



**STATE VETERANS' COMMISSION MEETING  
FEBRUARY 3, 2017**



# CURRENT AND FUTURE UNIT MOBILIZATIONS



				FY17											
JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN 17	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
				28th ID 1-110th 369 pax											
Det 1 C 2/104 OEF-KU 24 pax				2IBCT KFOR 4 pax											
				EN TM B/HHBN 5 pax											
				628 FICO 25 pax											
				1902 CCD 2 pax											
				111 SFS- AEF- 26 PAX											
				111- UFG- RTND											
				171 ARW- AEF- 17 PAX											
W- OIR- RTND				193 SOW- OIR- 51 PAX											
				171 ARW- TSP- RTND											
				211 EIS (193)- 7 PAX											
				270 EIS (111)- AEF- RTND											
				271 CBCS (193)- AEF- 11 PAX											
				111 ATKW- RPA (HS)- 36 PAX											
Total Number Mobilized / Projected, by month:															
664	696	708	664	966	966	942	449	459	459	485	538	169	145	145	145

ARNG Unit Soldiers in Theater: 378  
 ARNG Soldiers at MOB/DEMOB/WTU Site: 6  
 ARNG Individual Mob: 11  
 Total ARNG Mob: 395

**Total PANG  
 Mobilized: 721**

Current ANG Unit Airmen Mob: 71  
 Current ANG Individual Mob: 11  
 Total: ANG Mob: 82

# VISN 4 Access Data



	<b>Oct. 2015</b>	<b>Sept. 2016</b>	<b>Nov. 2016</b>
Appointments Within 30 Days	97.3%	97.6%	97.6%
Average Wait Time – Primary Care	3.4 days	3.2 days	3.4 days
Average Wait Time – Specialty Care	5 days	4.9 days	4.8 days
Average Wait Time – Mental Health Care	2.3 days	2.9 days	3 days
Outpatient Appointments	205,006	200,059	186,344

# VISN 4 Non-VA Care Data



	<b>Oct. Update</b>	<b>Nov. Update</b>	<b>Jan. Update</b>
Current Number of Provider Agreements	789	932	1,117

<b>Non-VA Care Appointments</b>			
<i>October 1, 2015, through...</i>	<i>Aug. 31, 2016</i>	<i>Sept. 30, 2016</i>	<i>Nov. 30, 2016</i>
	31,895	36,786	45,264

# VISN 4 Trust Data – Inpatients



	<b>Sept. Update</b>	<b>Nov. Update</b>	<b>Jan. Update</b>
Time Range of Data	FY16 through April 2016	FY16 through July 2016	All of FY16
“I got the service I needed”	88.5	88.5	88.2
“It was easy to get the service I needed”	84.3	84	83.4
“I felt like a valued customer”	84	84	84.3
“I trust VA to fulfill our country’s commitment to Veterans”	84.9	83	83.6

*% of responses with agree or strongly agree*

# VISN 4 Trust Data – Outpatients



	<b>Sept. Update</b>	<b>Nov. Update</b>	<b>Jan. Update</b>
Time Range of Data	FY16 through April 2016	FY16 through July 2016	All of FY16
“I got the service I needed”	86.4	86.3	86
“It was easy to get the service I needed”	80.7	79.6	79.1
“I felt like a valued customer”	81.8	80.8	80.5
“I trust VA to fulfill our country’s commitment to Veterans”	76.5	75.6	75.4

*% of responses with agree or strongly agree*

## Veterans' Homes Update

**Initiative / Recommendation(s):** Develop a partnership with various County Nursing Homes in areas identified as having a veteran population that is not being served as it pertains to skilled nursing care.

