

Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission

Meeting Agenda

June 5th, 2026 at 10:00AM

Location: Hartranft Conference Room

1000	Call to Order	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	Moment of Silence	Vice-Chair Michael Brooker
	Pledge of Allegiance	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	Introduction of Commission Members	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	Vice-Chair's Opening Remarks	Vice-Chair Michael Brooker
	Chairman's Opening Remarks	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	TAG's Opening Remarks and Comments	Mr. Marc Ferraro
	Approval of 10 April 2026 Meeting Minutes	Requires Vote
	Committee Reports	
	- Governance Committee - Legislative - Pensions/Relief/Grave Markings - RETX - Transportation - Veterans' Health - VSO Grant - Women Veterans	Mr. Michael Brooker Mr. Mark Baylis Mr. Larry Googins Mr. Jesiah Schrader Mr. Robert Hammaker Mr. Leonard Johnson Mr. Robert Hammaker Ms. Pauline Bozdech-Veater
	Unfinished Business	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	- Status Of IAWV seat - Signature Page - House Executive Director, Rick O'Leary- Hall of Fame Recognition - VA Security Clearances - VTF Funding report - MST Report "Contact us" Link - Mr. Kanis Ombudsman Proposal	Chairman Nicholas Taylor Chairman Nicholas Taylor Chairman Nicholas Taylor Chairman Nicholas Taylor Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	New Business	
	Employment Navigator & Partnership Program	Ms. Marilyn Kelly-Cavotta Mr. Michael Brooker Mr. Bruce Kanis Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	Reading of Official and Other Communications	Mr. Jeff Hanks
	DAG-VA Opening Remarks and Report	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	- PPL, BVH, PIRO - Programs Report	BG (PA) Maureen Weigl
	VISN 4	Requires Vote
	PAWVC Update	Ms. Jennifer Harkins
	Agenda Items for Next Meeting	Mr. Bill Zelner
	Good of the Order	SVC Commissioners
	Closing Remarks	SVC Commissioners
	Next Meeting	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	11 September 2026, at 1000	
	Location: Hartranft Conference Room	
	Retiring of the Colors	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	Adjournment	Chairman Nicholas Taylor



STATE VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING 5 JUNE 2026

As it is against the law in Pennsylvania to record, by audio and/or video, someone else without their permission under most circumstances, please note that this meeting will be recorded for administrative purposes only. By continuing to participate, you are providing your consent.

CURRENT AND FUTURE UNIT MOBILIZATIONS



Pennsylvania
**Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs**

2026					2027													
JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT		
252 EN - SWB - 125 PAX												28 FMSU - OSS 26-28 - 18 PAX						
109 MPAD - EDI 25-27 - 10 PAX												55 MEB / 213 SC -						
131 TC - OAR - 157 PAX																		
2-641 AV - 4 PAX																		
				1-109 IN / C876 EN - OSS 26-28 - 277 PAX														
				228 EN - SWB 26-28 - 125 PAX														
				928 FI - OIR 26-28 - 18 PAX														
				2 IBCT - CT EXORD - AFRICOM 26-28 (HOA) - 939 PAX														
					FLEE/FLEW- (DJI,GER) - 14 PAX													
					1955 CT - OIR 26-28 - 5 PAX													
										107 FA - OIR 26-28 - 73 PAX								
ARNG Unit Soldiers in Theater: 286																		
ARNG Soldiers at MOB/DEMOB Site: 4																		
ARNG Individual Mob: 5																		
Total ARNG Mob: 295																		

As of 19May26

> community > commonwealth > country



Agent Orange / Toxic Exposure report May 2026

If you are a veteran who served on active duty in any of the locations on this list during military service the Veterans Administration will automatically assume or presume that you were exposed to Agent Orange.

In the Republic of Vietnam or aboard a US military vessel that operated in the inland waterways of Vietnam or on a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles Seward from the demarcation line of the Waters of Vietnam and Cambodia.

Any US or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from January 9th, 1962, through June 30th, 1976 or Laos from December 1st, 1965 through September 30th, 1969.

Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16th, 1969 through April 30th, 1969.

Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial Waters off Guam or American Samoa from January 9th, 1962 through July 30th, 1980.

Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from January 1st, 1972 through September 30th, 1977 .

Or at least one of these must be true;

You served in or near the Korean demilitarized zone (DMZ) For any length of time between September 1st, 1967 and August 31st, 1971 or you served on active duty and a regular Air Force unit location where a C-123 aircraft with traces of Agent Orange was assigned and had repeated contact with this aircraft due to your flight ,ground or medical duties or you were involved in transporting, testing ,storing or other uses of Agent Orange during your military service or you were assigned as reservist to certain flight ground or medical crew duties at one of the locations listed below.

Lockbourne/ Rickenbacker Air Force Base in Ohio, 1969 to 1986 (906 and 907 Tactical Air groups or 355th and 356 tactical Airlift squadrons)

Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts 1972 to 1982(731st Tactical Air Squadron and 74th aeromedical evacuation Squadron or 901st organizational maintenance Squadron)

Pittsburgh International Airport in Pennsylvania 1972 to 1982(758th airlift Squadron)

If a veteran served in any of these locations and time periods they are eligible for the new Gulf War related presumptions this includes the airspace above any of these locations. On or after August 2nd, 1990: Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia Somalia United Arab Emirates(UEA), On or after September 11th, 2001: Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt ,Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Uzbekistan

MST Key Updates



Beyond MST
App available iOS and
Android

-



Legislation of Interest to State Veterans Commission Members

Blind veteran's pension and for amputee and paralyzed veteran's pension

HB1144 (Williams, Dan) An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in veterans' pensions and benefits, further providing for blind veteran's pension and for amputee and paralyzed veteran's pension. **Passed House, Referred to Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee**

SB534 (Ward) An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in veterans' pensions and benefits, further providing for blind veteran's pension and for amputee and paralyzed veteran's pension. **Passed 2nd Consideration in Senate, Re-referred to Senate Appropriations**

Grants to veterans' service officer programs

HB471 (Markosek) An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in veterans' organizations, further providing for grants to veterans' service officer programs. **Referred to House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee**

HB2439 (Markosek) An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in veterans' organizations, further providing for grants to veterans' service officer programs. **Passed 1st Consideration.**

Disabled Veteran Real Estate Tax Exemption

HB1257 (Probst) A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for exemptions and special provisions. **Passed House, Referred to the Senate State Government Committee**

Pension Poaching

HB1918 (Delozier) An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, providing for prohibiting the receipt of compensation with regard to veterans' benefits. **Referred to House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee**

SB1209 (Pennycuick) An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in State Veterans' Commission and Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs, further providing for Veterans' Trust Fund; in veterans' organizations, further providing for grants to veterans' service officer programs and providing for veterans' claims assistance standards; and imposing penalties. **Passed 2nd Consideration in Senate, Re-referred to Senate Appropriations**



2025-2026 Session

General Assembly

Senate: JUN 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30 SEP 28, 29, 30 OCT 5, 6, 7, 19, 20 21 NOV 17, 18

[Senate Session - PA State Senate](#)

House: JUN 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, SEP 28, 29, 30 OCT 5, 6, 7, 19, 20 21 NOV 9, 10

[House Session - PA House of Representatives](#)

2026 is a “sine die” year, current legislation will need to be reintroduced in 2027

[Senate Appropriations](#): Chairs Senator Martin & Senator Hughes

[House Appropriations](#): Chairs Representative Harris & Representative Struzzi

[Senate Leadership](#): Leaders Senator Martin & Senator Pittman

[House Leadership](#): Leaders Representative Bradford & Representative Topper

2026 Pennsylvania Elections: [Upcoming Elections](#)

Nov 3, 2026 General Election

Last day to register to vote: Oct 19, 2026

Last day to request a mail-in or absentee ballot: Oct 27, 2026

General Assembly Legislative Website: [Bills & Resolutions - The Official Website of the Pennsylvania General Assembly](#)

Policy, Planning, and Legislative Affairs



Pennsylvania
Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs

Introduced	Initial Committee	1 st Consideratio	2 nd Consideratio	Appropriation	3 rd Consideratio	2 nd Chamber Committee	1 st Consideratio	2 nd Consideratio	2 nd Chamber Appropriation	3 rd Consideratio	Presented to the Gov	Signed by Gov
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

Bill Number	Title	Primary sponsor	Last action	Progress Code
HB1405	An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in certification of teachers, further providing for career and technical instructional certificate.	Rep. Brian Munroe (D)	2025-10-27 Act 41 of 2025	13
HB304	An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, providing for veteran of Korean Armed Forces.	Rep. Melissa Cerrato (D)	2025-06-30 Act 10 of 2025	13
HB414	An Act amending Titles 23 (Domestic Relations) and 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, enacting the Uniform Deployed Parents Custody and Visitation Act; making repeals; and making editorial changes.	Rep. Craig Williams (R)	2025-10-27 Act 40 of 2025	13
HB491	An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in juvenile matters, providing for concurrent jurisdiction on military installations.	Rep. Chris Pielli (D)	2025-06-27 Act 6 of 2025	13
HB553	An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Governor and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, to convey to Tioga County a tract of land, and to accept a tract of land from Tioga County, both tracts being located in Charleston Township, Tioga County;	Rep. Nate Davidson (D)	2025-06-30 Act 12 of 2025	13
HB799	An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for veterans' benefits and services workplace posting; and making an editorial change.	Rep. Daniel J. Deasy (D)	2025-07-07 Act 31 of 2025	13
HB865	An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Military Family Education Program, further providing for definitions, for eligibility, for Military Family Education Program grants and for limitations.	Rep. Arvind Venkat (D)	2025-07-07 Act 32 of 2025	13
SB1036	An Act amending Title 73 (Townships) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, consolidating the First Class Township Code; and making a repeal.	Sen. Dawn W. Keefer (R)	2026-02-11 Act 7 of 2026	13
SB129	An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, further providing for advisory councils for veterans' homes.	Sen. Doug Mastriano (R)	2025-06-30 Act 20 of 2025	13

As of 26 MAY 2026

> community > commonwealth > country

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SB232	An Act amending Title 30 (Fish) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in fishing licenses, further providing for disabled veterans and former prisoners of war and for deployed Pennsylvania National Guard members and repealing provisions relating to reserve component of armed forces members.					Sen. Tracy Pennycuick (R)	2025-06-30 Act 21 of 2025					13
SB327	An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in employees, further providing for automatic certification.					Sen. Chris Gebhard (R)	2026-02-11 Act 5 of 2026					13
SB475	An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in organization and jurisdiction of courts of common pleas, further providing for problem-solving courts; and, in sentencing, further providing for modification or revocation of order of probation.					Sen. Amanda M. Cappelletti (D)	2025-07-21 Act 38 of 2025					13
HB482	An Act authorizing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to join the Interstate Compact; providing for the form of the compact; and imposing additional powers and duties on the Governor, the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the Compact.					Rep. Brandon J. Markosek (D)	2025-07-14 S - Referred to - Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, 2026-02-04 S - Reported as amended Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, 2026-02-04 S - First consideration, 2026-03-16 S - Second consideration , 2026-03-16 S - Re-referred to Senate Appropriations					9
HB993	An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in veteran-owned small businesses, providing for veteran-owned business logotype; and imposing a penalty.					Rep. John C. Inglis III (D)	2025-05-06 H - Third consideration and final passage, 2025-05-12 S - Referred to - Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, 2026-03-17 S - Reported as amended Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, 2026-03-17 S - First consideration					8
SB130	An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, providing for burial benefits.					Sen. Doug Mastriano (R)	2025-06-04 H - First consideration, 2025-09-29 H - Placed on HVS, 2025-11-17 H - Laid on the table (Pursuant to House Rule 71)					8
SB146	An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in State Veterans' Commission and Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs, further providing for Veterans' Trust Fund.					Sen. Lisa Baker (R)	2025-10-29 H - First consideration , 2025-10-29 H - Laid on the table, 2025-11-17 H - Removed from table , 2025-11-17 H - First Consideration Rescinded , 2025-11-17 H - Reconsider the Vote by which the House Accepted the Report of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee that Contained Senate Bill 146, H - Reported as amended - House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness					8

As of 26 MAY 2026

> community > commonwealth > country

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SB173	An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, providing for veteran of Korean Armed Forces.				Sen. Tracy Pennycuik (R)		2025-03-19 H - First consideration					8
SB308	An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in military educational programs relating to medical officer or health officer incentive program, further providing for definitions, for establishment of program, for program stipend, for additional incentives, for recoupment of incentive payments, for adjustment of stipend amounts and for eligibility; and making editorial changes.				Sen. Scott Hutchinson (R)		2025-06-04 H - First consideration					8
SB331	An Act authorizing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to join the Cosmetology Licensure Compact; and providing for the form of the compact.				Sen. David G. Argall (R)		2026-03-24 H - Reported as committed House Professional Licensure, 2026-03-24 H - First consideration , 2026-03-24 H - Laid on the table					8
SB511	An Act amending Title 38 (Holidays and Observances) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in veteran recognition, providing for Korean War Veterans Armistice Day.				Sen. Doug Mastriano (R)		2025-06-09 S - Third consideration and final passage , 2025-06-10 H - Referred to - House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, 2026-05-06 H - Voted Favorably From Committee House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness ,					8
SB64	An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in military leave of absence, further providing for military family relief assistance; in veteran-owned small businesses, providing for veteran-owned business logotype; and imposing a penalty.				Sen. Camera Bartolotta (R)		2025-09-09 S - Third consideration and final passage , 2025-09-10 H - Referred to - House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, 2026-05-06 H - Voted Favorably From Committee as Amended House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness , 2026-05-06 H - Reported as amended House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness , 2026-05-06 H - First consideration , 2026-05-06 H - Laid on the table					8
SB1020	An Act amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in hunting and furtaking licenses, further providing for resident license and fee exemptions.				Sen. Chris Gebhard (R)		2025-11-18 S - Third consideration and final passage , 2025-11-19 H - Referred to - House Game and Fisheries - House Game and Fisheries					7
HB1102	An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in military educational programs relating to medical officer or health officer incentive program, further providing for definitions, for establishment of program, for program stipend, for additional incentives, for recoupment of incentive payments, for adjustment of stipend amounts and for eligibility; and making editorial changes.				Rep. Chris Pielli (D)		2025-05-05 H - Third consideration and final passage , 2025-05-16 S - Referred to Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness					6

As of 26 MAY 2026

> community > commonwealth > country

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
HB1144	An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in veterans' pensions and benefits, further providing for blind veteran's pension and for amputee and paralyzed veteran's pension.					Rep. Dan K. Williams (D)	2025-05-22 H - Third consideration and final passage, 2025-05-22 S - referred to Senate VAEP					6
HB1257	A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for exemptions and special provisions.					Rep. Tarah Probst (D)	2025-06-16 H - Reported as amended - House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, 2025-06-16 H - First consideration, 2025-06-16 H - Re-committed to - House Rules, 2025-12-15 H - Placed on HVS, 2025-12-15 H - Placed on HVS , 2025-12-16 H - Laid out for discussion , 2025-12-16 H - Amended, bill gone over, 2026-03-23 H - Laid out for discussion , 2026-03-23 H - Second consideration, with amendments , 2026-03-23 H - Re-committed to House Appropriations, 2026-03-24 H - Voted Favorably From Committee House Appropriations, 2026-03-24 H - Re-reported as committed House Appropriations, 2026-03-24 H - Laid out for discussion , 2026-03-24 H - Third consideration and final passage					6
HB1738	An Act amending Titles 8 (Boroughs and Incorporated Towns) and 11 (Cities) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in corporate power relating to boroughs, further providing for specific powers; in veterans' affairs relating to boroughs, further providing for care and erection of memorials; in corporate powers relating to third class cities, providing for control, maintenance and repair of memorials; and, in veterans' affairs relating to third class cities, further providing for care of memorials.					Rep. Robert Freeman (D)	2026-02-02 H - Third consideration and final passage					6
HB1768	An Act establishing the Keystone Fresh Program; providing for the Fresh Schools Grant Program, for the Keystone Producer Grant Program, for the Keystone Assistance Grant Program and for the administration of the Keystone Fresh Program by the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture; and establishing the Keystone Fresh Fund.					Rep. Danilo Burgos (D)	2025-12-16 H - Third consideration and final passage, 2025-12-22 S - Referred to Senate Education - Senate Education					6

