programs existence:

American Legion: \$ 5.8 million

VFW: \$14.0 million

DAV: \$10.0 million

Benchmark Comparisons:

There is no benchmark for this measure.

Background and Strategies:

Reporting of this statistic provides important information in determining whether the state is receiving a fair return for the money allocated to this service. Each year the Grantee provides information to DMVA on the total amount of benefits provided to Alaska veterans through the VSO's. Numbers for FY 2001 will be reported at the end of the year.

Measure:

The ratio of cost to estimated value of monetary benefits obtained.
Sec 106(b)(5) Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

Collective benefit vs. cost:

Service grant: \$540,000

Recovery in benefits: \$29 million

An average benefit obtained is \$53 for each state dollar spent.

Benchmark Comparisons:

There is no benchmark for this measure.

Veterans' Services
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

Non-Formula Program:	FY2001 Actuals	FY2002 Authorized	FY2003 Governor
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	80.0	81.3	86.0
72000 Travel	6.0	0.4	0.0
73000 Contractual	541.0	542.0	540.0
74000 Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0
75000 Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	627.0	623.7	626.0
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	627.0	623.7	626.0
Funding Totals	627.0	623.7	626.0

Veterans' Services**Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2003**

No change in service anticipated.

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2002 Authorized to FY2003 Governor**

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2002 Authorized	623.7	0.0	0.0	623.7
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Year 3 Labor Costs - Net Change from FY2002	2.3	0.0	0.0	2.3
FY2003 Governor	626.0	0.0	0.0	626.0

Veterans' Services

Personal Services Information

	Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2002</u> <u>Authorized</u>	<u>FY2003</u> <u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	1	1	Annual Salaries	64,704
Part-time	0	0	COLA	2,300
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	0
			Annual Benefits	19,535
			<i>Less 0.62% Vacancy Factor</i>	(539)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	1	1	Total Personal Services	86,000

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Spec Asst To The Comm I	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	1	0	0	0	1