



Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs

2019 Agency Overview

Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs

- Agency Overview
 - Programs & Services
 - Healthcare
 - New State Veterans Homes

Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs

Mission

Dedicated to serving the needs of Minnesota Veterans and their families

Vision

Provide proven and innovative programs and services to maximize quality of life for Minnesota Veterans and their families

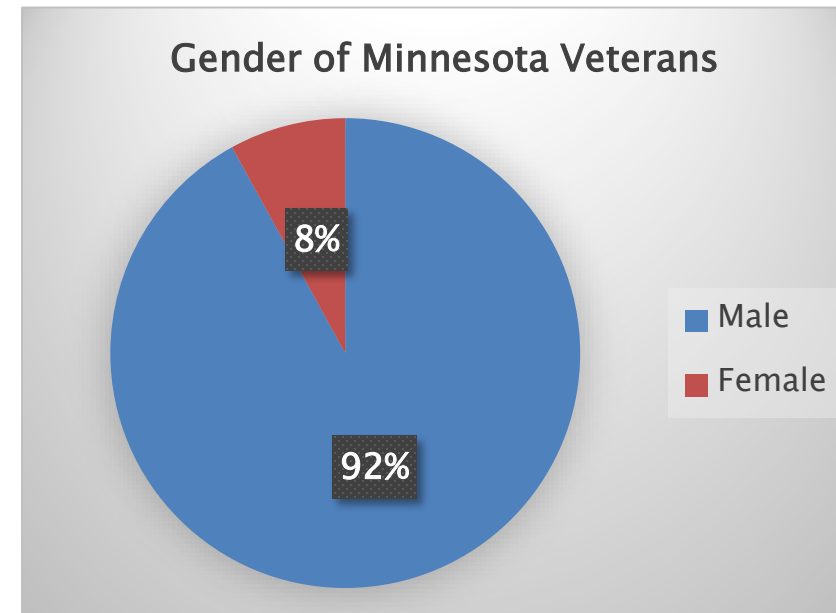
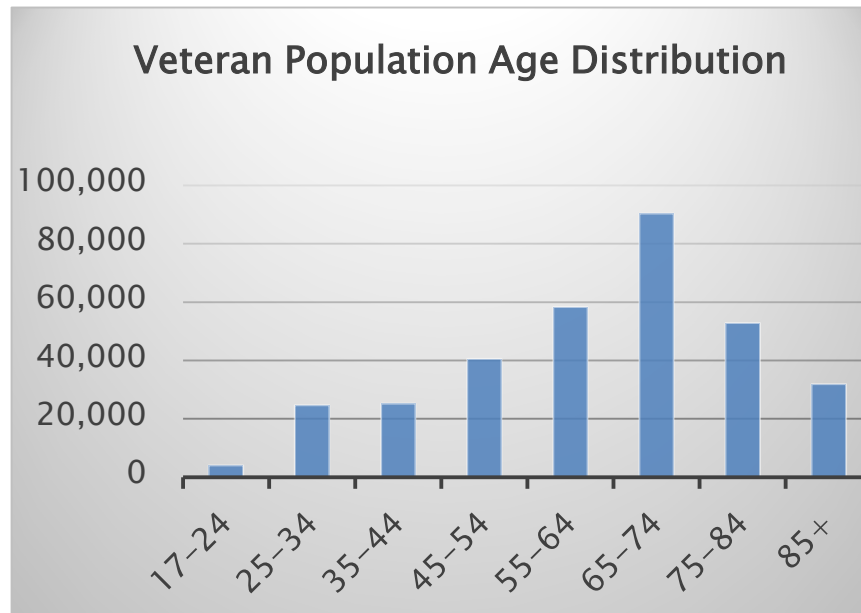
Strategies

MDVA strives to enhance the lives of those who served through services that are designed to meet the current and ongoing needs of Veterans and their families. This goal is met through MDVA divisions: **Programs & Services** and the Minnesota State Veterans Homes (**Veterans Health Care**)

Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs

Who we serve

- More than 327,000 Veterans in Minnesota (approx. 7% of state population)
- Serving Veterans in all 87 counties
- Approximately 70,000 Minnesota Veterans have served post-9/11 (average age of 35)