As of 26 MAY 2026

> community > commonwealth > country

Policy, Planning, and Legislative Affairs



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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
HB2024	An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in State Veterans' Commission and Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs, further providing for accreditation.					Rep. Melissa L. Shusterman (D)	2025-11-10 H - Introduced , 2025-11-12 H - Referred to - House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, 2025-12-16 H - Voted Favorably From Committee House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, 2025-12-16 H - Reported as committed House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, 2025-12-16 H - First consideration , 2025-12-16 H - Laid on the table, 2026-02-04 H - Removed from table , 2026-03-23 H - Placed on HVS, 2026-03-23 H - Placed on HVS , 2026-03-23 H - Second consideration , 2026-03-23 H - Re-committed to House Appropriations, 2026-03-24 H - Voted Favorably From Committee House Appropriations, 2026-03-24 H - Re-reported as committed House Appropriations, 2026-03-24 H - Laid out for discussion , 2026-03-24 H - Third consideration and final passage					6
HB2400	An Act to provide appropriations from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments of the Commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026; to provide appropriations from special funds and accounts to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026; to provide for the appropriation of Federal funds to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026; and to provide for the additional appropriation of Federal and State funds to the Executive and Legislative Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.					Rep. Jordan A. Harris (D)	2026-04-13 H - Removed from table , 2026-04-13 H - Placed on HVS , 2026-04-13 H - Second consideration , 2026-04-13 H - Re-committed to House Appropriations, 2026-04-14 H - Voted Favorably From Committee House Appropriations , 2026-04-14 H - Re-reported as committed House Appropriations, 2026-04-14 H - Laid out for discussion , 2026-04-14 H - Third consideration and final passage , 2026-05-06 H - Press Conference Held - PA Schools Work PC					6
HB348	An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, in departmental powers and duties as to licensing, providing for notice of legal representation for medical assistance.					Rep. Timothy R. Bonner (R)	2026-01-28 H - Third consideration and final passage, 2026-01-30 S - Referred to Senate Health and Human Services					6

As of 26 MAY 2026

> community > commonwealth > country

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HB410	An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in licensing of drivers, further providing for issuance and content of driver's license.					Rep. Jennifer O'Mara (D)	2025-03-24 H - Third consideration and final passage , 2025-03-25 S - Referred to - Senate Transportation					6
HB458	An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in post-trial matters, further providing for eligibility for relief, providing for postconviction review for veterans with service-connected mental health disability and further providing for jurisdiction and proceedings; and, in sentencing, further providing for sentencing procedure for murder of the first degree.					Rep. Carol Hill-Evans (D)	2025-12-16 H - Third consideration and final passage, 2025-12-22 S - Referred to Senate Judiciary					6
HB469	An Act amending the act of August 5, 1977 (P.L.181, No.47), entitled "An act providing for the acceptance by the Governor of jurisdiction relinquished by the United States to the Commonwealth over lands within the Commonwealth's boundaries," further providing for general provisions and for procedure relating to concurrent jurisdiction over military installations.					Rep. Kristine C. Howard (D)	2026-02-04 H - Third consideration and final passage, 2026-02-27 S - Referred to Senate State Government					6
HB562	An Act amending the act of June 13, 1883 (P.L.118, No.105), entitled "An act ceding concurrent jurisdiction of this State over certain lands owned or hereafter acquired by the United States," providing for concurrent jurisdiction in juvenile cases.					Rep. Dan K. Williams (D)	2025-02-12 H - Referred to - House Intergovernmental Affairs and Operations, 2025-12-15 H - Voted Favorably From Committee House Intergovernmental Affairs and Operations, 2025-12-15 H - Reported as committed House Intergovernmental Affairs and Operations, 2025-12-15 H - First consideration , 2025-12-15 H - Laid on the table, 2026-02-04 H - Removed from table , 2026-03-23 H - Placed on HVS, 2026-03-23 H - Placed on HVS , 2026-03-23 H - Second consideration , 2026-03-23 H - Re-committed to House Appropriations, 2026-03-24 H - Voted Favorably From Committee House Appropriations, 2026-03-24 H - Re-reported as committed House Appropriations - House Appropriations, 2026-03-24 H - Laid out for discussion , 2026-03-24 H - Third consideration and final passage					6

As of 26 MAY 2026

> community > commonwealth > country

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
HB886	An Act amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general administration relating to correctional institutions, providing for prerelease briefings on veterans benefits.					Rep. Joe Webster (D)	2026-02-03 H - Third consideration and final passage					6
HB968	An Act amending Titles 30 (Fish) and 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in fishing licenses, providing for active duty military fishing reciprocity and for disabled veteran annual fishing license reciprocity; and, in hunting and furtaking licenses, providing for active duty military hunting reciprocity and for disabled veteran annual hunting license reciprocity.					Rep. Chris Pielli (D)	2025-06-23 H - Third consideration and final passage , 2025-06-24 S - Referred to - Senate Game and Fisheries					6
SB472	An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, in administrative organization, further providing for department heads, for gubernatorial appointments and for deputies.					Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill (R)	2025-04-02 S - Third consideration and final passage , 2025-04-03 H - Referred to - House State Government					6
SB533	An Act amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in hunting and furtaking licenses, further providing for license requirements; and, in special licenses and permits, further providing for regulated hunting grounds permits.					Sen. Devlin J. Robinson (R)	2025-11-10 H - Meeting Scheduled - 11/18/2025, 9:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House Game and Fisheries), - Voting Meeting, 2025-11-18 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Game and Fisheries, 2025-11-18 H - Reported as committed - House Game and Fisheries, 2025-11-18 H - First consideration , 2025-11-18 H - Laid on the table					6
SB417	An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, further providing for Fort Indiantown Gap; and establishing the Service Members, Veterans and their Families Fund.					Sen. Chris Gebhard (R)	04/01/2025 S - Reported as committed - Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, 04/01/2025 S - First consideration, 04/02/2025 S - Second consideration, 04/02/2025 S - Re-referred to - Senate Appropriations, 05/02/2025 S - Meeting Scheduled - 05/05/2025 - Voting Meeting (Senate Appropriations), Rules Committee Conference Room, 05/05/2025 S - Voted Favorably From Committee - Senate Appropriations, 05/05/2025 S - Re-reported as committed - Senate Appropriations, 06/03/2025 S - Laid on the table					5

As of 26 MAY 2026

> community > commonwealth > country

Policy, Planning, and Legislative Affairs



Pennsylvania
Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs

Introduced	Initial Committee	1 st Consideratio	2 nd Consideratio	Appropriation	3 rd Consideratio	2 nd Chamber Committee	1 st Consideratio	2 nd Consideratio	2 nd Chamber Appropriation	3 rd Consideratio	Presented to the Gov	Signed by Gov
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
HB200	An Act establishing the Family and Medical Leave Program, the Family and Medical Leave Fund and the Family and Medical Leave Advisory Board; conferring powers and imposing duties on the Department of Labor and Industry; and imposing penalties.				Rep. Dan L. Miller (D)		2025-03-18 H - Voted Favorably From Committee - House Labor and Industry - House Labor and Industry, 2025-03-18 H - Reported as committed - House Labor and Industry - House Labor and Industry, 2025-03-18 H - First consideration, March 18, 2025, 2025-06-11 H - Removed from table , 2025-06-16 H - Placed on HVS, 2025-11-17 H - Laid on the table (Pursuant to House Rule 71), 2026-03-24 H - Removed from table , 2026-03-24 H - Laid out for discussion , 2026-03-24 H - Second consideration, with amendments, 2026-03-24 H - Re-committed to House Appropriations				4	
HB2401	An Act providing for the capital budget for fiscal year 2026-2027.				Rep. Jordan A. Harris (D)		2026-04-14 H - Removed from table , 2026-04-15 H - Placed on HVS , 2026-04-15 H - Second consideration , 2026-04-15 H - Re-committed to House Appropriations				4	
HB2402	An Act providing for the capital budget for fiscal year 2026-2027; itemizing public improvement projects, furniture and equipment projects, transportation assistance, flood control projects, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission projects and Manufacturing Fund projects leased or assisted by the Department of General Services and other State agencies, together with their estimated financial costs; authorizing the incurring of debt without the approval of the electors for the purpose of financing the projects to be constructed, acquired or assisted by the Department of General Services and other State agencies; authorizing the use of current revenue for the purpose of financing the projects to be constructed, acquired or assisted by the Department of General Services and other State agencies stating the estimated useful life of the projects; and making appropriations.				Rep. Jordan A. Harris (D)		2026-04-14 H - Removed from table , 2026-04-15 H - Placed on HVS , 2026-04-15 H - Second consideration , 2026-04-15 H - Re-committed to House Appropriations				4	
HB706	An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in firearms and other dangerous articles, further providing for licenses.				Rep. David H. Zimmerman (R)		2025-09-29 H - Placed on HVS , 2025-09-29 H - Second consideration , 2025-09-29 H - Re-committed to - House Appropriations				4	

As of 26 MAY 2026

> community > commonwealth > country

Policy, Planning, and Legislative Affairs



Pennsylvania
Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs

Introduced	Initial Committee	1 st Consideratio	2 nd Consideratio	Appropriation	3 rd Consideratio	2 nd Chamber Committee	1 st Consideratio	2 nd Consideratio	2 nd Chamber Appropriation	3 rd Consideratio	Presented to the Gov	Signed by Gov
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
HB771	An Act amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in the Secretary of the Commonwealth, further providing for requirements relating to voter identification; in preparation for and conduct of primaries and elections, further providing for manner of applying to vote, persons entitled to vote, voter's certificates, entries to be made in district register, numbered lists of voters and challenges; and, in voting by qualified absentee electors, further providing for canvassing of official absentee ballots and mail-in ballots.					Rep. Thomas L. Mehaffie (R)	2025-05-06 H - Laid on the table , 2025-05-07 H - Removed from table , 2025-05-12 H - Placed on HVS , 2025-05-12 H - Second consideration , 2025-05-12 H - Re-committed to House Appropriations - House Appropriations					4
SB1209	An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in State Veterans' Commission and Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs, further providing for Veterans' Trust Fund; in veterans' organizations, further providing for grants to veterans' service officer programs and providing for veterans' claims assistance standards; and imposing penalties.					Sen. Tracy Pennycuick (R)	2026-03-11 S - Introduced , 2026-03-11 S - Referred to Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, 2026-03-13 S - Meeting Scheduled - 03/17/2026, 10:30 AM - Voting Meeting (Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness), Room 8E-B, East Wing 3/17/26 10:30 AM - Voting Meeting, Room 8E-B, East Wing, 2026-03-17 S - Voted Favorably From Committee as Amended Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, 2026-03-17 S - Reported as amended Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, 2026-03-17 S - First consideration, 2026-03-18 S - Second consideration, 2026-03-18 S - Re-referred to Senate Appropriations					4
SB144	An Act providing compensation to persons in active service in connection with the Global War on Terrorism or their beneficiaries; authorizing the incurring of indebtedness and the issue and sale of bonds by the Commonwealth for the payment of compensation contingent upon electorate approval; establishing the Global War on Terrorism Veterans' Compensation Bond Fund and the Global War on Terrorism Veterans' Compensation Bond Sinking Fund; imposing a penalty; making appropriations; and making a repeal.					Sen. Doug Mastriano (R)	2025-01-29 S - Second consideration , 2025-01-29 S - Re-referred to - Senate Appropriations					4

As of 26 MAY 2026

> community > commonwealth > country

Policy, Planning, and Legislative Affairs



Pennsylvania
Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
SB436	An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in child protective services, further providing for definitions, for reporting procedure, for disposition of complaints received, for responsibility for investigation, for access to information in Statewide database, for information in Statewide database and for release of information in confidential reports.					Sen. Tracy Pennycuik (R)	2025-06-23 S - Second consideration , 2025-06-23 S - Re-referred to - Senate Appropriations					4
SB534	An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in veterans' pensions and benefits, further providing for blind veteran's pension and for amputee and paralyzed veteran's pension.					Sen. Judy Ward (R)	2025-05-06 S - Second consideration , 2025-05-06 S - Re-referred to - Senate Appropriations					4
HB1126	An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in personal income tax, further providing for classes of income; in corporate net income tax, further providing for definitions; and providing for personal health investment tax credit.					Rep. Nancy Guerst (D)	2025-04-08 H - First consideration					3
HB1269	An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, in administrative organization, further providing for advisory boards and commissions; and, in powers and duties of the Department of Health and its departmental administrative and advisory boards, establishing the Brain Injury Advisory Board.					Rep. Shelby Labs (R)	2025-05-07 H - First consideration, 2025-11-17 H - Press Conference Held - Brain Injury Awareness Day PC					3
HB1342	An Act amending the act of June 28, 1995 (P.L.89, No.18), known as the Conservation and Natural Resources Act, in Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, further providing for fees and charges.					Rep. Mike Armanini (R)	2025-06-26 H - Voted Favorably From Committee as Amended - House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness - House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness , 2025-06-26 H - Reported as amended - House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness - House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, 2025-06-26 H - First consideration , 2025-06-26 H - Re-committed to - House Rules - House Rules					3
HB1806	An Act amending Title 38 (Holidays and Observances) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in veteran recognition, providing for 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day.					Rep. Napoleon J. Nelson (D)	2025-08-14 H - Introduced , 2025-08-15 H - Referred to - House State Government - House State Government, 2026-02-03 H - Voted Favorably From Committee House State Government, 2026-02-03 H - Reported as committed House State Government, 2026-02-03 H - First consideration , 2026-02-03 H - Laid on the table					3

