



Virginia Department of Veterans Services

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# BUDGET ITEMS – SB30

Presentation to  
Senate Finance Committee  
Public Safety Subcommittee

John L. Newby II  
Commissioner  
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## ***Building DVS 2.0: What does this mean?***

1. Ensure DVS has the **structure and resources** to handle the fastest growing veteran population in the Nation *into the next decade and beyond*:
  - a) **Reset funding for core services** to meet growing/changing demand (Benefits Services, VVFS, Virginia War Memorial)
  - b) **Renewed focus on health care** by funding two new veteran long-term care facilities, and bolstering behavioral health, rehabilitative, and supportive services
  - c) **Continued enhancement of veteran transition assistance** by providing resources for veteran employment, education, and transition
2. **Grow Virginia's economy** by creating employment opportunities and financial stability for transitioning service members and veterans

**Investment in DVS = Investment in Virginia's Veterans =  
Investment in the Commonwealth of Virginia**



## ***Building DVS 2.0: 2014-18 Goals***

1. **Increase affordable housing opportunities** and veterans support programs in order to eliminate veterans homelessness by the end of 2015
2. **Augment the New Virginia Economy** with mission-ready, relevantly-skilled veterans, with particular focus on Post-9/11 veterans, by creating seamless transitions for veterans with high quality education and workforce services that accelerate career opportunities
3. **Increase access** to behavioral health, rehabilitative services, supportive services, health, and financial stability for veterans and their families
4. **Honor our veterans and military**, and their families, for their service and sacrifice
5. **Communicate!** Inform veterans of the services provided by DVS, other state and local resources, and the Federal Government



## ***Building DVS 2.0: Accomplishments***

- **Ending Homelessness**: First state to functionally end veterans homelessness – over 1,400 veterans housed
- **Veteran Employment**: Over 13,000 veterans hired to date through V3 Program
- **Incentivizing employers** with new V3 Employment Grant
- **Increased Benefits assistance**: Hired 26 new Benefits Claims Agents (72% increase); opened three new offices
- **Increased healthcare resources**: Opened new 40-bed Richmond Wing at Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center, Richmond
- **Outreach**: Launched new DVS website and Mobile App



## ***Transition, Employment, Education and Training***

*Mission: augment the new Virginia economy with mission-ready, relevantly-skilled veterans by creating seamless transitions for veterans with high-quality education and workforce services that accelerate career opportunities*

### Introduced Budget

- **Bridge to Healthcare Careers** for medics/corpsmen: \$400,000 and 3 FTEs
- **Transition Assistance**: \$250,000 and 3 FTEs for VTAP to assist new wave of Post-9/11 veterans entering Virginia economy and schools; \$170,000 and 2 FTEs for new assistant section director to lead V3/VTAP growth
- **Meet growing employer demand for V3 services** to help them hire, train and retain skilled veteran employees: \$350,000 and 3 FTEs for V3 Program
- **Department of Defense Skillsbridge**: \$100,000 to allow Virginia to be the first state to partner with DoD for Transition
- **Bolster GI Bill and education programs**: \$92,000 and 1 FTE





# Veterans Care Centers

*Mission: provide long-term care, Alzheimer's/dementia care, and short-term rehabilitation to Virginia's veterans*

- Sitter and Barfoot Veterans Care Center, Richmond
- Virginia Veterans Care Center, Roanoke
- Northern Virginia Veterans Care Center
- Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center

- **Plan:** build two new veterans care centers (120-beds each) in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads
- **Target:** break ground October 2017, open October 2019
- **Funding:** \$66.7M approved by 2015 General Assembly and Governor
- **Status:** site evaluation/selection process underway



## Introduced Budget

- \$29.3M in additional bond funding
- Will enable DVS to design/build both simultaneously
- Funding and FTEs to hire administrators



## Benefits Services

*Mission: provide Virginia's veterans and their family members with accurate, timely and ethical education and assistance in obtaining the federal and state benefits they have earned through service and sacrifice to our Commonwealth and Nation*

- FY17/18: complete three-year plan to strengthen service delivery and access
- New offices in Prince William, Loudoun, Pentagon, and Williamsburg
- Continue focus on hiring, training, and retaining well-qualified people



### Introduced Budget

- FY17: \$546,562 (GF) and 6 new FTEs
- FY18: \$1,323,658 (GF) and 8 new FTEs



## Virginia Veteran and Family Support (formerly Virginia Wounded Warrior Program)

*Mission: provide peer and family support and care coordination services to Virginia veterans, members of the Virginia National Guard and Armed Forces Reserves, and their families, with a special emphasis on those affected by stress related conditions or traumatic brain injuries resulting from military service*

- Connects veterans and families to behavioral, rehabilitative, and supportive services offered by federal, state, local, and private service providers
- Fills critical gap in care coordination
- FY17/18:
  - Transition to new service-delivery structure
  - Enterprise-wide standardization of hiring and training
  - Meet rising veteran population and growing demand for services



### Introduced Budget

- \$786,987 (GF) and 15 FTEs per FY



## Virginia War Memorial

*Mission: honor our veterans by preserving our history, educating our youth, and inspiring patriotism in all. The Virginia War Memorial is the Commonwealth of Virginia's monument to honor the memory of men and women from Virginia who demonstrated a willingness to serve and fight to defend our way of life from World War II to the present.*

FY17/18

- Deliver current Memorial programs: record-breaking 70K visitors in 2015
- Prepare for the opening of the 26,000 square foot addition in Fall 2017 – hire key staff, develop new exhibits and education programs, build displays
- WWI 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; WWII 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



[www.dvs.virginia.gov](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov)

### Introduced Budget

- \$142,333 (GF) per FY
- Also: \$4.7M construction in bond package



## *Other funding initiatives*

- **Getting the word out:** \$146,000 (GF) in FY17 and \$160,000 (GF) in FY18 , and 1 FTE for agency communications and outreach
- **24/7 hotline for veteran services:** \$100,000 (GF) in FY17 and \$150,000 (GF) in FY18 for new partnership with 2-1-1 Virginia
- **Agency administration:** \$181,000 (GF) in FY17 and \$194,000 (GF) in FY18 for 2 FTEs (agency policy director and HR generalist)



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# Questions

[www.dvs.virginia.gov](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov)



# Addenda: DVS Locations 2016

## Benefits Services Offices

- 1 Accomac
- 2 Alexandria
- 3 Big Stone Gap
- 4 Bristol
- 5 Cedar Bluff
- 6 Charlottesville
- 7 Chesapeake
- 8 Danville
- 9 Fairfax
- 10 Fredericksburg
- 11 Front Royal
- 12 Hampton
- 13 Hampton VA Medical Center
- 14 Henrico
- 15 Lynchburg
- 16 McGuire VA Medical Center (Richmond)
- 17 Norfolk
- 18 Petersburg
- 19 Portsmouth
- 20 Quantico
- 21 Roanoke
- 22 Salem VA Medical Center
- 23 South Hill
- 24 Staunton
- 25 Virginia Beach
- 26 Wytheville

## Care Centers

- Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center, Richmond
- Virginia Veterans Care Center, Roanoke



## Virginia Veteran and Family Support, Regional Offices

- Region I - Fredericksburg
- Region II - Leesburg
- Region III - Blacksburg
- Region IV - Richmond
- Region V - Hampton

## Cemeteries

- Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia
- Albert G. Horton, Jr., Memorial Veterans Cemetery, Suffolk
- Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Dublin

