

Part I – Agency Profile

Agency Overview

The Idaho Division of Veterans Services is dedicated to serving Idaho's Veterans and their families by delivering superior long-term care and enhanced quality of life for residents of the Idaho State Veterans Homes in Boise, Lewiston and Pocatello; maintaining the Office of Veterans Advocacy to provide high quality advocacy and benefit assistance for all Idaho Veterans and their families, and training and guidance to county Service Officers; extending emergency financial assistance to disabled or destitute Veterans and their families; operating the State Veterans Cemetery to honor Idaho Veterans and their families with respectful interment services in a dignified final resting place and provide a place of honor for Veterans as well as a place of remembrance and reflection for the citizens of Idaho; and ensure Idaho Veterans have high quality, well managed education and training programs available that meet the criteria for funding under federal Veterans education programs, while ensuring outreach to active duty personnel who are considering returning or locating to Idaho about their benefits and job opportunities.

The Division of Veterans Services' revenue comes from miscellaneous funds, federal funds, endowment funds, and general funds. Miscellaneous funds include Medicaid receipts, private pay and burial payments. Federal funds include Veterans Administration per diem allowances and Medicare allowances.

Core Functions/Idaho Code

Division of Veterans Services – The Idaho Division of Veterans Services is one of twenty-nine agencies under the auspices of the Department of Self-Governing Agencies. The Idaho Veterans Affairs Commission, an advisory commission to the Idaho Division of Veterans Services, consists of five (5) members who are appointed by the Governor. The Division is managed by a Division Administrator who is recommended to the Governor by the Idaho Veterans Affairs Commission and appointed by the Governor.

The Division administers the provisions of Title 65, Chapters 1 & 2 and Title 66, Chapter 9, *Idaho Code*.

Veterans Homes – Residency in the Idaho State Veterans Homes is available to honorably discharged Idaho Veterans and their spouses. Skilled nursing care is available to Idaho Veterans, and their spouses, who are certified as needing such care by a licensed physician. The Homes are certified for Medicare, Medicaid, and VA Service-Connected programs. The Boise Home accommodates 122 skilled nursing care and 36 residential/domiciliary residents. The Pocatello and Lewiston Homes each accommodate 66 skilled nursing care residents. Title 66, Chapter 9, *Idaho Code*.

Veterans Cemetery – The Division operates, manages, maintains and improves the land and property belonging to or acquired by the state of Idaho for state Veterans cemeteries. Idaho currently has one State Veterans Cemetery, in Boise, which provides dignified interment services to eligible Veterans and their families. The Boise Cemetery has burial spaces for 9,400 Veterans and their spouses or eligible family members, and construction during FY 2013 and 2014 provided an additional 6,577 burial spaces. Title 65, Chapter 1, *Idaho Code*.

Office of Veterans Advocacy – The Division provides assistance to Veterans in the Homes, as well as outreach and assistance to all Idaho Veterans and their families, in order to ensure they receive the benefits they are entitled. The office administers the Emergency Relief Program, which provides monetary assistance to qualified Veterans and their families. The Office of Veterans Advocacy (OVA), located at 444 Fort Street, Boise, in space furnished by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, is staffed with four (4) Service Officers and the Bureau Chief. An additional five (5) Service Officers are based in the Idaho State Veterans Homes—one (1) in Boise, two (2) in Lewiston and two (2) in Pocatello—and there is one (1) Service Officer based in Post Falls, one (1) Service Officer based in Twin Falls, and one (1) Service Officer based in Caldwell; all report to the OVA Bureau Chief. The Office of Veterans Advocacy also provides training and guidance to thirty-six (36) county Service Officers, to Veterans Service Organization Post Service Officers, and to Tribal Veterans Representatives. Title 65, Chapter 2, *Idaho Code*.