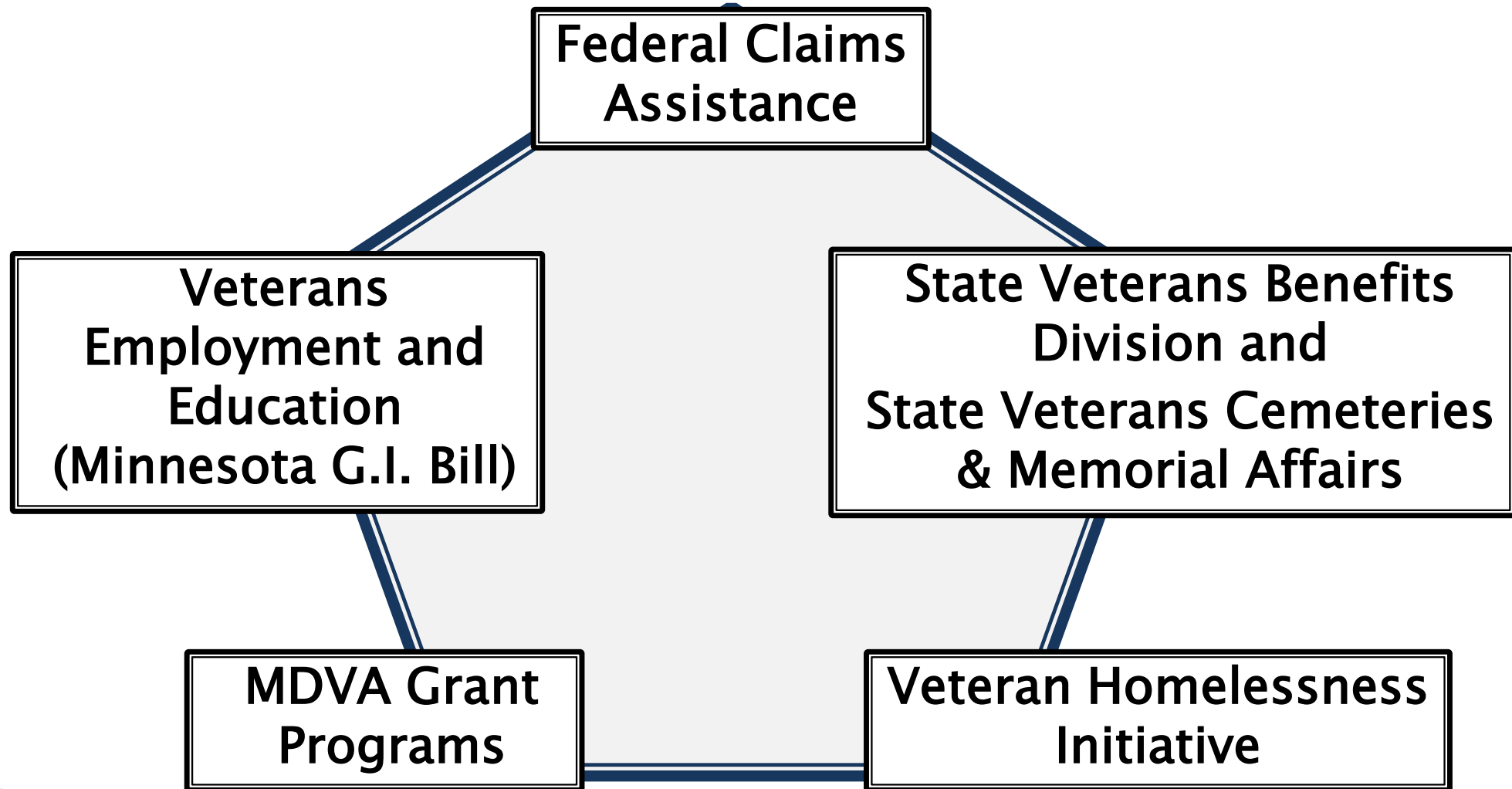
Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Programs & Services



MDVA Programs & Services

- ▶ The Programs and Services Division assists Minnesota Veterans and their families in attaining both federal and state benefits that they are entitled to.
- ▶ We administer programs to meet the needs of eligible veterans, their dependents and survivors through the following activities or services.

MDVA Programs & Services



MDVA Programs & Services

Federal Claims Assistance, St. Paul and Fargo

- MDVA staff represent Veterans, their dependents and survivors seeking earned benefits from USDVA by personally advocating for claimants at the Regional Office

Field & Tribal Operations

- Reaches out to groups of claimants who would not normally seek benefits due to cultural differences or geographic location
- Provides community outreach and advocacy to Minnesota's Native American veterans
- Acts as liaison to various state and federal programs that provide veterans benefits including health care programs, substance abuse programs and housing

MDVA Programs & Services

State Soldiers Assistance Program (SSAP)

- Provides direct or emergency financial assistance to Veterans, dependents and survivors
- Assistance may include: shelter & utilities, optical & dental, cash grants, education benefits for Veterans and surviving spouses & dependents, and special needs grants.

LinkVet 1-888-LinkVet

- Nation leading program provides information on Veterans' benefits, health care, education and reintegration
- The phone line is managed by trained Minnesota Online staff 7 days a week and evening hours.

MDVA Programs & Services

Minnesota Service C.O.R.E.

- **C**ase Management, **O**utreach, **R**eferral & **E**ducation
- Designed to bring community-based services directly to Veterans, service members and families at no cost
- Partnered with Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS)
- Services include individual and family counseling, financial counseling, debt management, addiction counseling, disability services and in-home counseling

MDVA Programs & Services

Veteran Homelessness and Prevention

- Veterans SOAR Program
 - SSI/SSDI, Outreach, Access, and Recovery
- Minnesota Homeless Veteran Registry
 - Registry connects Veterans experiencing homelessness with housing and services in their community.
- **Minnesota Operation for Veterans Empowerment (M.O.V.E.)**
 - Temporary assistance for homeless Veterans at the Union Gospel Mission in St. Paul, MN.