As of 26 MAY 2026

> community > commonwealth > country

Policy, Planning, and Legislative Affairs



Pennsylvania
Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs

Introduced	Initial Committee	1 st Consideratio	2 nd Consideratio	Appropriation	3 rd Consideratio	2 nd Chamber Committee	1 st Consideratio	2 nd Consideratio	2 nd Chamber Appropriation	3 rd Consideratio	Presented to the Gov	Signed by Gov
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
HB2449	An Act amending the act of March 4, 1970 (P.L.128, No.49), entitled "An act granting to the Governor of the Commonwealth the sole authority for regulating the display of the flag of the United States from any public ground or building and from any ground or building of				Rep. Nancy Guent (D)		2026-05-06 H - Voted Favorably From Committee House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness - House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness , 2026-05-06 H - Reported as committed House Veterans Affairs and Emergency				3	
HB412	An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Pennsylvania National Guard, further providing for association group life insurance for Pennsylvania National Guard.				Rep. Joe Hamm (R)		2025-02-04 H - First consideration				3	
HB427	An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, providing for burial benefits.				Rep. Craig T. Staats (R)		2025-02-04 H - First consideration				3	
HB430	An Act imposing the duty on Department of Environmental Protection to prohibit the construction or installation of wind turbines that negatively affect military installations.				Rep. Zachary Mako (R)		2025-03-17 H - First consideration , 2025-04-09 H - Removed from table , 2025-04-22 H - Placed on HVS , 2025-06-04 H - Laid on the table (Pursuant to House Rule 71), 2025-11-17 H - Laid on the table (Pursuant to House Rule 71)				3	
HB862	An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Governor and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, to convey to Tioga County a tract of land, and to accept a tract of land from Tioga County, both tracts being located in Charleston Township, Tioga County.				Rep. Clint Owlett (R)		2025-05-13 H - First consideration				3	
SB835	An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in grounds and buildings, further providing for display of United States flag and development of patriotism.				Sen. Tracy Pennycuik (R)		2026-03-20 S - Meeting Scheduled - 03/23/2026, 12:00 PM - Voting Meeting (Senate Education), Room 8E-A, East Wing 3/23/26 12:00 PM - Voting Meeting, Room 8E-A, East Wing, 2026-03-23 S - Voted Favorably From Committee Senate Education, 2026-03-23 S - Reported as committed Senate Education, 2026-03-23 S - First consideration, 2026-04-17 S - Meeting Scheduled - 04/20/2026 - Voting Meeting (Senate Appropriations), Rules Committee Conference Room 4/20/26 - Voting Meeting, Rules Committee Conference Room, 2026-04-20 H - Second consideration , 2026-04-20 H - Re-referred to House Appropriations - House Appropriations				3	
HB575	An Act amending Titles 51 (Military Affairs) and 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in professional and occupational licenses, further providing for definitions and providing for policy for the award of academic credit for military training; and making editorial changes.				Rep. Jacob D. Banta (R)		2025-03-17 H - Reported with request to re-refer to the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee - House Education - House Education, 2025-03-17 H - Re-referred to - House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness - House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, 2025-03-17 H - Corrective Reprint, Printer's No. 959, March 17, 2025				2	

As of 26 MAY 2026

> community > commonwealth > country

Survey Update



Pennsylvania
Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs

SVH Survey Table as of May 22, 2026					SVH Survey Table as of May 22, 2026				
SVH	Regulatory Agency	Survey Reason/Type	Survey Date(s)	Status/comments	SVH	Regulatory Agency	Survey Reason/Type	Survey Date(s)	Status/comments
DVVH	DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	07/21/25 - 07/24/25	Cleared	PSSH	DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	03/10/26 - 03/13/26	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Incident	04/23/26	Cleared		DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	05/04/26	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	04/13/26	POC accepted, date certain 5/8		DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	12/23/25	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	02/09/26	Cleared		DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	11/14/25	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	01/07/26	Cleared		DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	03/17/26	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Incident	10/21/25	Cleared		DHS	Annual Recertification	02/05/26 - 02/06/26	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	09/10/25	Cleared		DHS	Abbreviated - Incident	12/16/25	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	08/21/25	Cleared		VA	Annual Recertification	02/09/26 - 02/13/26	Cleared
	DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	07/22/25	Cleared					
	VA	Annual Recertification	12/16/25 - 12/19/25	CAP accepted, date certain 5/1	SEVC	DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	05/06/25 - 05/09/25	Cleared
GMVC	DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	04/07/26 - 04/10/26	POC accepted, date certain 6/9		DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	10/07/25	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	05/07/26	Cleared		DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Incident	07/01/25	Cleared
	DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	04/21/26	POC accepted, date certain 6/9		DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	05/20/25	Cleared
	VA	Annual Recertification	02/10/26 - 02/13/26	CAP accepted, date certain 6/5		DHS	Annual Recertification	12/09/25	Cleared
HVH	DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	06/09/25 - 06/12/25	Cleared	SWVC	VA	Annual Recertification	02/09/26 - 02/13/26	CAP accepted, date certain 7/31
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Incident	02/11/26	Cleared		DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	05/11/26 - 05/15/26	POC under development
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	09/16/25	Cleared		DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	03/12/26	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	08/05/25	Cleared		DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	12/23/25	Cleared
	DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	06/18/25	Cleared		DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Incident	09/24/25	Cleared
	DHS	Annual Recertification	05/14/26 - 05/15/26	POC under development		DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	07/01/25	Cleared
	VA	Annual Recertification	07/14/25 - 07/18/25	Cleared		DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	05/18/26	Results pending
						VA	Annual Recertification	05/05/26 - 05/08/26	Results pending

Infection Prevention Update



Pennsylvania
Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs

COVID-19, Influenza, RSV Data							
Friday, May 15, 2026	DVVH	GMVC	HVH	PSSH	SEVC	SWVC	TOTAL
Total # of COVID + residents	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Total # of COVID + staff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total number of residents who have received the 25/26 COVID vaccine as per criteria (when available)	138	185	161	110	154	134	882
Total number of staff who have received the 25-26 COVID vaccine as per criteria (when available)	24	3	5	1	7	33	73
Total # of + Influenza residents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total # of + Influenza staff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total # of Residents who have received the 25-26 Influenza Vaccine	149	160	193	136	188	160	986
Total # of Staff who have received the 25-26 Influenza vaccine	90	93	90	40	62	72	447
Total number of + RSV residents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Residents who have received the RSV vaccine after 9/30/25	17	18	22	14	20	11	102

5 Star Rating - Last Updated: April 29, 2026						
	DVVH	GMVC	HVH	PSSH	SEVC	SWVC
Overall	5	5	4	2	4	2
Health Inspection	3	4	2	3	2	1
Quality Measures	5	5	5	2	5	4
Staffing	5	5	5	1	5	5
Changes from February/March 2026	Unchanged	Unchanged	Unchanged	Unchanged	Unchanged	Unchanged

*COVID vaccines residents only: 882

*COVID: 5 residents at DVVH

*RSV: None

*Influenza: None

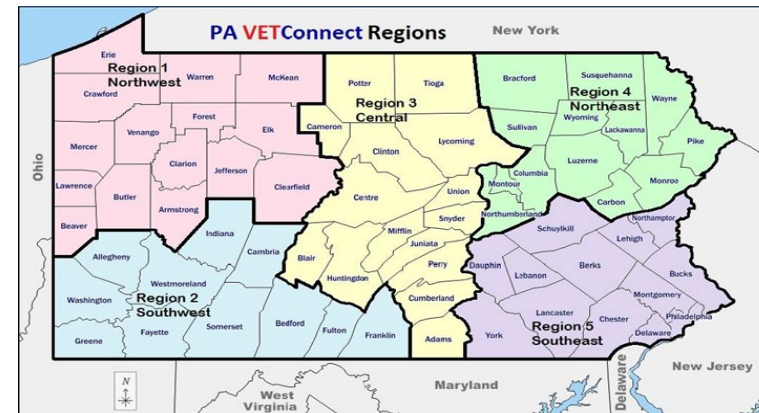


We build relationships that amplify service to the SMVF community

- Region 1 – VSO Evans connected the American Legion District 28 Commander with the SCI Mercer VSU Post Legion Officers. They had a very successful meeting, and the District will be providing more resources and encouragement to the Post.
- Region 2 – VSO Clark briefed on VA BDD (Benefits Delivery at Discharge) claims to 7 AGR soliders from the 1-110th Infantry and 2 IBCT. This will help streamline the separation process for those who are filing for service-connected disabilities.
- Region 3 – VSS Cooper attended the grand opening of the new male homeless veteran program in Chambersburg called Victory House. She was able to provide the founders with a list of resources and will also be able to provide ongoing assistance with referrals for benefits, services, and any additional resources that the veterans residing there may need.
- Region 4 – VSS Tagliaferri presented on PA VETConnect and veterans benefits to 45 residents at a Senior Center in Carbondale (Lackawanna County). Due to the timing of the event, she was also able to "Welcome Home" three Vietnam Era veterans.
- Region 5 – VSO Stafford met with the Kutztown University's Veterans Affairs Director to intitiate talks of reviving the University Coalition that ended in 2024.

Successes

- > 35,500 Connections since program inception
- Collaborating with LAMP (Library of Accesible Media for Pennsylvanias) to expand resource media accessibility to veterans with low vision, visual impairments, or physical mobility limitations—including those recovering from stroke or managing Parkinson's disease.



Reintegration Division



Pennsylvania
Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs

Military Records Request Program

	Current Week	Total
Completed Requests	8	413
Requests Received	14	501
Phone Calls Received	25	740
VA Letters	34	945

Field Office Statistics

	Current Week	Total (Starting March 2026)
Veteran Calls	253	4064
Walk-Ins	41	449
Appointments	6	262
Claims Submitted	61	780
BVA Hearings	1	13
Outreach Events	4	46

As of 26 MAY 2026

> community > commonwealth

> country

Reintegration and Outreach Events Overview



Pennsylvania
Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs

Outreach Statistics							
	SFY 23-24	SFY 24-25	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Year to Date
Outreach Events Supported	373	432	125	166	86	73	450
Veteran Interactions	6,375	6,637	3,143	2,540	1,486	1,255	8,424
Women Veterans Interactions	N/A	662	337	305	202	163	1,007
Family Members or Caregivers	N/A	1,624	883	719	512	417	2,531
Referrals to VA County Directors and Service Organizations	1,352	2,218	1,197	868	543	658	3,266
Referrals to state, county and local organizations assisting Veterans	1,753	1,734	1,078	1,024	509	900	3,511
Referrals to VA Healthcare	995	1,148	549	440	312	345	1,646
Number of Veterans Registry Cards distributed / enrolled	1,019	1,873	904	563	543	578	2,588
County Directors Office attended events	162	210	69	65	28	31	193
Legislative attended events	150	185	68	52	3	9	132

As of 26 MAY 2026

> community > commonwealth > country

Amputee & Paralyzed Veteran's Pension



Pennsylvania
Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs

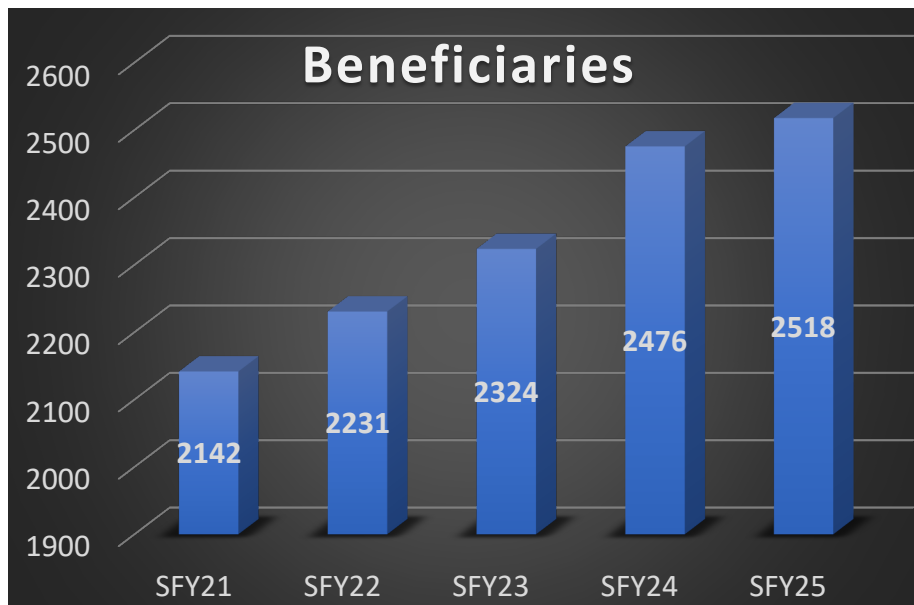
SFY25/26 Budget: \$4,663,250

Expended \$4,110,450

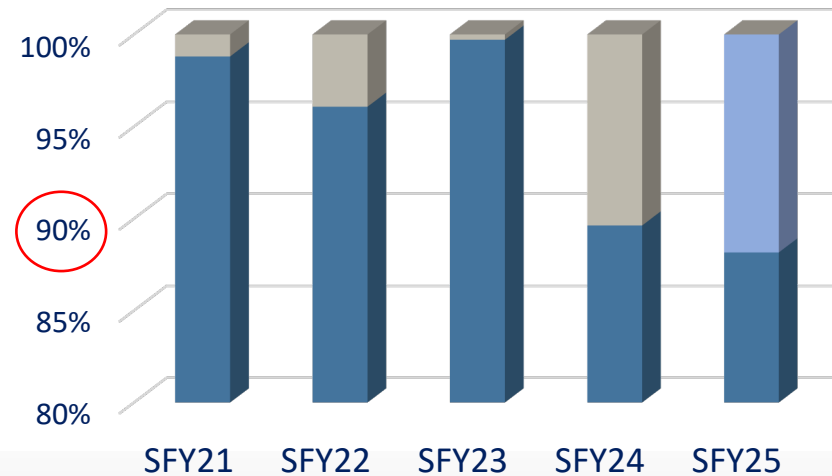
Projected \$552,800

Lapsed \$0

At 11/12 thru SFY, 88% of budget expended.



Budget Execution



Notes: 2,518 Veterans currently on pension.

Five-year trend shows an 18% beneficiary increase largely attributable to positive external factors such as the federal PACT Act of 2022.

Expect continuing moderate upward trend.

As of 28 May 2026

> community > commonwealth

> country

Blind Veteran's Pension

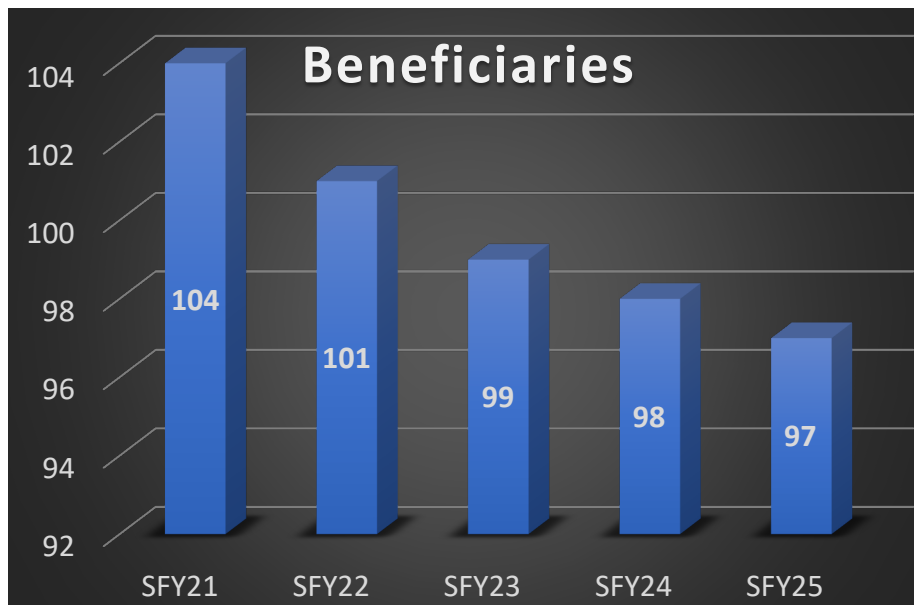


Pennsylvania
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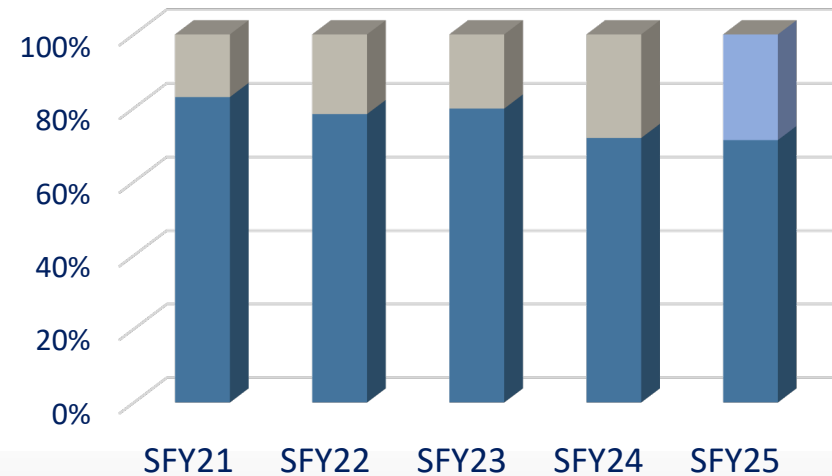
SFY25/26 Budget: \$222,150



At 11/12 thru SFY, 71% of budget expended.