Veterans Education – The Division’s functions in this area include: approving programs at universities and colleges, flight training and vocational schools, to include apprenticeships and on the job training programs for Veterans and eligible beneficiaries to use their GI Bill® benefits; ensuring quality higher education instruction and vocational training at these institutions; confirming adherence to regulations and preventing waste, fraud and abuse by conducting supervisory, inspection, school, and VA requested visits at these institutions, as well as compliance audits at all facilities; providing technical assistance on GI Bill® policies and procedures for school certifying officials, and Veterans; conducting outreach through Transition Assistance Program briefings, job fairs, education fairs, Troop to Teachers programs, and Yellow Ribbon events to ensure all eligible persons are aware of the many educational opportunities available through the GI Bill®; and working with the U.S. and Idaho Department of Labor to identify companies with approvable training programs. The Veterans Education Bureau is further continuing to enhance workforce development activities with our partners and shareholders to provide additional educational opportunities to our active personnel who are considering returning or moving to Idaho.
Title 65, Chapter 2, *Idaho Code*.

Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
General Fund	\$964,300	\$969,373	\$1,056,400	\$1,068,300
Federal Funds	\$14,626,036	\$15,409,031	\$16,264,192	\$16,814,531
Miscellaneous Funds	\$15,487,069	\$14,473,774	\$14,564,067	\$13,017,349
Endowment Fund	\$642,500	\$751,584	\$924,000	\$924,000
Cemetery Maintenance Fund	\$44,706	\$47,401	\$52,453	\$63,090
Veterans Support Fund	\$66,272	\$125,426	\$150,340	\$85,399
Veterans Recognition Fun	<u>\$366,162</u>	<u>\$353,477</u>	<u>\$356,103</u>	<u>\$392,113</u>
Total	\$32,197,045	\$32,130,066	\$33,367,555	\$32,364,782
Expenditures	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Personnel Costs	\$18,519,727	\$19,453,585	\$21,755,445	\$21,440,927
Operating Expenditures	\$8,558,855	\$9,907,872	\$8,705,309	\$11,764,330
Capital Outlay	\$1,576,961	\$940,693	\$2,858,324	\$547,660
Trustee/Benefit Payments	<u>\$91,388</u>	<u>\$493,876</u>	<u>\$467,893</u>	<u>\$197,746</u>
Total	\$28,746,931	\$30,796,026	\$33,786,971	\$33,950,663

Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
New Veteran benefit dollars coming into Idaho	\$84,326,102	\$83,951,111	\$93,801,762	\$112,283,586
Number of claims filed with the Department of Veterans Affairs and other agencies	5,349	5,949	7,874	8,205
Number of Interments	673	729	728	779
Percent of occupied beds in nursing	88.3%	89.8%	86.0%	82.4%
Percent of occupied beds in domiciliary	86.5%	87.0%	89.2%	89.6%

FY 2018 Performance Highlights

There are more than 122,607 Veterans residing in Idaho. Federal Department of Veterans Affairs expenditures in Idaho are approximately \$998,236,000, broken down as follows: Compensation and pensions: \$489,439,000; readjustment benefits: \$55,480,000; medical and construction programs: \$453,841,000, and insurance and indemnities: \$8,870,000. There are also approximately 13,000 Idaho Veterans receiving retirement benefits (approx. 7,000 aged 65 or over), resulting in an additional contribution of almost \$300,000,000 to the State’s economy. We have experienced an increase in the number of Idaho Veterans as our service members have been

returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, and we expect this to continue at an even greater rate as our military downsizes. We have been working hard to stay ahead of these changes by increasing the number of Service Officers we have available to help ensure Idaho Veterans receive the benefits and compensation to which they are entitled.

The cemetery concluded FY18 with the most productive 4th Quarter in five years. They completed an unprecedented 779 interments for the year, which is the highest number of interments performed in single year ever and the most since 729 interments performed in FY16. Our operations saw an increase of 24% in the number of interment services from FY14 to FY18. The Veterans Cemetery continues to maintain a high operational tempo and continues to retain the best trained and highly proficient employees. The Veterans Cemetery continues to represent the citizens of Idaho with premier Veterans events with over 2,000 in attendance and over 4,300 holiday wreaths placed for Wreaths Across America. The Veterans Cemetery continues to improve and maintain our facilities with no deficiencies noted during annual inspections and improvements completed to seal the roads and improve drainage to reduce erosion.

