



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Funding Highlights:

- Continues historic levels of support to veterans and their families by providing \$64 billion, a 4.5 percent increase over the 2012 enacted level, to allow the Department to deliver on its promise to care for veterans and their families while working to improve efficiency in a constrained fiscal environment.
- Prioritizes care for veterans and their families, including medical care for special conditions—such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury—long-term care, and benefits for veterans' caregivers.
- Continues the Administration's ongoing efforts to combat veteran homelessness.
- Recognizes and supports the unique needs of veterans who reside in rural areas.
- Provides \$32.7 million to help provide veterans a seamless transition from active duty to civilian life, through veteran employment and education counselors.
- Provides \$792 million to ensure timely activation of new and renovated medical facilities already under construction.
- Invests \$583 million for medical and prosthetic research efforts to advance the care and quality of life for veterans.
- Improves Department of Veterans Affairs efficiency and responsiveness by continuing the implementation of the paperless system and transformation efforts that will provide faster and more accurate benefits claims processing and improve veterans' access to benefits information.
- Requests \$54.5 billion in 2014 advance appropriations for medical care programs, to ensure adequate resources across fiscal years for medical care of veterans.

Our Nation has a solemn obligation to take care of our veterans as well as they took care of us. To deliver on this commitment, the President's 2013 Budget provides \$64 billion in discretionary funding, a 4.5 percent increase above 2012 levels. This increase will continue to drive improvements in efficiency and responsiveness in the Department of Veterans

Affairs (VA), enabling the Department to better serve veterans and their families at a time when much is being asked of our men and women in uniform. The Budget simplifies access to these benefits; ensures that we are meeting the needs of today's veteran population; and invests in the continued modernization of the VA to meet 21st Century challenges.

Sustains and Strengthens Services for Veterans

Supports Veteran Employment and Education Transition. To help our newest veterans transition to civilian life and find good jobs, the Budget provides \$32.7 million to fund 279 additional vocational rehabilitation and employment counselors to support the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) and VetSuccess on Campus initiatives. IDES and VetSuccess counselors ensure that veterans, especially wounded warriors and students, receive timely information about education opportunities, job counseling, and placement.

Activates New and Improved Health Care Facilities. The Budget includes \$792 million to help VA provide the best possible specialized care for veterans in new or renovated facilities. These funds will support the staff and equipment at VA facilities across the country, including new major medical centers already under construction in Las Vegas, Denver, and Orlando.

Supports Medical and Prosthetic Research. As part of the largest integrated health care system in the United States, the VA research program benefits from clinical care and research occurring together, allowing discoveries to be directly coordinated with the care of veterans. In particular, the Budget includes \$583 million in funds for medical and prosthetic research.

Combats Veterans Homelessness. The Budget invests over \$1 billion to provide VA services for homeless and at-risk veterans. These funds will help combat veteran homelessness through collaborative partnerships with local governments,

non-profit organizations, and the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Justice, and Labor.

Serves Rural Veterans. The President's Budget continues the historic funding level of \$250 million to improve access and quality of care for enrolled veterans residing in rural areas by supporting their unique needs. In addition, the Budget supports a new initiative to enable the National Cemetery Administration to purchase small parcels in existing local cemeteries and establish a national cemetery presence in previously underserved rural areas.

Improves Efficiency in Benefits Delivery

Continues Implementation of the Paperless Claims System to Boost Efficiency and Responsiveness. The Budget includes funding to support transformation initiatives, including the continued development of a digital, near-paperless environment that allows for greater exchange of information and increased transparency for veterans. Specifically, the request includes \$128 million for the Veterans Benefit Management System, designed to reduce the processing time and the claim backlog, facilitate quality improvements through rules-based tools, and automate claims tracking.

Improves Efficiency and Access to Comprehensive Services and Benefits. The Budget continues support for VA efforts to ensure consistent, personalized, and accurate information about services and benefits, especially in the delivery of compensation and pension claims processing, in order to improve the speed, effectiveness, and efficiency of service delivery of benefits.

Effectively Utilizes Multi-Year Funding to Manage VA Medical Care. The Administration proposes \$54.5 billion in advance appropriations for the VA medical care program in 2014, which enables timely and predictable funding for VA's medical care to prevent our veterans from being adversely affected by budget delays.

Department of Veterans Affairs
(In millions of dollars)

	Actual 2011	Estimate	
		2012	2013
Spending			
Discretionary Budget Authority:			
Medical Care	48,137	50,633	52,721
<i>Medical Collections (non-add)</i>	2,772	2,767	2,966
<i>Total Medical Care including collections (non-add)</i>	50,909	53,400	55,687
Medical and Prosthetic Research	580	581	583
Information Technology	2,992	3,104	3,327
Construction.....	1,672	1,203	1,270
Veterans Benefits Administration	2,133	2,019	2,164
General Administration	397	417	417
Housing and Other Credit	166	156	159
National Cemetery Administration	249	251	258
Office of Inspector General	109	112	113
Total, Discretionary budget authority.....	56,434	58,476	61,012
Total, Discretionary outlays	56,567	58,819	60,384
Mandatory Outlays:			
Disability Compensation and Pensions.....	57,578	56,193	64,521
Education Benefits	9,908	11,166	12,633
Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment:			
Existing law	797	949	1,067
Legislative proposals			16
Housing (credit):			
Existing law	1,383	1,667	179
Legislative proposals			1
Insurance	82	100	105
All other.....	609	299	842
Total, Mandatory outlays	70,357	70,374	79,354
Total, Outlays	126,924	129,193	139,748
Credit activity			
Direct Loan Disbursements:			
Vendee and Acquired Loans.....	258	1,140	1,325
All other programs.....	10	14	14
Total, Direct loan disbursements.....	268	1,154	1,339

Department of Veterans Affairs—Continued
(In millions of dollars)

	Actual 2011	Estimate	
		2012	2013
Guaranteed Loan Disbursements by Private Lenders:			
Veterans Home Loans	71,931	63,941	49,640
Total, Guaranteed loan disbursements by private lenders	71,931	63,941	49,640