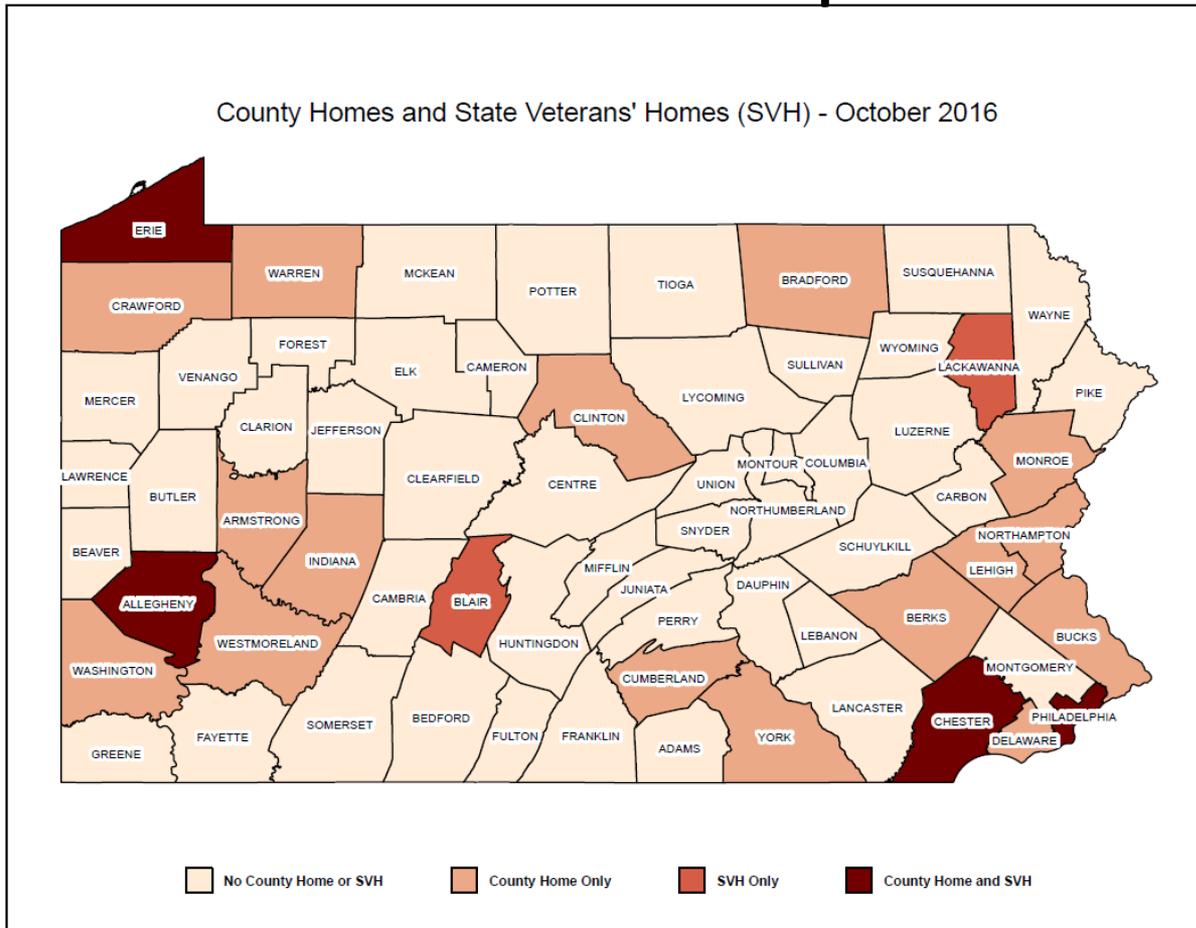
**Stakeholder(s):** Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

**Current Situation:** The Bureau of Veterans' Homes has identified that the availability of skilled nursing beds for veterans care is directly related to the regional location of the veterans home.

Currently there are 20 Counties that still maintain a County Nursing Home, BVH has contacted and discussed with Delaware County, Bradford County, York County, and Cumberland County to review those facilities and determined interest in such partnership.

