

VETERANS HB 2845

2025 Oregon Veterans' Services Supplemental
Investments Initiative

NEXT STEPS

Representative Paul L. Evans

Veterans Policy

2008 – Governors Task Force on Veterans Services (EO 08-08)

2009 – 36 Recommendations passed and implemented

2016 – HJR 202B/BM 96 Passage

2017 – Expansion of Programs with Lottery Funding (LF) added to \$8,500,000 General Fund (GF) *

2017 – 2019 – Coordinator Positions

2020 – 2024 Structure and System Optimizations (Tweaking)

2025 – Need for services expansion

Function of ODVA

2009 – Transition from a limited mission: ORVET Home loans, Veterans Home (The Dalles), Conservatorships, VSOs (Direct Services)

2012 – State VSOs transition from direct services to support for County VSOs (and Campus VSOs)

2017 – Expansion of Services including Coordinators, Campus Veterans Grants, Public Service Grants, and evolution of Veteran Conservatorships

2020 – 2024 COVID Response/s, Adjustment to Larger scale/scope of Duties

2025 – Dysfunction at USDVA and prevalent Gaps in Services require expansions

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Sections 1-9

2025 Oregon Veterans' Services
Supplemental Investment
Initiative:

Replacement of "Lost" GF
(\$1,500,000), setting permanent
baseline

Additional Staffing

Requirements for Director and
Deputy Director positions

Veterans Suicide Prevention
Pilot Programming

Proof of Veteran Status

Amendments

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Strategic Investments:

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Section 1

2025 Oregon Veterans'
Services Supplemental
Investment Initiative
(OVSSII)

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Strategic Investments:

- Name of Act
- Establishing Framework for Services Development

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Sections 2

Replacement of “Lost” GF
(\$1,500,000), setting
permanent baseline

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Strategic Investments:

- Promises made in good faith in 2017 have not yielded intended outcomes
- Funding for Veterans-focused outcomes through agencies (other than ODVA) was not effectively implemented
- Resetting the “Expectations” of Veterans, for Veterans Services

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Section 3

Additional Staffing

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Strategic Investments:

- Additional
 - Incarcerated Veterans Coordinators (2)
 - Women Veterans Coordinator (1)
 - Addiction Services Coordinator (1)
 - Behavioral Health Coordinator (1)
 - State Approving Agency staff (1)
 - Homeless Veterans Coordinators (2)
 - Financial Recovery Ombudspersons (2)
 - Bridge Grant Support Coordinator (1)
 - TOTAL ADDS = 11 FTE

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Section 4-5

Requirements for the Director
and Deputy Director positions
for ODVA

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Strategic Investments:

- Mirroring background and cultural competency requirements for both Director and Deputy Director positions
- Existing Law does NOT require Deputy Director to have Veteran experience
 - Distinct educational, training, and work environments
 - Cultural understanding of veterans and military families

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Section 6-8

Veterans Suicide Prevention
Pilot Programming

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Strategic Investments:

- Pilot Programming
- Reporting Responsibility
- Priorities for “Pairing” Suicide Prevention with workforce training and preparation activities
 - Agriculture
 - Forestry
 - Fishing
 - Natural Resources
 - Other

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Section 9

ODOT Proof of Veteran Status
clarification

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Strategic Investments:

- US Department of Veterans Affairs recognition as baseline
- Existing Criteria is supplemented

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Section 10

Captions

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Legal Explanations:

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Amendments

Areas for Possible
Negotiations and Policy
Improvement

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Under Consideration:

- Deputy Director job/position requirements
- ODOT Proof of Veteran Status
- Existing Veterans Housing eligibility for Suicide Prevention Pilot Program designations (Courtney Place)
- Specific language requiring reduction of 14% Veterans Fund Reserve to 12% standard*
- Staffing scopes and timing