



**OREGON DEPARTMENT**  
*of* **VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

# Agency Overview

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans | January 26, 2023



PRESENTED BY  
Kelly Fitzpatrick, Director



# THE MISSION CONTINUES

SERVING AND HONORING VETERANS IN OREGON SINCE 1945



## MISSION

To honor and serve all Oregon veterans and their families by aligning and delivering earned benefits and services that enhance and improve their lives in recognition of their service to our nation.



## VISION

All veterans and their families thrive in Oregon.



## VALUES

Stewardship  
Excellence  
Respect  
Vision  
Inclusivity  
Commitment  
Equity

**1 out of 15**  
OREGONIANS IS A VETERAN



**277,405**  
OREGON VETERAN POPULATION

# 75% OF OREGON VETERANS SERVED DURING WARTIME



**WORLD WAR II**

**1.5%**

**KOREAN**

**6%**

**VIETNAM**

**34%**

**PEACETIME**

**25%**

**GULF**

**13.5%**

**POST 9/11**

**20%**



# 13% VETERANS OF COLOR IN OREGON

1.2% Asian | 1.6% Black | 0.3% Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 4.4% Hispanic Or Latino | 1% Native American | 4.6% Multiracial



NEARLY **10%**  
OF OREGON VETERANS  
ARE **WOMEN**



MORE THAN **HALF**  
OF OREGON VETERANS  
ARE AGED **65 OR OLDER**



AN ESTIMATED **2.5%**  
OF OREGON VETERANS  
IDENTIFY AS **LGBTQ+**

# \$3.41 BILLION

## TOTAL FY 21 FEDERAL VA EXPENDITURES IN OREGON

Nearly 10% Increase Over FY 20



**\$1.57 Billion**

Health Care  
Expenditures

- 
- » More than 37% of veterans in Oregon are enrolled in health care from the federal VA.



**\$1.6 Billion**

Disability Compensation  
and Pension Payments

- 
- » Nearly 29% of Oregon veterans are service-connected for injuries incurred in service.



**\$133 Million**

Education  
Payments

- 
- » In 2021, the average tuition and housing payments made to 8,076 veterans in Oregon was \$16,481.

# VETERAN JOURNEY

PARTNERS DELIVERING VETERAN SERVICES IN OREGON



## LOCAL VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE

Veterans work with ODVA veteran service officers, 36 County Veteran Service Offices, 2 Tribal Veteran Service Offices or 5 National Service Offices in Oregon to file claims and connect to other local, state and federal veteran benefits and resources.



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Claims filed in Oregon by state, county and tribal veteran service offices are reviewed and quality assured for completeness and then submitted to the federal VA by ODVA. Veterans are represented under ODVA's Power of Attorney and the state represents veterans in the appeals adjudication process.



## FEDERAL VETERANS AFFAIRS

Rating decision for veterans claims are made by the Veterans Benefit Administration of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs based on Code of Federal Regulations, Title 38.



**\$140 MILLION**

PER MONTH IN DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND PENSION TO OREGONIANS

## SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERAN

More than 83,000 veterans in Oregon are rated for a service-connected disability or receiving a pension, leading to \$1.6 billion in Disability Compensation and Pension payments in Oregon per year.





# AGENCY PROGRAMS

## SUMMARY OF SERVICES

### HOME LOAN PROGRAM

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- Provide home loans to qualified veterans

### STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

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- Partner with post-secondary institutions to support student veterans, especially those using GI Bill benefits;
- Provide pass-through funding to tribal governments, counties, and national veterans' service organizations;
- Administer grant funds to governmental and nonprofit organizations;
- Partner with Dept. of Corrections to serve incarcerated veterans

### APPEALS AND SPECIAL ADVOCACY

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- Train & certify Veteran Service Officers;
- Provide appeals assistance to veterans;
- Assist historically underserved communities of veterans: women, LGBTQ+, and houseless veterans

### AGING VETERAN SERVICES

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- Provide conservatorship and representative payee services;
- Administer veteran volunteer program;
- Oversight of two State Veterans' Homes

### OREGON VETERANS' HOMES

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- Oversee two skilled-nursing and memory care facilities (The Dalles and Lebanon) operated by contractor Westcare/Veterans Care Centers of Oregon





# HOME LOAN PROGRAM

## OVERVIEW



Did you serve in the **military** and now thinking about buying a home?