## Veterans' Homes Update

County Homes and State Veterans' Homes (SVH) - October 2016



## Veterans' Homes Update

**Message(s):** This initiative would be accomplished by entering into an agreement with the County Nursing Home to provide care and services at the same level they are being provided at the State Veterans' Home (SVH). For example, staffing ratios, activity variety, available ancillary services, and financial benefit such as the Enhanced Veterans Reimbursement (EVR) program and estate collection process would be considered. A rent and/or lease agreement would be established with identified County Nursing Homes for space within their homes to be utilized as strictly a veterans home, thus creating the establishment of a state entity. The management of the newly established SVH would be under the control of a state employee having oversight of the unit/floor/wing that has been identified as an SVH. Licensure of the facility would fall under the County home, utilizing their license for the skilled beds. The SVH would have to comply with all federal, state, and local regulatory processes, and maintain licensure with the same.

## Veterans' Homes Update

**Initiative / Recommendation(s):** Construct a seventh Veterans' Home

**Stakeholder(s):** Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

**Current Situation:** Governor Rendell's Administration directed DMVA to undertake the study of a 7th Veterans' Home after discussions with the major Pennsylvania Veterans' organizations. The final report was submitted to the Governor's Office on March 31, 2009.

The study recommended three (03) additional Veterans' Homes.

Planning Region	Number of Beds
Northcentral Pennsylvania	150
Southcentral Pennsylvania	240
Lehigh Valley / Reading Region	270
<b>Total:</b>	660

## Veterans' Homes Update

Act 41/2008 authorized the new Home with a total budget of \$87M.

During 2015/2016 Capital Plan submission, DMVA requested approval to construct New State Veterans' Home (est. 200-beds) in Lebanon County. This request was consistent with subject study with regard to location.

On or about 07/13/2015, the Department's proposed plan was denied and Higher Headquarters removed New State Veterans' Home from the Department's three-year capital plan.

To-date, construction of New State Veterans' Home is returned to our ten-year plan. The Department plans to re-introduce initiative at the next best opportunity.

# OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



## Veterans Registry

-As of January 18<sup>th</sup> we have 6620 registrants

## Veterans Day at the Farm Show

-This annual event has proven to be a great opportunity for us to Interface with our Veterans, their families and community organizations who Support or provide services to our Veterans.

-489 Veterans visited our Van/Display

-97 Veterans were directly referred to their County Director

-11 Veterans were directly referred to their VA Medical Center

-20 Veterans were referred to other Departments or Community partners.

-A VSO from the Disabled American Veterans and County Directors from Perry, Dauphin and Northumberland participated in Veterans Day at the 101<sup>st</sup> PA Farm Show

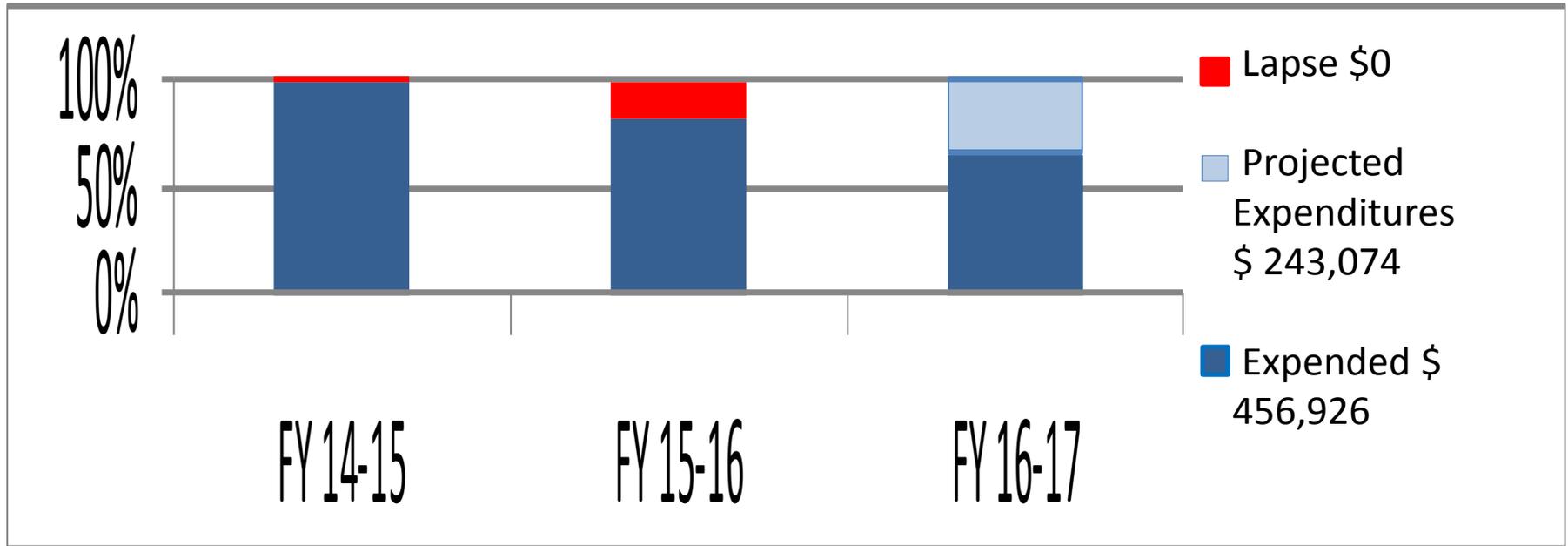
-The VFW was present in their usual booth for the entire week.