Budget Execution



Notes: 97 Veterans currently on pension.

Five-year trend shows a steady average of 100 pensioners. This beneficiary population is not significantly affected by external factors.

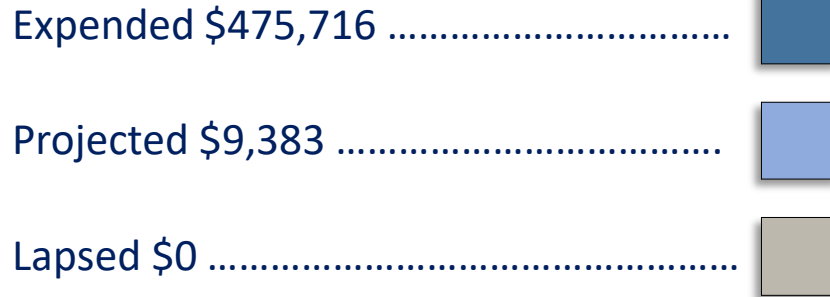
Expect steady beneficiary population.

Educational Gratuities



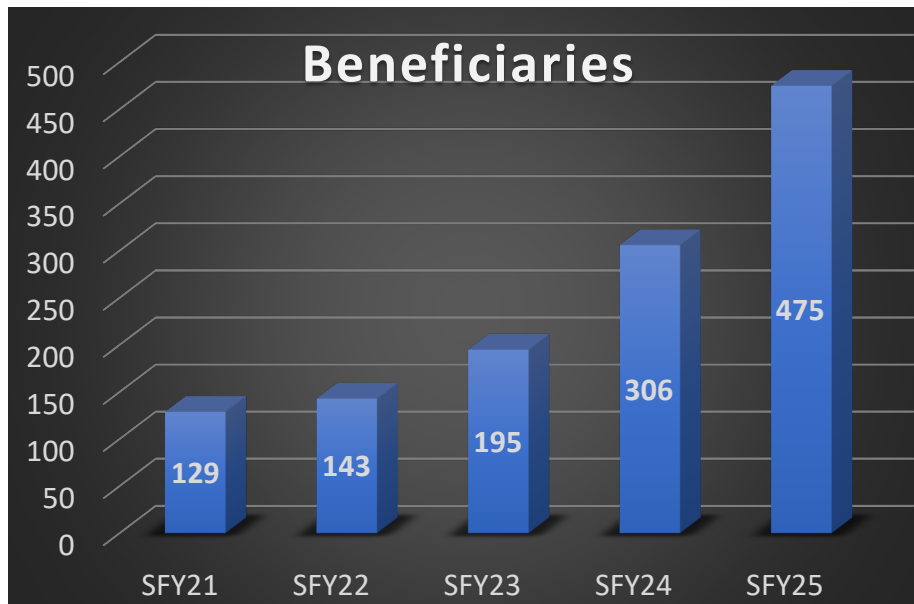
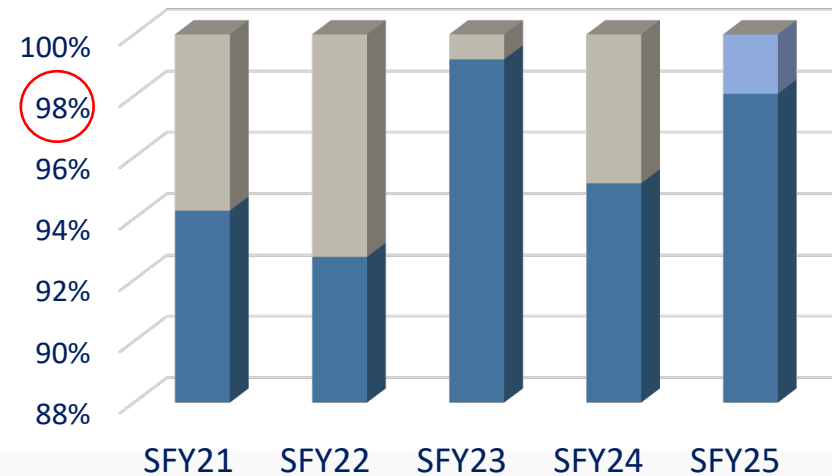
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SFY25/26 Budget: \$485,099



At 1/12 thru SFY, 98% of budget expended.

Budget Execution



Notes: 952 gratuities paid SFY to date.

Five-year trend shows **235%** beneficiary increase since SFY21 attributable to external factors such as the Federal PACT Act of 2022, Act 27 of 2024, and children of early GWOT veterans aging into higher education/training.

Overbudget will be covered from GGO.

As of 28 May 2026

> community > commonwealth

> country

Veterans' Temporary Assistance

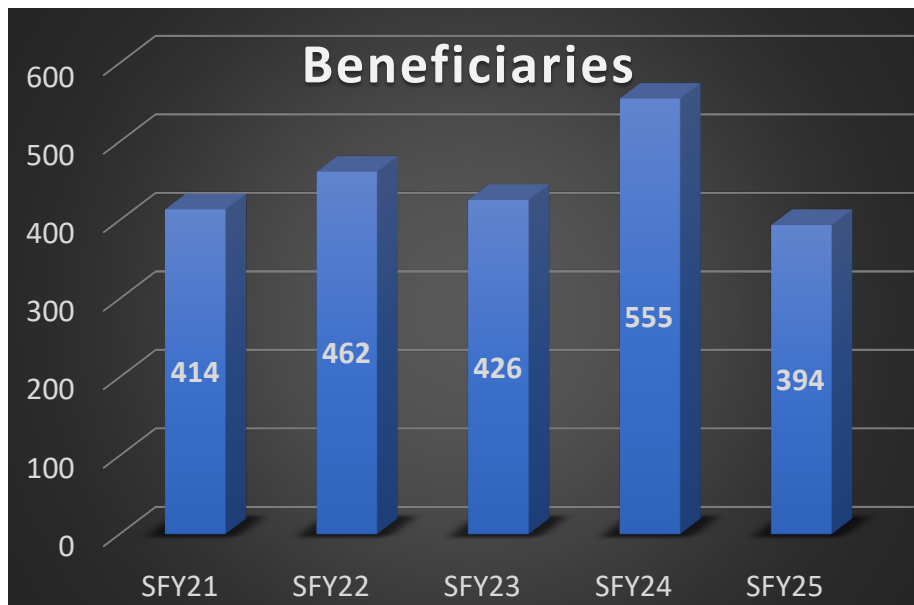


Pennsylvania
Department of Military
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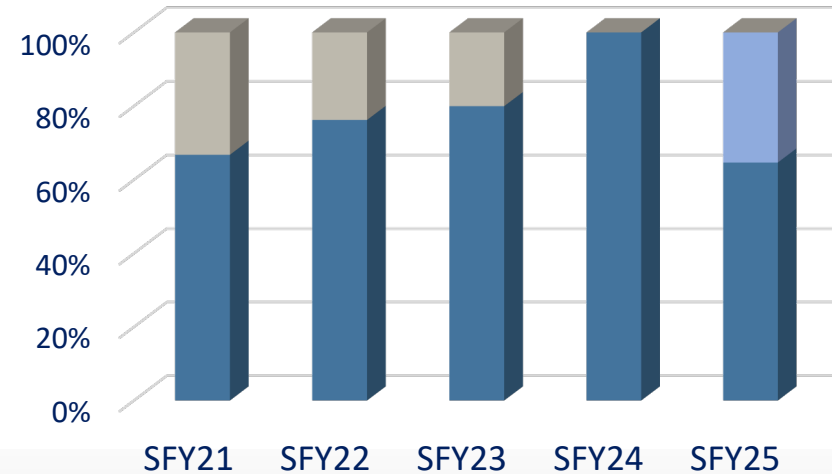
SFY25/26 VTF Allowance: \$900,000

Expended \$582,145	
Projected \$317,855	
Lapsed \$0	

At 11/12 thru SFY, 65% of budget expended.



Budget Execution



Notes: 394 grants SFY to date.

Five-year trend shows an average of 435 VTA grants per year.

Grants trending downward compared to same time last fiscal year.

As of 28 May 2026

> community > commonwealth

> country

Military Family Relief Assistance



Pennsylvania
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Personal Income Tax Donations, SFY25



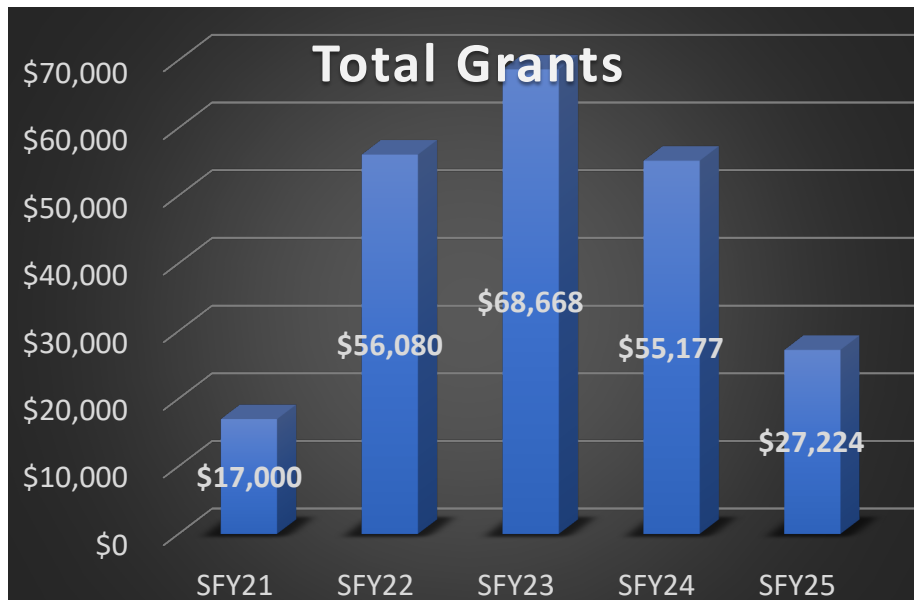
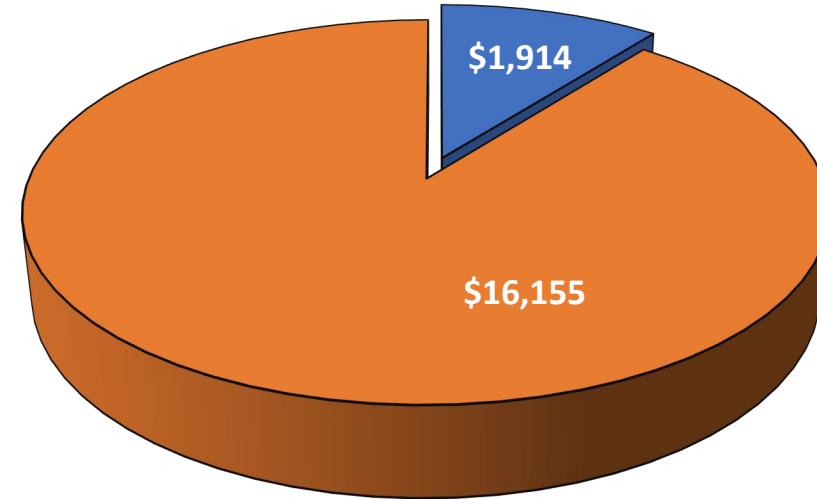
Private/Cash/Other Donations, SFY25



Total Donations SFY05-25 \$2,266,887

Total Grants SFY05-25 \$1,131,071

MFRA Fund Balance: \$1,135,816



Notes: \$27,224 in grants SFY to date.

Overall, the current grant trend is low compared to earlier years with higher active-duty mobilization rates. Expect grant totals to continue trending at \$30-\$75K.

Expect total grants to remain in line with recent trends.

As of 28 May 2026

> community > commonwealth

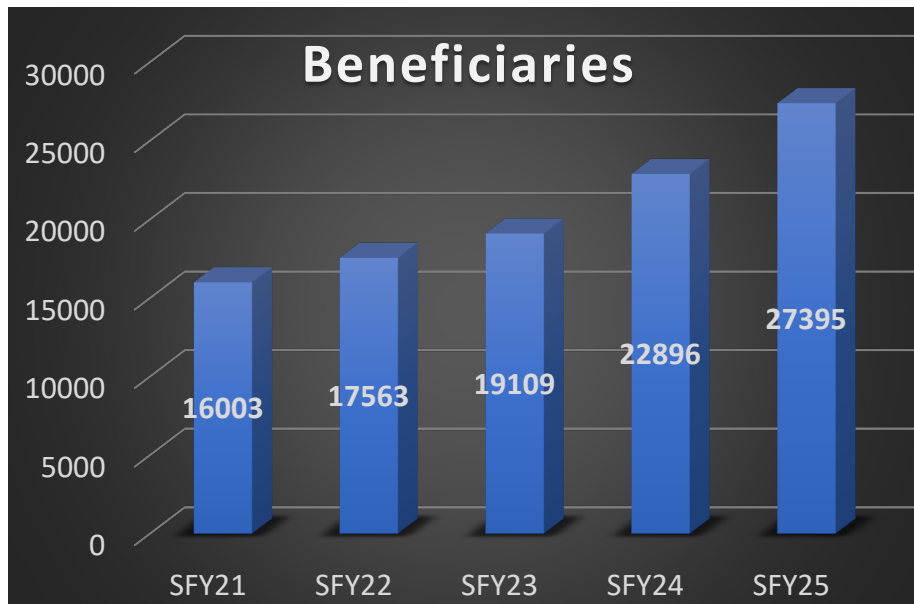
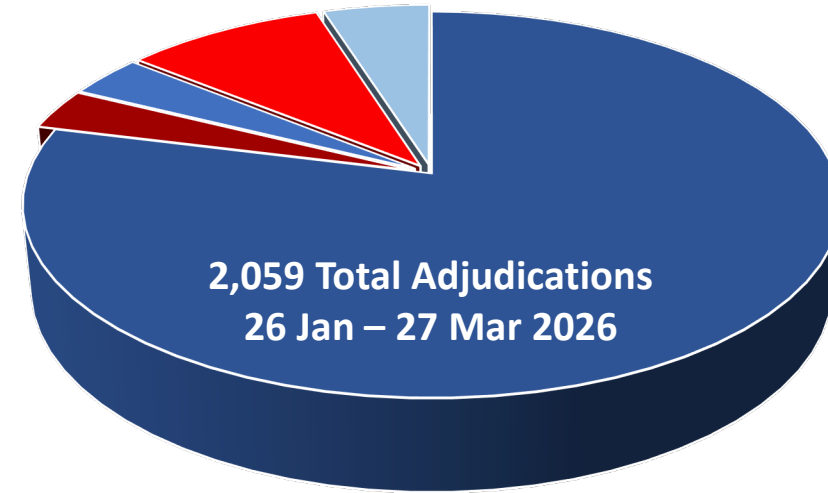
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Disabled Vets' Real Estate Tax Exemption



Pennsylvania
Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs

1,625 Approved (78.9%)	
70 Denied: Financial Need	
72 Denied: Eligibility	
191 Removed: Change of Eligibility/Need	
101 Removed: No Response to 5-Year Review	



Notes: 27,395 Veterans and surviving spouses currently receive est. \$93.8M in exemptions.

