

# **State of Alaska FY2002 Governor's Operating Budget**

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

## **Component: Veterans' Services**

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## **Component Mission**

Advocate for veterans' benefits to recognize the sacrifices and achievements of Alaska's veterans and their families .  
(Revised from Legislature's version.)

## **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 FY00 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.
- 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 to Alaska's rural communities
- Allow use of Army Guard armories statewide as places for veterans to access veterans' program information

## **Key Component Issues for FY2001 – 2002**

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

## **Major Component Accomplishments for FY2000**

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, \$27.5 million or approximately \$50 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 FY2002**

**Measure: The number of contacts with persons seeking information about veterans' benefits.**  
*(Developed jointly with Legislature in FY2000.)*

**Current Status:**

Too soon to tell

**Background and Strategies:**

This office is gathering statistics to report to the legislature on this measure

**Measure: The number of trips to assist rural veterans.**  
*(Developed jointly with Legislature in FY2000.)*

**Benchmark:**

Too soon to tell

**Background and Strategies:**

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

**Measure: The estimated monetary value of benefits obtained.**  
*(Developed jointly with Legislature in FY2000.)*

**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.

**Status of FY2001 Performance Measures**

	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>On track</i>	<i>Too soon to tell</i>	<i>Not likely to achieve</i>	<i>Needs modification</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of contacts with persons seeking information about veterans' benefits.</li> <li>The number of trips to assist rural veterans.</li> <li>The estimated monetary value of benefits obtained.</li> </ul>			X		
			X		
			X		

**Veterans' Services**  
**Component Financial Summary**

*All dollars in thousands*

	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor
<b>Non-Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	68.2	80.0	81.3
72000 Travel	18.4	5.0	0.4
73000 Contractual	538.0	542.0	542.0
74000 Supplies	0.2	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
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>624.8</b>	<b>627.0</b>	<b>623.7</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1004 General Fund Receipts	619.8	627.0	623.7
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	5.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>624.8</b>	<b>627.0</b>	<b>623.7</b>

**Veterans' Services**

**Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2002**

No change in service anticipated.

**Summary of Component Budget Changes**

**From FY2001 Authorized to FY2002 Governor**

*All dollars in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2001 Authorized</b>	<b>627.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>627.0</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-Year 2 Labor Costs - Net Change from FY2001	-3.3	0.0	0.0	-3.3
<b>FY2002 Governor</b>	<b>623.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>623.7</b>

**Veterans' Services**

**Personal Services Information**

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor		
Full-time	1	1	Annual Salaries	62,955
Part-time	0	0	COLA	1,507
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	0
			Annual Benefits	19,333
			<i>Less 2.98% Vacancy Factor</i>	(2,495)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Total Personal Services</b>	<b>81,300</b>

**Position Classification Summary**

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