S:\VA\_Share\PIRO\SVC Info\PIRO SVC Briefing Slides - January 2017.pptx

# VETERANS TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE



\$700,000



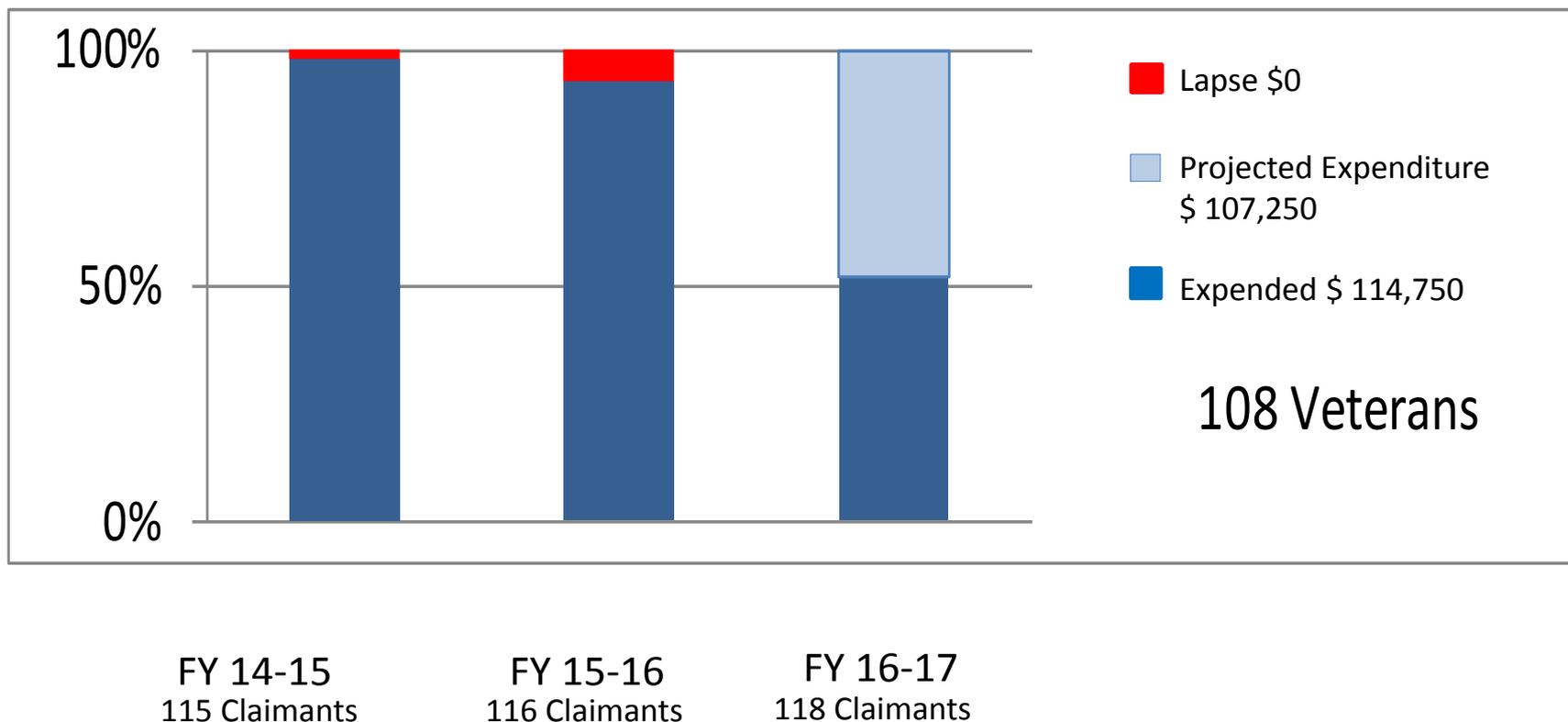
585 Claimants

436 Claimants

# BLIND VETERANS PENSION



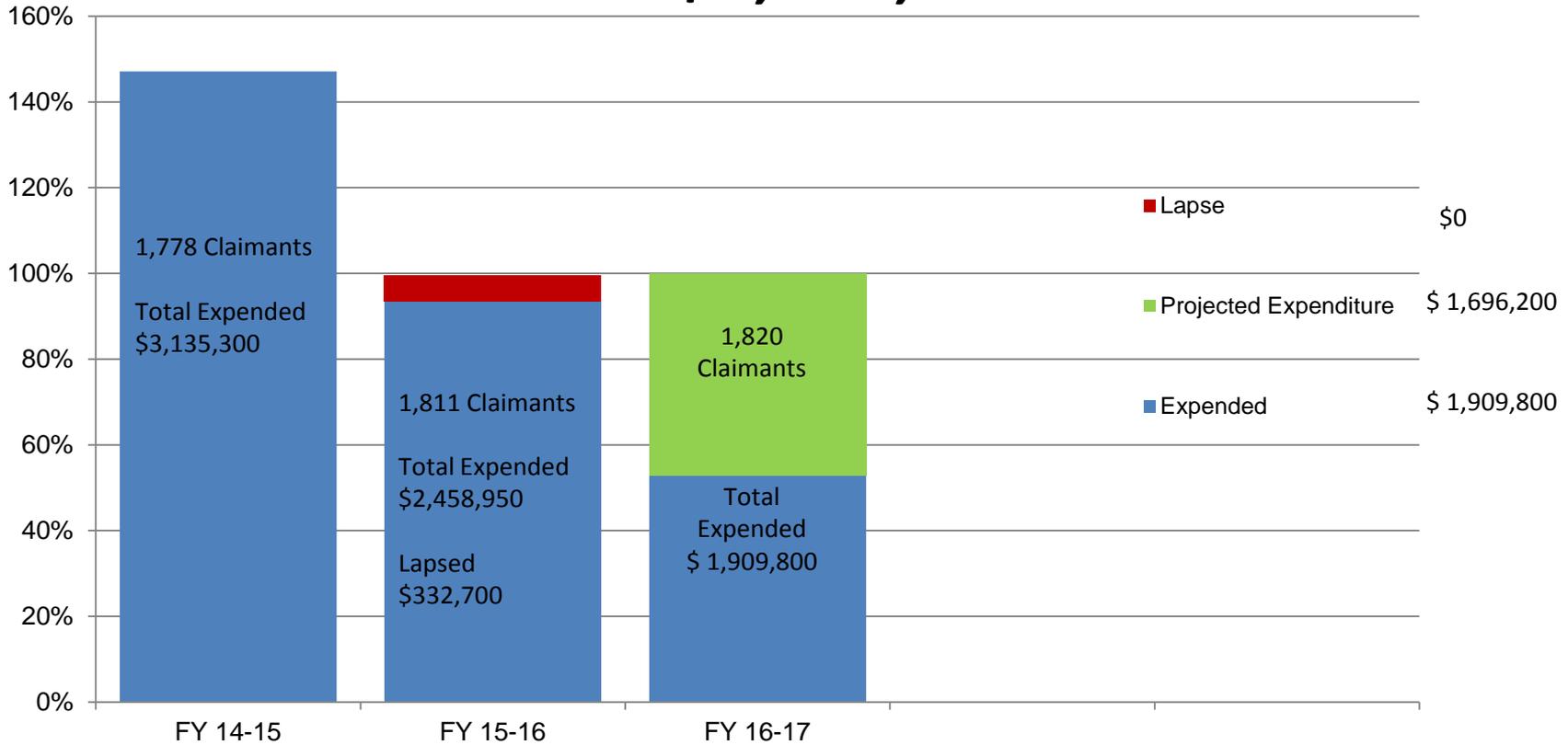