MDVA Programs & Services – Education and Employment

Higher Education Veterans Program

- Supports Veterans, current military members and families at Minnesota colleges and universities
- Staff campus Veterans Resource Centers, comprehensive education information

Minnesota G.I. Bill

- \$10,000 for all eligible Minnesota Veterans, currently serving and dependents of deceased or severely disabled Minnesota Veterans



MDVA Programs & Services – Education and Employment

On-the-Job (OJT) and Apprenticeship Program

- Approves on-the-job training and apprenticeship training programs providing opportunities for Veterans to use their earned G.I. Bill® benefits

State Approving Agency (SAA)

- Review, evaluate, and approve education and training programs in accordance with state statute and federal regulations

Veterans Preference Act (VPA)

- Ensures that state granted Veterans preference rights are upheld and enforced

MDVA Programs & Services

Minnesota State Veterans Cemeteries & Memorial Affairs

- Cemeteries located in
 - Little Falls
 - Preston
 - Duluth
 - Redwood Co. (expected 2020)
- Provides dignified burial services to Veterans and their eligible dependents



MDVA Programs & Services

MDVA Grant Programs

- Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) Grants
- County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO) Grants
- The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV)
- Support Our Troops (SOT) Grants

Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care



MDVA Health Care

Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs' Health Care division supports five State Veterans Homes located throughout Minnesota to ensure that Veterans and their families have options for meeting high-quality, long-term care needs.

- Minneapolis
- Hastings
- Silver Bay
- Fergus Falls
- Luverne

MDVA Health Care

Key Findings on Aging Minnesotans:

- The number of Minnesotans turning 65 in this decade (about 285,000) will be greater than in the past four decades combined.
- Around 2020, Minnesota's 65+ population is expected to eclipse the ages 5-17 (“K-12”) population for the first time in history.
- The total number of ‘older adults’ (defined as 65+) is anticipated to double between 2010 and 2030. By then, more than 1-in-5 Minnesotans will be an ‘older adult,’ which includes the entire Baby Boom generation.
- **The ability to secure the services of qualified caregivers will continue to pose our greatest challenge**

MDVA Health Care

Veterans Homes Program Goals and Objectives

- The Minnesota Veterans Homes will meet the needs of the Veterans community by providing innovative customer care and services.
- The Minnesota Veterans Homes will develop, optimize and implement clinical capacity to promote program delivery to meet the needs of our Veterans and resident community.
- The Minnesota Veterans Homes will ensure fiscal integrity by optimizing supplemental resources in addition to appropriated funds.

MDVA Health Care

Veterans Homes Program Goals and Objectives

- The Minnesota Veterans Homes will ensure fiscal integrity by developing cost control and budget management improvement strategies.
- The Minnesota Veterans Homes will develop strategies to foster employee recruitment and retention to become the employer of choice.
- The Minnesota Veterans Homes will build partnerships with VSO's, educational institutions, and other stakeholders.

MDVA Health Care

The Minnesota Veterans Homes offer a wide variety of services, including:

- Primary Care (staff MD & NP)
- 24-hour Skilled Nursing
- Dementia Specialty Care Units
- Domiciliary (Board & Care)
- Adult Day Care (Minneapolis Campus)
- Rehabilitation services including occupational, physical therapy and physical fitness
- Social services, recreational therapy and behavioral services
- Transportation
- Dental, optometry, podiatry and audiology/hearing care
- Drug and alcohol treatment
- Work therapy
- Volunteer programs

MDVA Health Care

All five Homes have been awarded “Best in Class” ratings in various categories including:

- Quality of Stay
- Treatment / Dignity
- Nursing Care
- Safety
- Facility Cleanliness
- Recreational Activities
- Dining Service
- Admission Process
- Overall Customer Satisfaction

MVH – Minneapolis Building 22



Building 22 replaced the south portion of Building 17 with a new, state-of-the-art, skilled nursing facility and related support areas, including connections to existing skilled nursing facilities.

Opened March 2018 & awaiting final preparations for a 12-person locked unit.

MN Veterans Home Minneapolis Fixed Dental Clinic



- First in the nation fixed dental clinic within a state Veterans Home.
- Opened 2018 with financial support from Delta Dental, V4F and the Disabled American Veterans.

MDVA – New State Veterans Homes

During the 2018 session, the Minnesota Legislature & Gov. Dayton approved a total of \$32 million in appropriations for the state portion of new Veterans Homes construction:

- **Bemidji Veterans home project:** \$12.4 million
- **Montevideo Veterans home project:** \$9.4 million
- **Preston Veterans home project:** \$10.2 million

In 2018, the U.S. Dept. of Veteran's Affairs (VA) budget for the state veterans home construction grant program was increased 22% from the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2017 appropriation, from \$90 million to \$110 million.

- VA has announced that an additional \$575 million will be made available for construction grants to states.
- In total, approximately \$685 million will be available for state veterans homes construction grants starting in FFY 2019.

It is important to note that any unfunded applications that meet eligibility requirements, and are on the current waitlist, will be given priority for funding in FFY 2019.

Questions