65.8% beneficiary increase over last 5 years attributable to Federal PACT Act of 2022 and Act 27 of 2024 effects on eligibility and need.

Currently adding approx. 1,000 beneficiaries per quarter. Expect this trend to continue.

As of 28 May 2026

> community > commonwealth

> country

VISN 4 Access – Fiscal Year 2026 Wait Times



Pennsylvania
**Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs**

Clinics FY26 thru May 19	Number of Appointments	Average Wait
Mental Health	267,024	5.4
Primary Care	328,888	3.8
Specialty Care	704,111	10.7
Other	581,919	6.3
ALL	1,881,942	7.4

FY26 data updated 5/20/2026 with appointment info as of 5/19/2026.

June 2026 Update

> community > commonwealth > country

VISN 4 Access – Current Average Wait Times



Pennsylvania
Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs

VISN 4 Facility	Primary Care	
	New Patients	Returning Patients
James E. Van Zandt VAMC	8	2
Abie Abraham HCC	12	2
Coatesville VAMC	18	3
Erie VAMC	18	4
Lebanon VAMC	24	4
Corporal Michael J. Crescenzo VAMC	23	5
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (University Drive)	44	10
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (H.J. Heinz)	19	8
Wilkes-Barre VAMC	10	2
Wilmington VAMC	20	6

Data updated 5/21/2026 with wait times as of 5/21/2026 for the last 30 days.

www.accesstocare.va.gov

June 2026 Update

> community > commonwealth > country



Improvements to the Access to Care website

Average wait times for all VHA medical centers and clinics are now calculated to include additional steps in the appointment process that had not been captured in the past.

- For **new patient** appointments, average wait time is calculated from the earliest time a request for care is consistently recorded in the scheduling system to the date the appointment is completed – or the date it is scheduled to occur if not yet completed.
- For **established patient** appointments, average wait times are measured from the date agreed upon between a Veteran and provider for future care and ends on the date care is received, or the date that care is scheduled to occur if it has not yet occurred.

The upgraded calculation makes the website more reflective of the complete process of requesting and receiving care. Averages are representative of general performance and may not represent individual experience. Average wait times are never used to determine eligibility for community care.

Data updated 5/21/2026 with wait times as of 5/21/2026 for the last 30 days.

www.accesstocare.va.gov

VISN 4 Care in the Community



Pennsylvania
Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs

Care in the Community Consults (Scheduled and Completed)		Non-VA Unique Patients*
FY23	190,809	99,168
FY24	211,718	103,825
FY25	226,620	107,064
FY26 (as of 5/21/26)	165,394	97,857

*Number of unique enrolled Veterans who receive community care at VA expense

FY26 data updated 5/21/2026 with consult info as of 5/21/2026.

June 2026 Update

> community > commonwealth > country

NEXT MEETING



Pennsylvania

Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs

11 SEPTEMBER 2026 at 10:00AM

Hartranft Conference Room

Bldg 0-47, FITG

Annville, PA 17003

FOR SVC INFO VISIT: www.dmva.pa.gov/veterans/commissionsandcouncils



State Veterans' Commission Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2026
10:00AM
 Lickdale Outreach Center

Call to Order	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
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The Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission (SVC) meeting was called to order at 10:00AM on April 10, 2026.

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

At our last meeting in February, we were not at war. In the intervening time, we have engaged in military operations, mostly air and missile strikes, on a scale not seen since the start of Operation Inherent Resolve in 2014. Let us pause to observe a moment of silence to remember the 13 service members who have paid the ultimate price, the 365 who have been wounded, and their loved ones left behind.

Commission Introductions

MG John Pippy	TAG
BG Maureen Weigl	DAG-VA- DMVA-OVA
Mr. Nicholas Taylor	SVC Chairman
Ms. Jennifer Harkins- TEAMS	VISN 4- Network Director
Mr. Mark Baylis	Member-at-Large
Ms. Pauline Bozdech-Veater	Member-at-Large
Mr. Leonard Johnson	Member-at-Large
Mr. Michael Brooker	SVC Vice Chairman, Member-at-Large
Mr. Pete Verbos	Designee, MOPH
Ms. Constance Snaveley	Representative, Korean War Veterans
Mr. M. B. Kanis-TEAMS	Commander, Jewish War Veterans
Mr. Bernie McDonald	Executive Director, AMVETS
Mr. Bill Zelner	Commander, AMVETS
Ms. Lory Liebegott- TEAMS	Commander, Disabled American Veterans
Mr. Bill Hines	Designee, Disabled American Veterans
Ms. Wanda Grover-TEAMS	Commander, Blinded Veterans of America
Mr. Michael Rang	Commander, Catholic War Veterans
Mr. Robert Heister	President, Military Officers Association of America
Mr. Jesiah Schrader	President, PA State Association of County Directors of Veterans Affairs
Mr. Richard Hudzinski	Designee, Vietnam Veterans of America
Absent	
Mr. Stanley Majocka	Commander, Italian American War Veterans
Mr. Patrick Love	Commander, The American Legion
Mr. James Hogan	Adjutant, The American Legion
Mr. William Roland	Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Mr. Robert Hammaker	Adjutant, Disabled American Veterans
Mr. John Getz	Adjutant, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Mr. Phil Arnold	Commander, MOPH
Ms. Victoria McCoy	Commandant, Marine Corps League
Mr. Larry Googins	President, Vietnam Veterans of America
Mr. Chris Fidler	Director, Keystone Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America

Others Present	
Mr. Marc Ferraro	DMVA- EDS
Mr. Keith Graham	DMVA- PIRO
Mr. Micheal Hillman	Executive Director, PA House
Mr. Nathan Silcox	Executive Director, PA Senate VAEP
Ms. Patti Tanner	DMVA
Ms. Angela Watson	Director, DMVA Communications
Mr. Joseph Batt	DMVA- Chief Counsel Office
Mr. Brad Rank	DMVA
Mr. Chris Kintner	Veterans Health Committee
TEAMS ATTENDANCE	
Ms. Susan Meighen	DMVA- Division of Outreach
Ms. Sally Sudman	Research Analyst of House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness
Ms. Elizabeth Cooper	VSS, PA VetConnect Region 3, DMVA
Ms. Lisa Kaye	VSO, Monroe County VA
Mr. Jeffery Mead	VSO
Mr. Richard Fine	KWV
Ms. Maria Tagliaferri	DMVA- Region 4 Outreach
Ms. Rachel Guldin	DMVA
Mr. Zackary Portser	DMVA
Mr. Terrell Lehman	DMVA
Ms. Shelley Nulph	VISN 4
Mr. Charles Taibi	Military & Veterans Affairs, Office of Rep. Rob Bresnahan
Mr. Chris Clark	DMVA
Ms. Jodi Stevens	VSO, Tioga County Veterans Affairs
Ms. Karen Olson	PA DMVA VetConnect, Northeast PA
Mr. Carl Curtis	
Ms. Nicole Lynn	VHA VISN 4
Ms. Peggy Hodgden	Designee- Marine Corps League
Mr. Joseph Butera	DMVA
Ms. Taylor Dipperry	DMVA
Ms. Lana Evans	DMVA Outreach, Region 1
Mr. Joe Benacci	VSO
Vice-Chair Opening Remarks	
Vice-Chair Michael Brooker	
No Remarks	
Chairman's Opening Remarks	
Chairman Nicholas Taylor	
Chairman Taylor welcomed attendees and noted they may be asked about pending legislation. Since the last meeting, leadership has continued participating in biweekly virtual meetings with senior officials. A key update highlighted the rescission of a February interim rule, ensuring that the use of medication will no longer negatively impact veterans' disability ratings an outcome credited to strong advocacy from national veterans organizations. Chairman Taylor also participated in planning meetings for the current session and introduced the concept of a standardized signature page to formalize decisions and demonstrate unity among member organizations, which will be discussed further under unfinished business. Additional updates include changes to travel policy: commission members are no longer eligible for rental vehicles under the state contract and will instead be reimbursed at the standard mileage rate.	

Looking ahead, the Chairman Taylor plans to attend upcoming events at Fort Indiantown Gap, including a Memorial Day ceremony and an open house, and encouraged participation from others.

DMVA Opening Remarks

MG John Pippy

General Pippy opened by thanking attendees and commending the DMVA team for ongoing improvements, particularly the visible progress of the Lickdale Outreach Center. He emphasized a strong focus on innovation since late 2024, highlighting major advancements such as the expansion of the PA VetConnect platform, which now serves as a centralized resource for Pennsylvania veterans.

He noted progress toward a modernized, user-friendly online application system for state benefits, while stressing that services will remain accessible through multiple channels, including phone support, regional coordinators, and VSOs to meet the needs of all generations of veterans.

Additional outreach efforts include an expanded social media presence, a growing monthly newsletter, and the upcoming launch of a DMVA podcast aimed at better connecting with veterans, families, and partner organizations.

General Pippy underscored that innovation is not just about technology, but about improving communication and access to services. He also mentioned ongoing organizational restructuring within DMVA.

On the military side, he highlighted Pennsylvania's active involvement, including over 400 Air Force personnel currently deployed, as well as Army restructuring efforts. He concluded by noting continued support and tracking of service members in recovery and reaffirmed that veterans' services remain a primary focus of his efforts.

Questions/Discussion

- Polly asked whether support is available for veterans outside the National Guard, such as those from the Navy and other branches.
 - General Pippy clarified that DMVA programs support all veterans, not just National Guard members. While some military family service programs are specific to Guard families, the majority of veteran services are inclusive of all branches. He emphasized a "no wrong door" policy, meaning any veteran who seeks assistance will be helped and connected to all benefits and programs they are eligible for.
- Chairman Taylor expressed appreciation on behalf of the commission for the strong support provided by DMVA leadership and staff. He specifically recognized several individuals and teams for their responsiveness and assistance, including the Office of Counsel, noting that no request has gone unmet and thanking them for their continued support of the commission's work.

Approval of February 6th, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Motion: Mr. Jesiah Schrader, PA County Director of Veterans Affairs, made a motion to approve the minutes.

Second: Mr. Michael Rang seconds the motion.

The body agreed; motion carried. Minutes approved with the suggested corrections.

Committee Reports

Governance Committee

Mr. Michael Brooker

Mr. Brooker provided an update on the 2026 Veterans Trust Fund, noting that 51 applications were reviewed. Grants were awarded to nine County Directors of Veterans Affairs totaling approximately \$129,000 for outreach programs, and to 19 veterans service organizations and nonprofits totaling approximately \$676,000, with funding focused on health, transportation, and employment initiatives.

He added that this was his fifth time serving on the scoring committee and described this year's process as the smoothest to date. He credited improvements to the application and scoring rubric implemented based on prior

feedback which made the process clearer, more efficient, and better aligned, and he recognized Ms. Rachel Guldin for her contributions.

Mr. Brooker reported that the Governance Committee has resumed work, focusing on the biannual review of the State Veterans Commission's OPP. The review found that the current procedures require minimal revisions, while incorporating practical improvements to make meetings more productive and action oriented.

The committee is also working on enhancing the commission's page on the DMVA website, recommending that commissioners' names and titles be prominently listed and that a clear channel be created for veterans to submit questions or concerns.

He noted that the DMVA liaison and IT team can support these updates, and the committee aims to present a final draft of the operating procedures for review and potential approval at the June meeting.

Questions/Discussions

- Chairman Taylor supported the Governance Committee's ideas for improving the landing page but advised coordinating with Communications Director Angela Watson to determine what changes are feasible. He noted there may be limitations and asked the committee to work with her to assess what can be implemented.
- Mr. Hudzinski emphasized the need for better awareness and promotion of the Pennsylvania Veterans Trust Fund. He noted that information about the fund is difficult to find through general searches and should be more visible and accessible, both to inform the public and help generate additional support and funding. He also called for greater analysis of how funds are being allocated, pointing out that a significant portion has gone toward food assistance programs in recent years indicating a broader issue with food insecurity among veterans. He stressed that while the Trust Fund helps, it cannot solve systemic problems alone, and suggested the commission use these trends to advocate for broader legislative solutions and more strategic approaches rather than repeatedly funding the same issues without long-term resolution.
 - General Pippy agreed with the concerns and directed follow-up actions to improve visibility and communication about the Veterans Trust Fund. He suggested working with the communications team to enhance the website and improve search engine visibility. He also proposed developing a graphical report summarizing recent years' funding, including available funds and how money has been allocated by category. He acknowledged the fund may be facing challenges and emphasized the need to better analyze and present data based on priority needs and established criteria.
 - Mr. Graham explained that each year, funding priorities for the Veterans Trust Fund are guided by social determinants of health identified and ranked by the Adjutant General. These priorities shape the scoring criteria, which is why areas like food security have received greater emphasis in recent years. He added that while it is possible to compile visual data showing fund distribution over the past five years, it would be most meaningful if paired with the corresponding priority categories for each year, since funding trends directly reflect those evolving priorities.
 - General Pippy explained that while TAG priorities help guide decision-making, he prefers the commission to focus on identifying gaps in existing services and determining where the Veterans Trust Fund can best complement other resources rather than duplicating services like food banks. He emphasized the importance of data-driven decision-making and said he will develop a report for the next meeting. He also invited commission members to provide input on how funding categories and the scoring rubric should be structured before it is finalized, ensuring both staff insights and commissioner feedback are incorporated.

Legislative Committee

Mr. Mark Baylis

Mr. Baylis reported that most recent activity has centered on responses received from previously sent letters regarding the re-tax program and veteran temporary assistance under the Veterans Trust Fund. He noted that

additional replies were received that morning and that feedback, including email responses, has generally been positive.

(Portions of this report were inaudible or off mic)

Questions/Discussion

- Mr. Brooker stated that there are essentially two legislative options under consideration and suggested the commission would likely support the House version of the bill, as it would provide greater funding. He added that, if a choice must be made, the commission would prefer to support the version that ultimately passes into law.
 - Mr. Hudzinski agreed with Mr. Brooker and supported taking a clear position on the legislation. He added that the commission should not only choose a preferred option but should also feel free to advocate for increased funding beyond the current proposals.
 - Mr. Baylis emphasized the importance of a unified commission position on the legislation. He expressed concern that the process is moving too slowly, warning that delays in finalizing a decision could cause the commission to miss key budget opportunities. He urged the group to act more decisively rather than risk inaction while seeking a perfect consensus.
 - Chairman Taylor suggested discussing the legislative issue further under unfinished business since it is already on the agenda. He also noted that going forward, correspondence such as letters will be included with meeting minutes for easier reference. This will help commissioners and VSOs share information with their organizations more effectively.