## \$222,000



# AMPUTEE & PARALYZED VETERANS PENSION



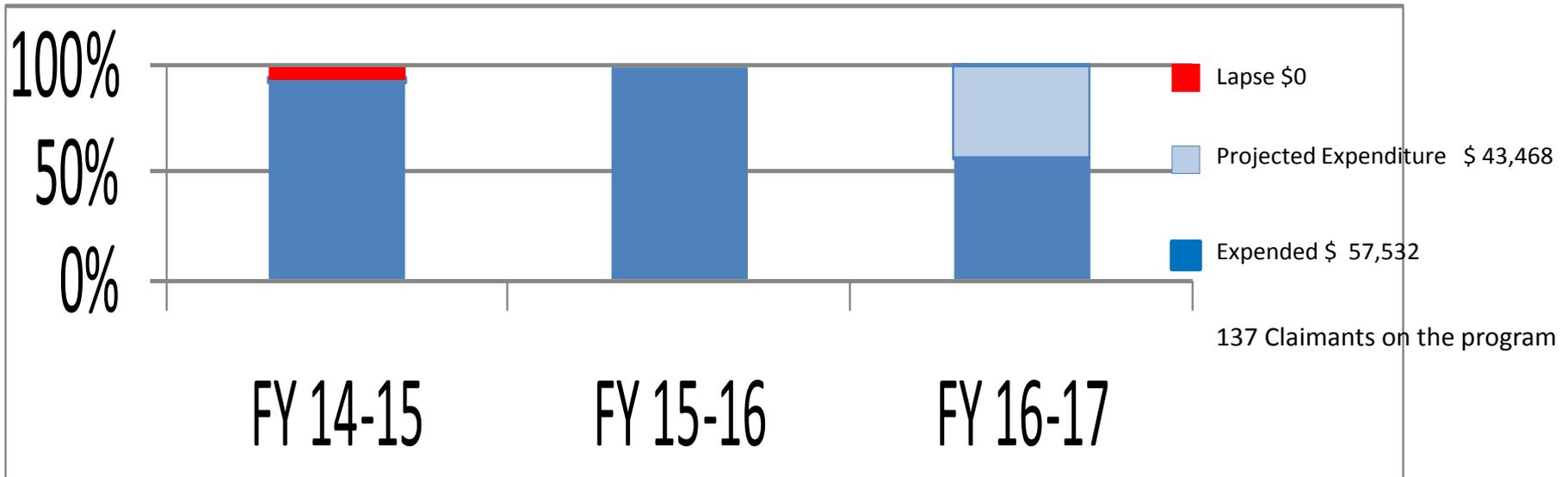
## Paralyzed Veterans Pension \$3,606,000