Learn about your lifetime Oregon veteran home loan benefit.

 OREGON DEPARTMENT of VETERANS' AFFAIRS **800-633-6826**

Providing home loans exclusively for Oregon veterans since 1945.

- » Oregon citizens voted in 1945 to create a Veterans' Home Loan program, establishing it in Article XI-A of the Oregon Constitution
- » This historically self-sufficient program provides low-interest rate mortgages on single-family owner-occupied homes to eligible and qualified veterans
- » State benefit is separate and distinct from the federal VA Home Loan Guaranty
- » Borrow up to \$726,200 (FHFA limit as of 2023)
- » ODVA is the lender and servicer of veteran home loans
- » 1,418 home loans totaling more than \$322 million in current portfolio
- » Nearly \$9 billion in low-interest home loans have been made to more than 336,000 veterans since 1945

*Veteran Home Loan promotion.*



# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

## OVERVIEW



- » Grant funding to non-profits and other state agencies to provide services to veterans.
- » Pass through funding to County, Tribal and National Service Organizations
- » Manages partnerships with federal and state agencies and community partners to leverage and enhance existing state resources available for veterans
- » The Veterans Education Team includes the State Approving Agency (SAA) and Campus Veteran Coordinator. Administers the Veteran Educational Bridge Grant.
- » Partnerships with large state agencies to support incarcerated, tribal and student veterans.

*Portland State University Veterans Resource Center.*



# APPEALS & SPECIAL ADVOCACY

## OVERVIEW



*Multnomah County Veteran Service Office.*

- » Quality assurance for all claims prior to submitting to the federal VA for adjudication on behalf of state, county, tribal veteran service offices
- » Claims advocacy and representation of veterans in their appeals to the federal VA filed under ODVA's Powers of Attorney
- » Training and certification to all veteran service officers representing Oregon veterans under ODVA's Powers of Attorney
- » Special Advocacy for historically underserved veterans (women, LGBTQ+, houseless veterans)

# AGING VETERAN SERVICES



## OVERVIEW

OREGON DEPARTMENT of VETERANS' AFFAIRS | VETERAN VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



**VOLUNTEER TO HELP VETERANS ACCESS THEIR EARNED BENEFITS**

**NEXT IN-PERSON TRAINING**  
**JANUARY 26**  
9:00 A.M. TO NOON  
*Sign up to become a volunteer by Jan. 19th*

**Volunteer in Counties:** Linn, Benton, and Marion

**Qualifications:** Must be 18 years or older. Pass background check before working with veterans.

**Desired Commitment:** Ability to attend a one-day training and commit to 10 hours per month for a minimum of one year.

**BECOME A VETERAN VOLUNTEER**  
Interested persons must first fill out the interest form at [oregonvetvolunteer.com](https://oregonvetvolunteer.com), or contact ODVA's Veteran Volunteer Coordinator at 971-720-8911 or [ODVA\\_VeteranVolunteer@odva.oregon.gov](mailto:VeteranVolunteer@odva.oregon.gov) by **4pm on January 19, 2023.**

*Veteran Volunteer Recruitment.*

- » Aging Veteran Services provides oversight of the two Oregon Veterans' Homes
- » Claims assistance and advocacy focused on the needs of aging veterans
- » Conservatorship program serves as a court appointed conservator to protect and manage veterans' financial assets
- » Representative Payee services ensure the timely payments of monthly expenses on behalf of vulnerable veterans to ensure their basic living needs are met
- » The Veteran Volunteer Program trains and coordinate volunteer activity around the state to identify aging veterans who are not yet receiving veteran benefits and connects them to County Veteran Service Offices to access potential state and federal earned benefits



# OREGON VETERANS' HOMES

## OVERVIEW



*Oregon Veterans' Home – Lebanon.*

- » Award-winning state Veterans' Homes located in The Dalles (1997) and Lebanon (2014)
- » Earned benefit providing skilled and long-term nursing care, endorsed memory care, and rehabilitative care to veterans, spouses and Gold Star Parents
- » Veterans live in an environment with a culture of camaraderie and understanding from fellow veterans who have shared military experience and staff who are trained to meet their unique needs
- » Access to dedicated on-site claims representation and benefit assistance by a veteran service officers who focus on the needs of aging veterans
- » Historically self-sustaining program offering lower cost skilled nursing care to veterans and their families



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# Questions