Part II – Performance Measures

Performance Measure		FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Goal 1						
<i>Provide high quality advocacy and benefit assistance for all Idaho veterans and their families by:</i>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Expanding outreach activities.</i> <i>b. Improving capability of County Service Officers</i> <i>c. Adapting to the needs of the increasing number of Veterans from the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts, and of Vietnam Veterans now reaching out for assistance.</i> <i>d. Expanding partnerships with other entities serving Veterans, including those providing employment assistance, transportation and higher education.</i> 						
1. Number of claims filed with the Department of Veterans Affairs and other agencies.	actual	5,349	5,949	7,874	8,205	-----
	target	3,452	3,612	4,494	5,170	6,391
Goal 2						
<i>Provide superior long-term care and enhanced quality of life for all Idaho State Veterans Home residents by:</i>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Using best practices in all the Homes' departments.</i> <i>b. Continuing to enhance communication with residents and families.</i> 						
2. Percent of returned questionnaires from residents and families indicating satisfaction with services provided at the Veterans Homes.	actual	96%	95%	97%	97%	-----
	target	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
3. Number of satisfactory surveys of the Veterans Homes from state and federal survey agencies with no more tags issued than the federal or state average. Complaint surveys will be considered satisfactory if the complaint is not validated.	actual	6 100%	10 100%	8 100%	10 100%	-----
	target	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
4. Percent of occupied beds in Veterans Homes.	actual	88.1%	89.5%	86.4%	82.4	-----
	target	92%	92%	92%	88%	88%

Performance Measure		FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Goal 3						
<i>Honor Idaho Veterans and their families with respectful interment services in a dignified final resting place by:</i>						
<i>a. Operating the Idaho State Veterans' Cemetery in compliance with the national cemetery program.</i>						
5. Percent of returned questionnaires from families indicating satisfaction with interment services at the Cemetery.	actual	99%	100%	98%	97%	-----
	target	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Goal 4						
<i>Ensure high quality; well-managed education and training programs for Idaho Veterans by:</i>						
<i>a. Providing oversight for Veterans' education programs for all Idaho Veterans.</i>						
<i>b. Coordinating educational efforts with other Division, state, federal, and local programs.</i>						
6. Percent of compliance with VA national standards.	actual	100%	100%	100%	100%	-----
	target	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
7. Percent to process completed approval packages for training facilities within 30 calendar days, the VA national standard.	actual	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-----
	target	<i>New in NY 2019</i>	<i>New in FY 2019</i>	<i>New in FY 2019</i>	<i>New in FY 2019</i>	90%
Goal 5						
<i>Attract and retain excellent, compassionate staff and volunteers by:</i>						
<i>c. Ensuring staff and volunteers understand the requirements and expectations of their positions and are motivated to provide excellent customer service.</i>						
<i>d. Recognizing our superior staff and volunteers.</i>						
8. Annual volunteer hours in all programs.	actual	87,162	56,567	44,899	52,066	-----
	target	N/A	N/A	41,600	41,600	41,600
9. Percent of returned questionnaires from employees indicating satisfaction with internal recognition and morale enhancing efforts	actual	N/A	N/A	79%	77%	-----
	target	<i>New in FY 2017</i>	<i>New in FY 2017</i>	90%	90%	90%
Goal 6						
<i>Operate with efficiency, innovation and adaptability by:</i>						
<i>a. Using technology to increase staff efficiency and effectiveness.</i>						
10. Percent of returned employee questionnaires indicating satisfaction with IT programs, services, and resources.	actual	81%	92%	88%	96%	-----
	target	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%

For More Information Contact

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