Pensions/Relief/Grave Markings/State Military Cemetery Committee

Mr. Larry Googins

No report

Questions/Discussions

RETX

Mr. Jesiah Schrader

Mr. Schrader provided an update on House Bill 1257, noting that it has moved from the House committee to the Senate committee as of March 30. The bill includes amendments that would give municipalities the authority not the requirement to offer a sliding-scale property tax exemption for veterans with 50% to 90% disability ratings.

He also reported that there have been 1,715 new applications for real estate tax exemptions since the beginning of the year, highlighting the work of service officers in helping veterans access benefits. He added that the proposed bill would likely expand eligibility and increase the number of veterans able to receive these tax exemptions.

Questions/Discussions

Transportation Committee

Mr. Robert Hammaker

Mr. Hines provided a February update on the veterans transportation program, noting that 287 volunteer drivers transported 2,246 veterans, completing 4,757 volunteer hours and covering 70,204 miles.

He reported a fleet of 120 vehicles, with six new vehicles on order expected between June and July, including four assigned to Erie and two to Altoona. He highlighted Erie VA Medical Center as one of the busiest in the country, transporting approximately 1,200–1,600 veterans per month across multiple regional hospitals, and noted recent vehicle support provided due to high demand.

He also stated the program received \$104,000 in additional funding from the national trust and reported that three vans are currently out of service, including one involved in a past accident that has since been resolved through insurance.

(Please see attached report for reference)

Mr. Hines raised concerns about a new VA policy requiring volunteer drivers to complete a more intensive security clearance process. He explained that drivers are now being placed in a Tier 1 category and must fill out Form 306, which is typically used for employment, even though they are volunteers. He expressed frustration that the form includes questions, such as retirement status, that could disqualify volunteers or pressure them to provide inaccurate information. He noted the short turnaround time to complete the paperwork and the complexity of the form, which can take several hours. Mr. Hines warned that these changes could result in losing up to 50% of volunteer drivers, many of whom are experienced long-time contributors. Despite his concerns, he has begun completing the process himself to meet the deadline.

- Chairman Taylor asked for clarification on what the VA means by “security clearance.” He questioned whether it refers to formal clearance levels (such as confidential, secret, or top secret) or something less intensive, like a background check or public trust investigation. His main concern was understanding the true scope and intent of the requirement.
- Mr. Hines clarified that the requirement is for a Tier 1 security clearance. He noted that this level of clearance is already required for HSCs who are employed through the DAV and use VA computer systems, which he understands. However, he emphasized that volunteer drivers do not use VA computers they only operate vehicles provided by the DAV and the state, so he questioned why the same clearance standard is being applied to them.
- Mr. Hudzinski explained that the form includes two types of background investigations: a standard FBI check and a counterterrorism-related investigation. He clarified that, under VA regulations, volunteer drivers are technically considered unpaid employees, which is why the form is being applied to them. However, he argued that Form 306 is designed for paid employees and includes irrelevant questions (such as those about family employment, nepotism, and conflicts of interest). He expressed the opinion that the form is being misused and may be collecting unnecessary personal information. He also noted that this requirement is causing frustration among volunteer drivers, with some choosing to quit altogether rather than complete what they see as an inappropriate and overly burdensome process.
- Ms. Jennifer Harkins acknowledged the difficulties the new background investigation process is causing for volunteers. She stated that leadership is aware of the concerns and has escalated them to the National Center for Development and Civic Engagement, which is reviewing the issue at a higher level. In the meantime, she explained that efforts are being made to support volunteers by creating training materials and providing hands-on assistance from staff and tech-savvy volunteers to help complete the forms. She expressed appreciation for the feedback and frustration shared and committed to providing updates as more information becomes available.
- Mr. Keith Graham clarified that, despite being referred to as a “security clearance,” the process is a basic background check primarily to ensure individuals do not appear in FBI or state police databases. He emphasized that it is not a full, in-depth Tier 1 clearance in the traditional sense. However, he agreed that the wrong form is being used. While the current form does collect the necessary information, he suggested that a more appropriate, simplified form could be created to gather only what is needed without causing confusion or concern among volunteers.
 - Mr. Hudzinski responded that the VA already has an established process for conducting background investigations, including interviews, training, and other requirements, which are factored into the program’s budget. He noted that funding has already been a challenge in maintaining enough drivers. He argued that the new requirement is duplicative of the existing process, adding unnecessary burden without clear benefit, and further straining both resources and volunteer participation.
 - Mr. Graham stated that the issue ultimately needs to be addressed by the Office of Civil Engagement, as Ms. Harkins noted, and that they will need to work through the concerns being raised. He clarified that while he cannot speak to the VA’s internal decision-making, his intent was to clear up confusion: the process is a basic background check, like what is required for volunteering with children, rather than a high-level security clearance.

- General Weigl expressed appreciation for the discussion and committed to taking further action. She stated that they would contact the federal VA directly and follow up with the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs to see if the organization can formally address the issue. She suggested that a coordinated effort adding their concerns to those already raised by VISN 4 could help push for changes.

Questions/Discussions

Veteran Health Committee

Mr. Leonard Johnson

Mr. Leonard Johnson reported that his group has begun meeting monthly and is demonstrating strong commitment, with their most recent meeting lasting about two hours. He emphasized that their work is focused on gathering and sharing valuable information for others.

He provided an update on pharmacogenetics, clarifying that, contrary to earlier concerns in 2025, the service remains free for veterans. He highlighted its benefits, particularly in helping healthcare providers choose medications that are safe and effective based on a veteran's genetic profile, reducing the risk of harmful drug interactions.

Mr. Johnson encouraged attendees to share this information with their organizations and offered to provide a summary for broader distribution.

- Chairman Taylor noted that Ms. Yeagley had already sent, at his request, a copy of the summary from the Federal Register to all commissioners on March 10. He thanked Mr. Johnson for his offer to provide additional information and added that if anyone does not already have the document, he and Becky would be happy to ensure they receive it.

Mr. Johnson reported that his group also discussed Agent Orange and ongoing medical findings related to its long-term health effects on veterans. He noted that new information continues to emerge about exposures and related conditions, including contamination at certain military bases. He explained that there is a quarterly Agent Orange publication available either online or in hard copy, and he personally prefers the printed version for notetaking. He suggested that Becky distribute the material to attendees so they can request it and share it with their organizations. Mr. Johnson emphasized that the newsletter helps keep veterans informed about updates on Agent Orange exposure and related toxic exposure issues and encouraged broad distribution of the information.

Mr. Johnson reported on several ongoing committee efforts. He noted continued work in suicide prevention, with a committee member maintaining contact with a VA representative to support collaboration in that area. He also highlighted efforts focused on addressing gaps in women's health services within the VA system, particularly in ensuring equitable access to care compared to male veterans.

He shared a positive update that women veterans can now access OB/GYN services without requiring a prior consultation from a primary health provider, describing it as a meaningful improvement in access to care.

Mr. Johnson also referenced ongoing work on Agent Orange education and said a committee member is developing an educational outline to distribute more widely.

Questions/Discussions

VSO Grant Committee

Mr. Robert Hammaker

No report

Questions/Discussions

Womens Health

Ms. Pauline Bozdech-Veater

Ms. Polly Bozdech-Veater reported on a recent Zoom meeting of the Women Veterans Group, which included representatives from Central, Western, and Eastern Pennsylvania. She emphasized that visibility of women veterans remains a significant challenge, noting that many are still not immediately recognized as veterans and can face barriers when seeking services.

She also raised concerns about eligibility gaps, particularly for women who did not complete 180 days of service and therefore may not qualify for VA benefits, leaving them without clear support options. In addition, she highlighted issues with VA mental health services, stating that women who have experienced military sexual trauma are often placed in general PTSD groups that may not adequately meet their needs.

To address these gaps, she said the group is working to establish informal support networks or “tribes” for women veterans, with efforts already underway in central Pennsylvania and plans to expand in Pittsburgh so women have accessible peer support.

Ms. Bozdech-Veater also discussed a previously established Governor’s program that recognized outstanding women veterans. She explained that the program has faded over time but was once a highly valued initiative honoring women veterans at the state level. She expressed support for reinstating it and suggested improving the selection process by having past honorees serve on the selection committee, which she felt would make the recognition more meaningful and less influenced by personal connections.

She noted the group plans to meet the Thursday before future SVC meetings.

Questions/Discussions

Mr. Hudzinski asked for clarification on the VA’s response regarding concerns about women veterans with military sexual trauma being placed in general PTSD groups. He wanted to know what feedback or action the VA has provided and whether any steps are being taken to address or improve the situation.

- Ms. Bozdech-Veater responded that, to her knowledge, the VA has not acted yet on the concern regarding women veterans with military sexual trauma being placed in general PTSD groups. She explained that the issue was initially raised by a participant who later stopped pursuing it after two unsuccessful attempts, stating they “gave up.” She added that she would follow up with that individual to determine whether any further efforts have been made since then and to better understand the status of the concern.
- Ms. Marily Kelly-Cavotta responded that some Military Sexual Trauma (MST) groups are available through Vet Centers, which also serve National Guard and Reserve members. She explained that Vet Centers provide counseling and support services and can be a strong option for women veterans, including women-only groups. She noted that MST groups have also been offered at various VA medical centers, but in some cases, they were discontinued due to low attendance after being established. She emphasized that maintaining these programs depends on participation, encouraging women veterans to attend in order to help ensure the services remain available. Ms. Kelly-Cavotta concluded that Vet Centers are a valuable alternative within the VA system and highlighted their accessibility and supportive group options for women veterans.

Mr. Mark Baylis asked how many males are affected by MST?

- Ms. Marily Kelly-Cavotta responded that at least 1/50 are survivors of MST
- General Pippy responded by recommending that General Weigl organize a working group to develop an updated report and a resource page to present at the next meeting. He suggested this as a practical way to consolidate information that could be shared with the commission. He emphasized that while they do not create the services or programs themselves, their role is to help improve and refine them. He noted that their team is actively working on issues affecting women veterans across all service components and indicated this topic will be included in future commission updates.

- Mr. Hudzinski asked for a clearer, more comprehensive “laydown” or overview of the issue, (portions of his question were lost in the audio.) He indicated that he was trying to better understand the full scope of what is being discussed, rather than just general information that an MST program exists.
- Ms. Bozdech-Veater responded that she understands the frustration involved, noting that after repeated unsuccessful attempts, individuals may feel discouraged from continuing to pursue the issue. She acknowledged that this reflects a broader challenge that needs attention. She added that the situation may point to a need for better guidance and support in helping both veterans and the VA navigate and resolve these concerns. She also suggested that part of the problem may be a lack of clear awareness or understanding of what was originally intended, which may not have been well thought out or effectively communicated.

Unfinished Business

- Chairman Taylor assigned TAG priorities, directing committees to report back at the next meeting. Legislative priorities included establishing a budget line item for the Veterans Temporary Assistance Program, increasing pensions for amputee and paralyzed veterans, and pursuing changes to the real estate tax exemption, all of which have strong support from the War Veterans Council and State Veterans Commission. Funding-related matters were referred to the State Committee. He also directed the Legislative Committee to review proposed legislation on veterans home oversight, expressing the view that current systems are sufficient, and to report back in June; no objections were noted.
 - Mr. Rich Hudzinski emphasized targeting key legislators, particularly those serving on relevant committees such as State Government, Constitution, and Rules, and focusing on known pro-veteran advocates. (Portions of the discussion were inaudible or off mic)
 - Mr. Mark Baylis asked what is the timeline for budgeting for some of these things?
 - Nate Silcox recommended to take care of it today and not wait until June. Whether the process extends until September October or November, that's a different story, but right now it's imperative
 - Mr. Hillman reported that HB1257 passed the House with overwhelming support (192–6) and is expected to advance through the Senate, noting that continued support is encouraged. He emphasized the importance of face-to-face meetings with key legislators, including committee and appropriations leaders, particularly for budget-related initiatives, which must be submitted early in the budget cycle or pursued legislatively. He also referenced additional legislation addressing training on military sexual trauma, PTSD, and traumatic brain injuries, requesting support if aligned with Commission priorities.
- Additional priorities were assigned without objection, including directing the Transportation Committee to work with Division Four to develop solutions to transportation issues, and assigning the Governor’s Challenge on suicide prevention to the Veterans Health Committee, focusing on awareness, community care access, and safety training. The Legislative Committee was further tasked with ongoing benchmarking efforts, including reviewing, analyzing, and recommending legislation affecting veterans. The Chairman also noted that a combination of face-to-face, written, and email communication is effective for legislative advocacy.
- Chairman Taylor asked for review and input on incorporating budget considerations and proposed increases to blind and amputee pensions, indicating that wording could be finalized and voted on by the Commission.
 - Mr. Baylis stated that the template is solid with input from legal counsel and suggested focusing on existing proposed figures rather than introducing new ones. He recommended selecting among current options to strengthen the Commission’s position, noting it is more effective to work within established proposals. He also discussed weighing incremental versus all-or-nothing approaches, emphasizing flexibility to achieve some level of progress in budget negotiations.
 - The group discussed potential pension increases outlined in Senate Bill 534 and House Bill 1144, noting uncertainty about which proposal is more likely to advance. Mr. Baylis

emphasized that budget constraints make any increase challenging and that no preferred figure has been identified. Mr. Silcox stressed the importance of advocating for an overall increase rather than focusing on a specific bill, explaining that final decisions will depend on legislative leadership and budget considerations. Mr. Johnson shared that many eligible members support a larger increase, citing the lack of adjustments for over 20 years. Mr. Schrader inquired about COLA provisions, with Mr. Silcox indicating that such language is not included in Senate Bill 534 and would need to be confirmed for House Bill 1144.

- Chairman Taylor conducted a roll call to gather input from each member organizations on a target amount, with consensus forming around increasing the benefit to \$200. Although questions were raised about current legislative proposals and expectations, no objections were made, and the Commission agreed to move forward with the \$200 figure. Mr. Baylis was directed to update the proposal accordingly.
- Ms. Patti Tanner, representing DMVA, introduced the department's new lethal means safety campaign focused on suicide prevention. She requested support and potential participation from VSOs and partner organizations in upcoming regional community events planned over the next year and a half across the state. She also explained her role as subject matter expert and chair of the Governor's Challenge, a statewide task force working with the federal VA and SAMHSA to prevent suicide among service members, veterans, and their families. She noted that all states participate in this initiative and highlighted the annual national summit as an opportunity to share best practices and collaborate on suicide prevention strategies. Ms. Tanner reviewed her slides (Please see attached slides and documents)
 - Mr. Hudzinski asked whether the proposed initiative had been implemented elsewhere and about its success rate.
 - Ms. Tanner responded that while the exact combined program has not been widely replicated, its components such as safe storage devices, reasons-for-living artifacts, and safety planning are well established, evidence-based suicide prevention strategies with demonstrated effectiveness. She noted that the combined community application has been used in limited settings nationally and will include ongoing data collection to evaluate outcomes and inform future improvements and reporting.
- The Chairman reported on Senate Bill 1209 and referenced a memo from Mr. Jesiah Schrader, of the Association of County Directors, indicating non-support for the SB1209. He noted that the PAWVC already drafted a letter opposing the legislation, and proposed working with Mr. Baylis to develop a similar Commission letter. He stated the intent to align the Commission's position with the War Veterans Council, citing concerns about the bill's scope and potential issues related to federal law and "pension poachers." The Chairman indicated that a draft letter would be circulated to members for review and comment within a few days, with a requested response deadline before finalizing and issuing the Commission's position on the opposition to SB1209 and support for HB1918.

New Business

MOTION

Chairman Taylor made a motion to adopt the Commissioners signature page to be used on official correspondence and resolutions.

Mr. Jesiah Schrader second the motion

Discussion

Mr. Jesiah suggested adding a date and subject reference at the top of the signature form to prevent it from being used for unintended purposes.

- Chairman Taylor noted that implementing this change would require modifying the form, which could invalidate current signatures. The alternative proposed was to include the subject and date on the accompanying memorandum, where the signature page would serve as the final page, ensuring the necessary context is still documented without altering the form itself.

Mr. Hudzinski raised a concern about how to handle situations where an organization disagrees with having its signature removed from the document. Chairman Taylor acknowledged the concern and noted that the Commission has previously adopted resolutions by majority vote with recorded dissent. He explained that while the intent is to proceed based on quorum and majority approval, the issue requires further consideration. The Commission agreed to table the matter and defer it to the June meeting, requesting additional feedback and a revised draft for further review.	
Motion has been put on hold until June SVC Meeting	
Chairman Taylor discussed planning a VSO legislative schedule focused on in-person, face-to-face meetings with legislators. He requested that available legislative session dates be gathered and shared so the Commission can identify optimal times for visits. He noted the need to coordinate scheduling with DMVA leadership, the Vice Chairman, and committee chairs to develop a unified plan for outreach. Further details and scheduling coordination will follow. Mr. Baylis suggested that the planned face-to-face legislative visits be coordinated with prior written communication. He recommended sending position letters in advance and then following up with legislators to confirm receipt, address questions, and reinforce the Commission's position, rather than approaching meetings without prior context. Chairman Taylor informed the Commission of a potential vacancy regarding the Italian American War Veterans representative due to extended, unexcused absences by Mr. Stanley Majocka, the state commander. He noted that while Title 51 outlines vacancy provisions for Members at Large, it does not clearly address state commanders or heads of named organizations. The Chairman stated he will consult legal counsel to determine the appropriate process for declaring a vacancy, potentially based on abandonment or implied resignation, and indicated that the national organization may need to be notified. He advised the Commission that the matter will be addressed further and placed on the agenda for the June meeting.	
Reading of Official and Other Communications	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
Discussed and reviewed throughout the meeting. <u>Questions/Discussion</u>	
Deputy Adjutant General-VA Remarks	BG Maureen Weigl
General Weigl reported on recent and upcoming veterans events and outreach initiatives. She highlighted a successful women veterans conference hosted with the VFW, noting strong attendance and encouraging expanded outreach for next year through counties and partner organizations. She announced an upcoming Veterans Business Network event in Pittsburgh on May 13 in collaboration with the VFW and Pennsylvania National Guard Association, with additional interest in hosting similar events in Scranton and Allentown. She also outlined several May observances, including Nurse's Week and Nurse's Day, encouraging posts to show appreciation to nursing home staff. Additionally, she referenced the GAC-VS employer recognition event honoring veteran-hiring employers. She provided an update on VetCon, noting it will be held in Pittsburgh April 6–10, with advance notice provided to allow for planning and participation. She concluded by promoting State Veterans Home Week on June 14, encouraging tours of veterans homes to increase awareness and support, particularly to address staffing needs such as CNA shortages. <u>Questions/Discussion</u> None	
DMVA Policy, Planning, and Legislation	Mr. Marc Ferraro
Mr. Ferraro reviewed slides that were provided in the readahead. (Portions of the discussion were inaudible or off mic) <u>Questions/Discussion</u> None	
BVH Bureau of Veterans Homes	Mr. Keith Graham

Mr. Keith Graham provided operational updates on the State Veterans Homes, noting that recent surveys are underway, with Gino Merli reviewed by the Department of Health and SWVC surveyed the prior week, and results pending. He reported no COVID-19 cases and one staff member with flu. Admissions were reported at 1,196, with March showing a net increase of 60 admissions and 44 discharges. Overall occupancy was reported at 78%, with 86% of nursing beds filled; Delaware Valley, Gino Merli, and Pennsylvania Soldiers and Sailors Homes are all operating above 90% occupancy, with a waitlist of 162. He also noted the Director of Business Operations position is currently open and in the interview process. Regarding construction, he highlighted plans for a Hollidaysburg Veterans Home ribbon-cutting around Veterans Day.

Questions/Discussion

None

DMVA Bureau of PIRO

Mr. Keith Graham

Mr. Graham provided updates on Act 66, noting a meeting scheduled for the 23rd and requesting that VSOs submit topics in advance for preparation. He reported that outreach materials are being redesigned and distributed in a more accessible format, and that staff training on ArcGIS has been completed to improve information-sharing capabilities. He stated that revisions to Chapter 5 of Title 43 have moved through the Governor's Budget Office and are now with Chief Counsel, with expected completion in May or June, enabling digital application rollout and beta testing with five counties beginning around July. He also reported that outreach efforts are exceeding prior annual totals by approximately 25%, marking a significant increase in engagement.

Questions/Discussion

None

State Veterans' Programs

Mr. Keith Graham

Mr. Keith Graham reported that there are no funding concerns for the Amputee and Paralyzed Veterans program, Blind Veterans Pension, Veterans Temporary Assistance (VTA), or MFRAP. He noted that the Education Gratuity program continues to grow at a rapid rate, making it difficult to maintain precise projections, but there are no current concerns. He also provided an update on the Real Estate Tax Exemption program, reporting over 1,000 county engagements this year, approximately 527,000 participants, and about \$90 million in total exemptions, with roughly 65% attributed to the PACT Act. He highlighted the significant workload associated with the program's five-year review process, noting that staff handle approximately 6,500 applications annually, effectively requiring full reassessments, and commended both staff and county partners for their efforts.

Questions/Discussions

None

Approval of State Veterans' Programs Reports

Motion: Ms. Pauline Bozdech-Veater, Member at Large, made the motion to approve the programs report.

Second: Ms. Constance Snavely seconded the motion.

The body agreed; motion carried. Programs reports approved.

VISN-4

Ms. Jennifer Harkins

Ms. Jennifer Harkins introduced herself as the Interim Director of VISN 4, effective February 6, 2026. She provided an overview of current updates, including leadership changes, facility wait times, grant opportunities, VHA restructuring efforts, volunteer onboarding challenges, and patient experience awards. All details are available in the supporting documents attached.

Questions/Discussions

None

Pennsylvania War Veterans Council

Mr. Bill Zelner

No Report, stated everything was mentioned in early discussion
Questions/Discussions

Good of the Order

- Ms. Wanda Grover reported the passing of longtime organization member Neil Appleby and informed the group that a memorial service will be held on April 24 at 10:30 a.m. at The Gap. She noted that all interested attendees are welcome to participate.
- Mr. Nate Silcox provided remarks including recognition of Army Specialist Christopher Lopez, who died on March 12 in a training incident at Letterkenny, and expressed condolences for his passing. He announced plans to introduce forthcoming “veterans helping veterans” legislation that would add a \$5 fee to Pennsylvania military and veterans license plates to support the Veterans Trust Fund, noting the proposal is currently under review by the Legislative Reference Bureau. He provided updates on legislative priorities, including continued advocacy for real estate tax exemption legislation, which he noted has advanced out of one chamber and is now before the Senate State Government Committee. He also discussed Senate Bill 1209, emphasizing ongoing collaboration to address concerns while including safeguards against pension-related fraud (“pension poaching”), and stated that the bill remains a work in progress. Mr. Silcox highlighted upcoming events, including a training session held on April 9 for House and Senate staff, State Working Animal Day on June 9, and Guard Day at the Capitol on June 10, which will coincide with Women Veterans Day activities. He encouraged participation and outreach from organizations for these events. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of in-person engagement with legislators, noting that face-to-face meetings remain highly effective alongside letters and email communication. He also announced his nomination of former House Executive Director Rick O’Leary for consideration for a Veterans or DMVA Hall of Fame recognition in honor of his years of service.
 - Chairman Taylor responded that, under Title 51, the Commission does have some oversight related to Hall of Fame recommendations for the homes. He stated that the nomination will be reviewed and added to the agenda for the next meeting for further consideration.
- Mr. Jesiah Schrader reminded the Commission that Memorial Day is approaching and noted that County Directors are responsible for coordinating flag placement at local cemeteries, encouraging organizations to assist as appropriate. He also raised concern regarding current county regulations governing permitted grave marker flag holders, which do not yet include recognition for the Global War on Terrorism. He explained that efforts are underway to update the policy to allow appropriate recognition beyond the Persian Gulf War designation and offered to provide additional information as needed.
 - Ms. Constance Snavelly stated that the SVC had previously approved a recommendation to update Title 51 county code to include additional conflicts and corresponding flag holders, noting that the current code does not fully reflect all recognized conflicts. She indicated that the approved rewrite would expand eligibility to include these designations and emphasized that the Commission has already acted on this matter. She also referenced prior distributed materials and meeting minutes documenting the approval and urged that the update now be advanced and implemented.
- Due to audio issues, General Pippy’s comment was not recorded.

Agenda for Next Meeting

- Status of Italian American War Veteran Seat
- VTF
- VA security Clearance
- MST Group
- Signature Page
- Former House Executive Director Rick O’Leary – Hall of Fame Recognition

Closing Remarks	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
Chairman Taylor concluded the meeting by noting it was productive and emphasized that the Commission's work continues beyond the meeting room through ongoing advocacy and support for Pennsylvania veterans and their families.	
Next Meeting	
Friday June 5, 2026 @ 10:00 AM Forum: Lickdale Outreach Center	

The minutes of this meeting are respectfully submitted by:
 BG (PA) Maureen Weigl
 Deputy Adjutant General
 Veterans Affairs

Governance Committee Report for the June 5 PASVC Meeting

The GC has completed its biennial review of the SVC Operating Procedures and Policies, the OPP. Our focus has been to incorporate many of the practical recommendations to make our meetings more productive and action oriented. We also worked to improve the flow and organization of the document. Our intent is to share the final DRAFT OPP revision with DMVA Counsel for review and then share it with the Commission for comment and recommendations for improvement. Our hope is that we will be able to have the first revision of the OPP ready for SVC Vote and TAG approval by the September SVC Meeting. We are also continuing our review to improve the SVC webpage.

Before I conclude, I want to thank my fellow committee members, Rich Hudzinski and Spike Gyger for their selfless dedication and hours of support in this effort. Thanks also to our DMVA support, John Noll and Becky Yeagley. Pending your questions, that completes my report.

Agent Orange / Toxic Exposure report May 2026

If you are a veteran who served on active duty in any of the locations on this list during military service the Veterans Administration will automatically assume or presume that you were exposed to Agent Orange.

In the Republic of Vietnam or aboard a US military vessel that operated in the inland waterways of Vietnam or on a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles Seward from the demarcation line of the Waters of Vietnam and Cambodia.

Any US or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from January 9th 1962 through June 30th 1976 or Laos from December 1st 1965 through September 30th 1969 .

Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16th 1969 through April 30th 1969.

Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial Waters off Guam or American Samoa from January 9th 1962 through July 30th 1980.

Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from January 1 1972 through September 30th 1977 .

Or at least one of these must be true :

You served in or near the Korean demilitarized zone (DMZ) For any length of time between September 1st 1967 and August 31st 1971 or you served on active duty and a regular Air Force unit location where a C-123 aircraft with traces of Agent Orange was assigned and had repeated contact with this aircraft due to your flight ,ground or medical duties or you were involved in transporting, testing ,storing or other uses of Agent Orange during your military service or you were assigned as reservist to certain flight ground or medical crew duties at one of the locations listed below.

Lockbourne/ Rickenbacker Air Force Base in Ohio, 1969 to 1986 (906 and 907 Tactical Air groups or 355th and 356 tactical Airlift squadrons)

Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts 1972 to 1982(731st Tactical Air Squadron and 74th aeromedical evacuation Squadron or 901st organizational maintenance Squadron)

Pittsburgh International Airport in Pennsylvania 1972 to 1982(758th airlift Squadron)

If a veteran served in any of these locations and time periods they are eligible for the new Gulf War related presumptions this includes the airspace above any of these locations.

On or after August 2nd 1990

Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman,Qatar,, Saudi Arabia Somalia United Arab Emirates(UEA),

On or after September 11th 2001:

Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt ,Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Uzbekistan

Pa. SVC Veterans Health Committee

Chairman L.M. Johnson

Beyond MST



Beyond MST is a **free, easy-to-use mobile application**. It was developed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). It is a **private** self-help tool for healing from the effects of military sexual trauma (MST). This app can help you **manage distress, improve your quality of life, and move forward**. Beyond MST does not replace professional care, but it can help you find hope, connect to resources, and remember you are not alone.

The **Beyond MST** app is secure. Any personal information you enter into the app stays on your device and is not shared with anyone unless you choose to do so. You can also set a passcode for more privacy.

WHAT IS MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA (MST)?

MST is VA's term for sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. Veterans of all backgrounds have experienced MST. It can affect mental and physical health, even years later. MST also affects people in different ways. A variety of tools and resources—like those in **Beyond MST**—can help with healing over time.

LEARN ABOUT RECOVERY

Get tips about healing and find answers to questions, like:

- What are some common struggles people have after MST?
- What supports are available?

PRACTICE NEW SKILLS

Use tools to overcome problems you may be experiencing:

- Work through self-blame, shame, sadness and stress
- Improve your relationships and feel less alone
- Take better care of yourself and feel more comfortable in your body
- Find hope to build the life you deserve

BUILD ON YOUR STRENGTHS

Personalize the app and take active steps on your recovery journey:

- Take brief assessments to understand your well-being, symptoms and beliefs about the world
- Set recovery goals and identify steps to reach them
- Create a self-care plan and set reminders

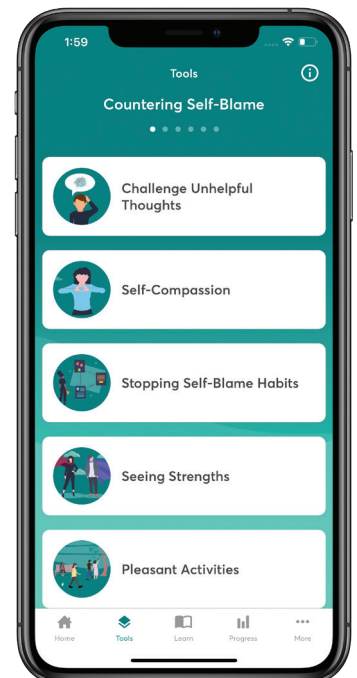
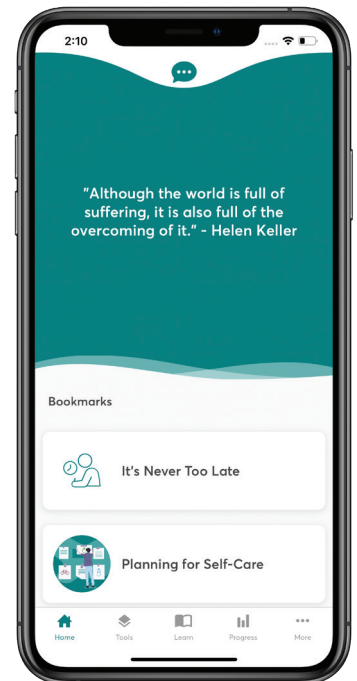
FIND HOPE AND SUPPORT

Learn more about important sources of support for MST survivors, including:

- Inspiration from other sexual trauma survivors
- VA's free MST-related services, how to get help, and what to expect
- Links to immediate sources of support if you're in crisis

You are not alone. The **Beyond MST** app can help.

For more information about MST, visit: <http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome.asp>



IT'S ON US PANG

TO DISRUPT THE CULTURE OF VIOLENCE

If you, or someone you know, has experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, or other violence, there are many PANG and community resources to help.



Pennsylvania
Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs



**Veterans
Crisis Line**
DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**

KEY



Confidential Services



Confidential Options
Available by Request

24/7

Services available 24 hours
per day, everyday

Report on Veterans' Trust Fund Grant Awards (FY21 – FY26)
Prepared for State Veterans Commission
June 5, 2026

BLUF: Mental & behavioral health was the top-funded TAG priority area in terms of quantity of funded grants projects and total value of funding awarded from FY21 – FY26. Mental & behavioral health and food/nutrition are the top two focus areas in terms of quantity of funded grant projects and total value of funding awarded in FY21 – FY26. The overwhelming majority of grant projects from FY21 – FY26 provided services to veterans and their families; a small portion of grant projects provided financial aid.

Purpose: The purpose of this report is to provide descriptive analysis of how Veterans' Trust Fund funding was awarded in the past five grant cycles (FY2021, FY2022, FY2023, FY2025, FY2026).

Limitations & Clarifications:

- 1) Applicants can submit grant projects that have multiple priority areas and multiple project focuses. This results in the report appearing to show a higher number of projects and total funding than were awarded because projects and funding may be double- or triple-counted across categories.
- 2) This report analyzes grants awarded to 501(c)3 and 501(c)19 applicants only. County Directors of Veterans Affairs are limited to \$15,000 awards that must be used specifically for veterans' outreach. Because this applicant group's VTF awards are restricted in size and scope, they were not included in this analysis.
- 3) No VTF grants were awarded in FY24 so the grant's performance period could be realigned with the state fiscal year calendar.

Please direct questions to:

Rachel Guldin, Grants Manager
rguldin@pa.gov
Grants, Analysis & Initiatives Division
Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

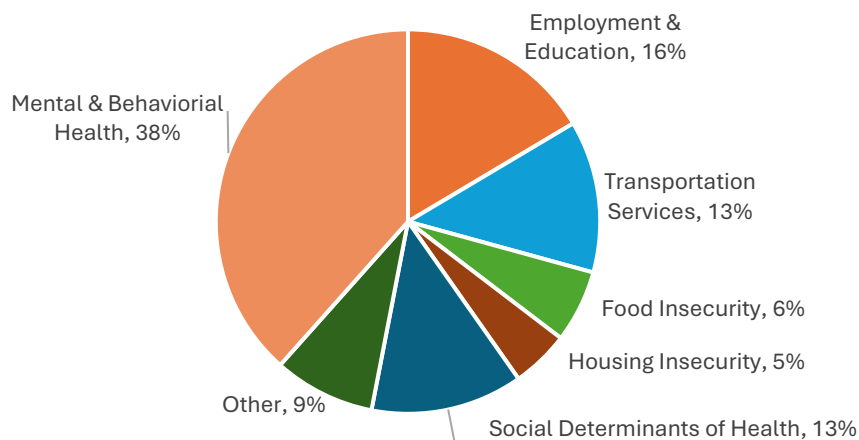
TAG's VTF Priority Areas by Year

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>Priority Area 1</i>	<i>Priority Area 2</i>	<i>Priority Area 3</i>	<i>Priority Area 4</i>	<i>Priority Area 5</i>
2026-27 (FY26)	Mental Health & Behavioral Health	Transportation	Employment		
2025-26 (FY25)	Social Determinants of Health	Transportation	Employment		
2023-24 (FY23)	Transportation Services	Food Insecurity	Housing Insecurity	Behavioral Health/Mental Health or Suicide Prevention Initiatives	Legal Assistance
2022-23 (FY22)	Transportation Services	Behavioral Health Initiatives	Homelessness	Employment & Education	
2021-22 (FY21)	Employment & Education	Behavioral Health Initiatives	Other		

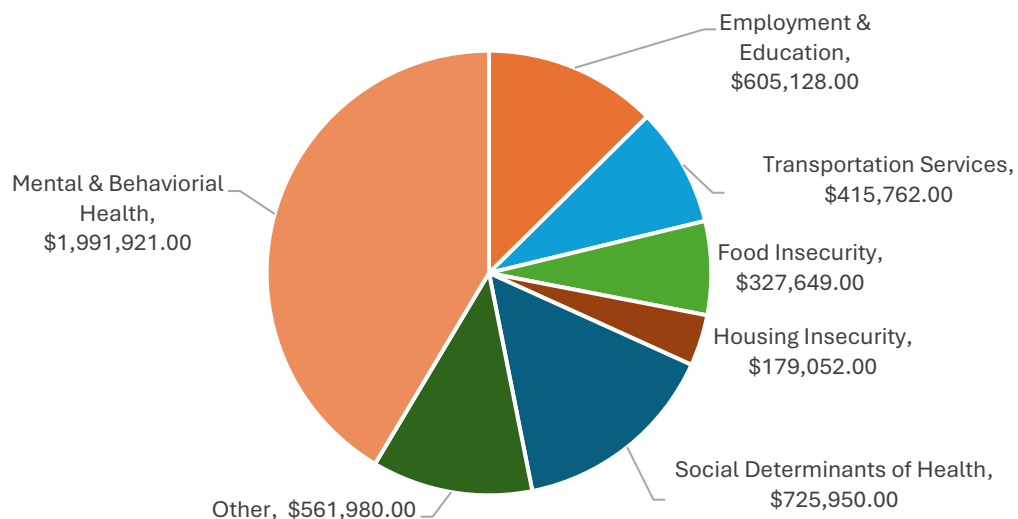
VTF Grant Awards by TAG Priority Areas

TAG's priority areas determine the types of VTF projects that will be funded. Applicants self-select the priority area(s) under which their projects fall. Some priority areas are recurring (e.g., Behavioral Health in FY21, FY22, FY23); other priority areas occurred once (e.g., Social Determinants of Health in FY25). From FY21 – FY26, the Mental & Behavioral Health priority area accounted for the most projects and the most funding.

VTF Grant Awards by TAG Priority Area (FY21-FY26)

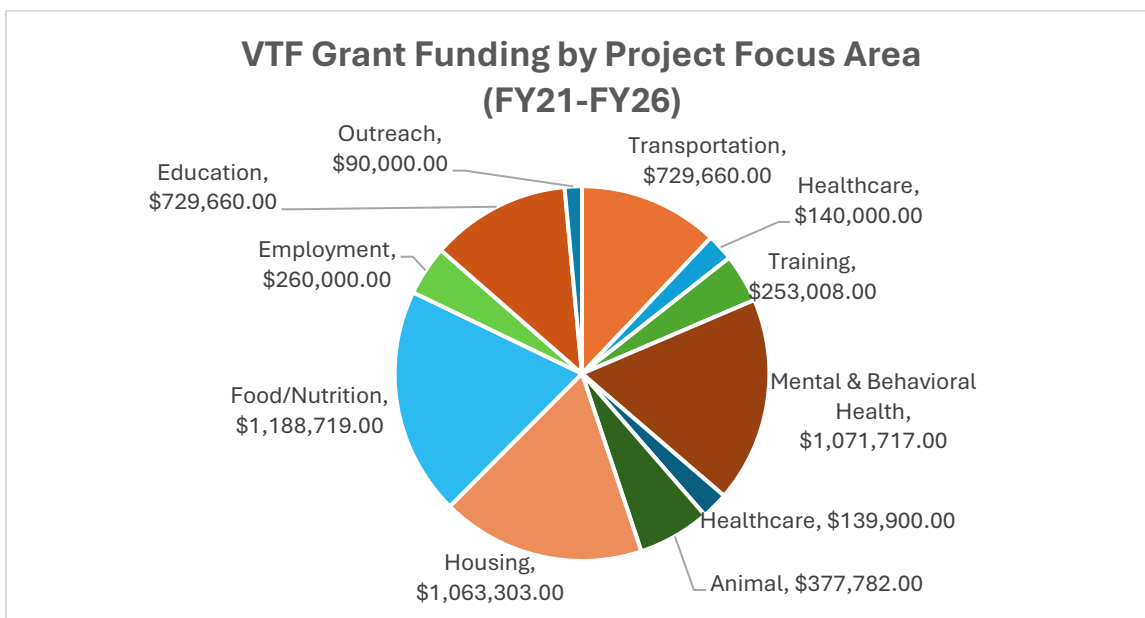
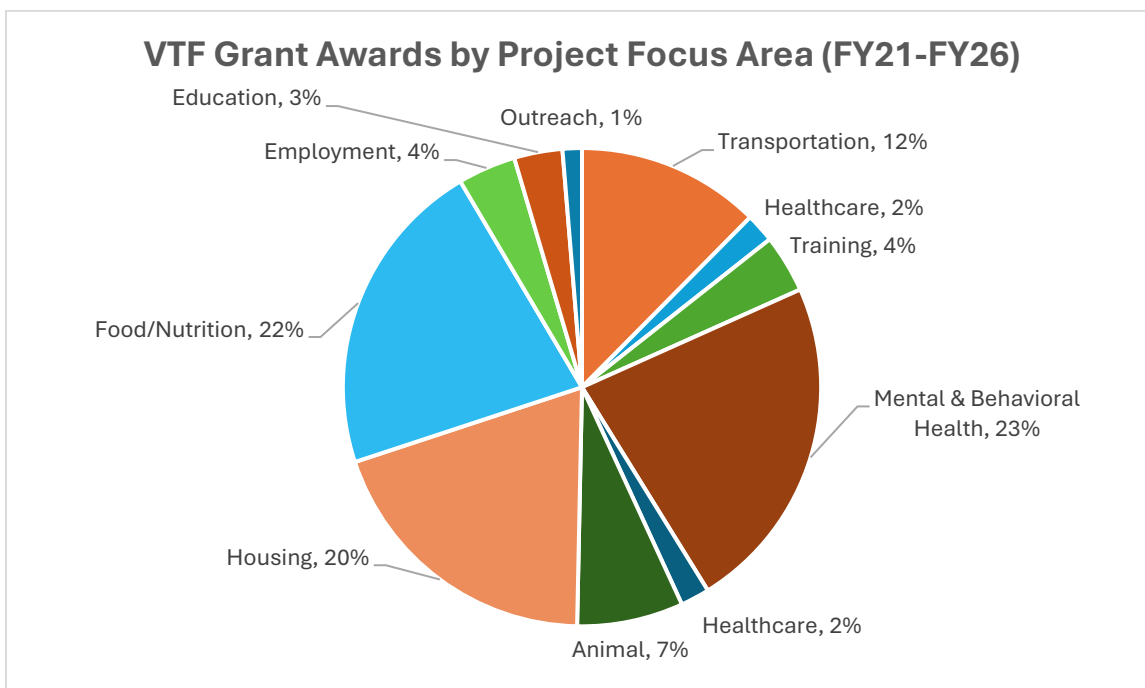


VTF Grant Funding by TAG Priority Area (FY21-FY26)



VTF Grants by Project Focus Area

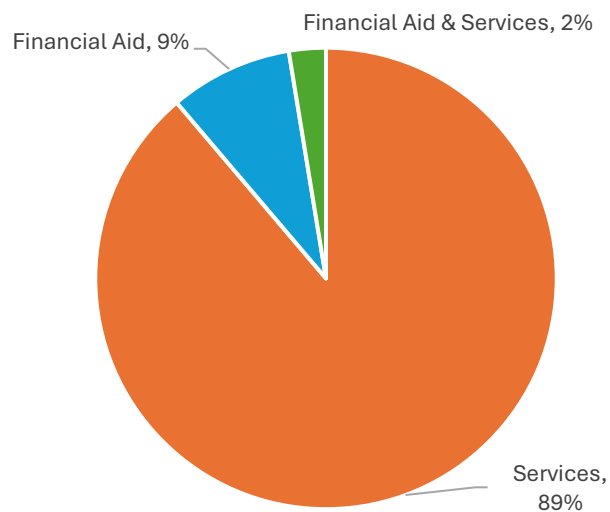
Grant projects are categorized into one or more specific focus areas that fall within TAG's priority area(s). This gives a more detailed picture of the types of projects VTF grants are funding. From FY21 – FY26, about one quarter of grant projects addressed Mental & Behavioral Health; however, Food/Nutrition projects received the most VTF funding.



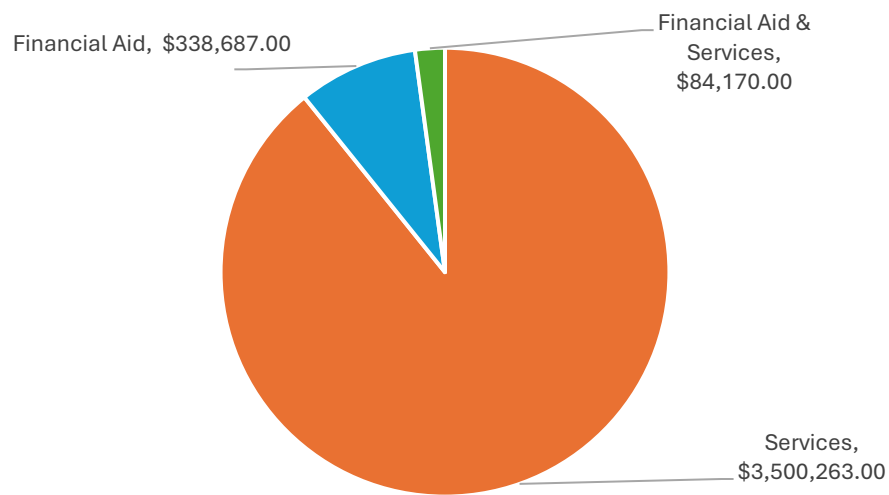
VTF Grants by Project Output

Output refers to the material, immediate results of a grant project. For this report, results are categorized as financial aid (i.e., monetary aid) or services (i.e., assistance provided) to veterans and their families. Overwhelmingly, VTF projects provided services to veterans and their families in FY21 – FY26. Examples of services include food bank distribution, therapy sessions, or job training. Examples of financial aid include utility payments or gift cards for groceries.

VTF Grant Awards by Project Output (FY21-FY26)



VTF Grant Funding by Project Output (FY21-FY26)



RETX- Exempt List

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Summary of Current Applications (Exempt)

Count	No Activity	Review Process Started	Review App Received	New Apps Pending
27,395	26,671	703	21	265

Summary of Activity from 03/27/2026 to 05/28/2026

Apps Created: 1,555	
New	1,142
Review	413
Apps Approved: 1,627	
New	1,151
Review	476
Apps Denied (Need)	70
Apps Denied (Eligibility)	72
Apps Removed (Eligibility Change)	101
Apps Removed (No Response)	191

Summary of Ineligible Reasons

Reason	Count
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs determined that the veteran did not have a total and/or 100% permanent disability during their lifetime.	15
The property for which the applicant claims exemption is not owned solely by the veteran, or jointly or as an estate by the entirety with the spouse.	29
The veteran does not reside in the property as a principal dwelling.	1
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs determined that the veteran did not serve during a period of war or armed conflict.	26
The veteran's disability has not been declared by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs to be a total or 100% permanent disability.	1