# EDUCATIONAL GRATUITY



## \$101,000



186 Claimants

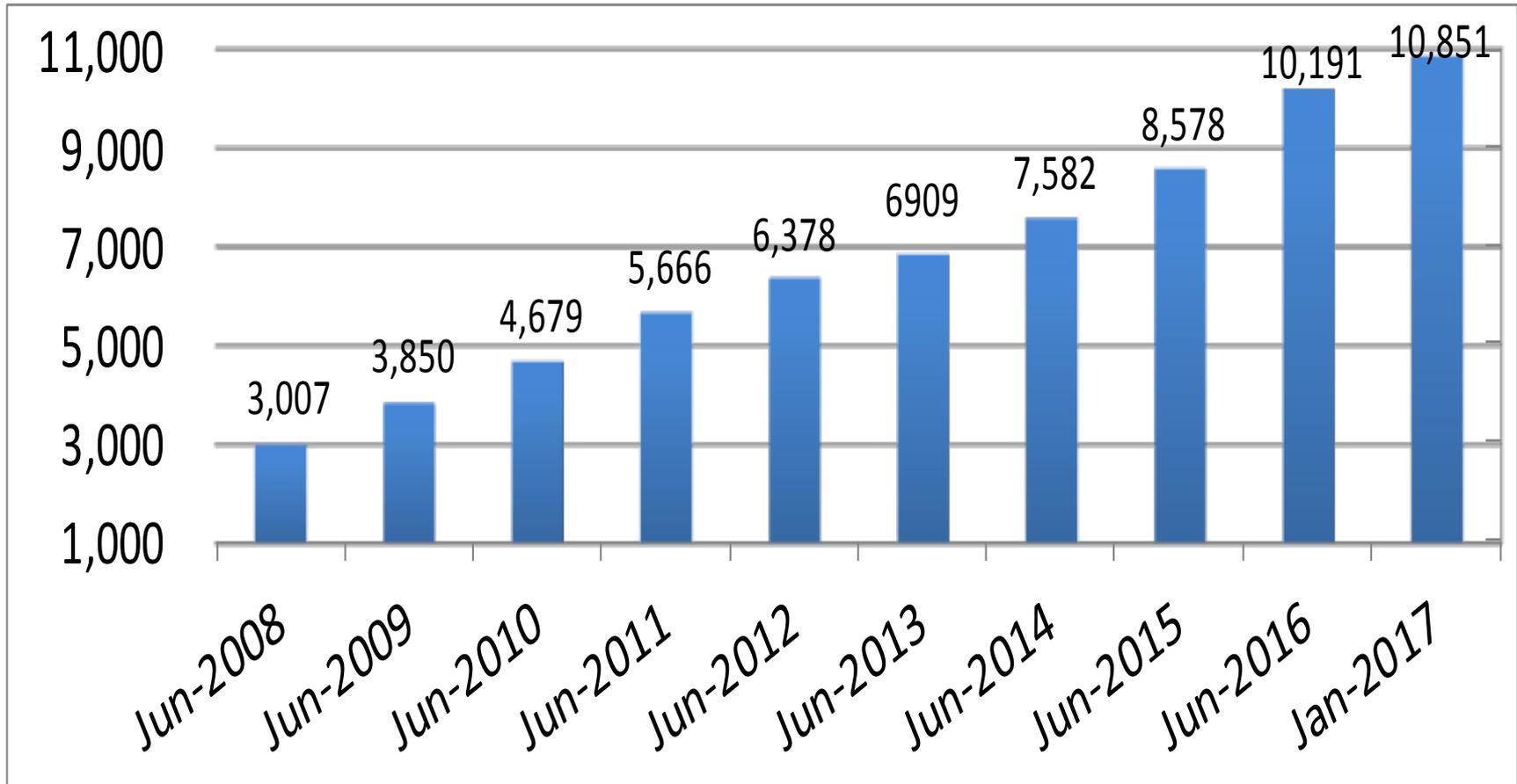
134 Claimants

100 Claimants Projected

As of 23 Jan 2017

> community > commonwealth > country

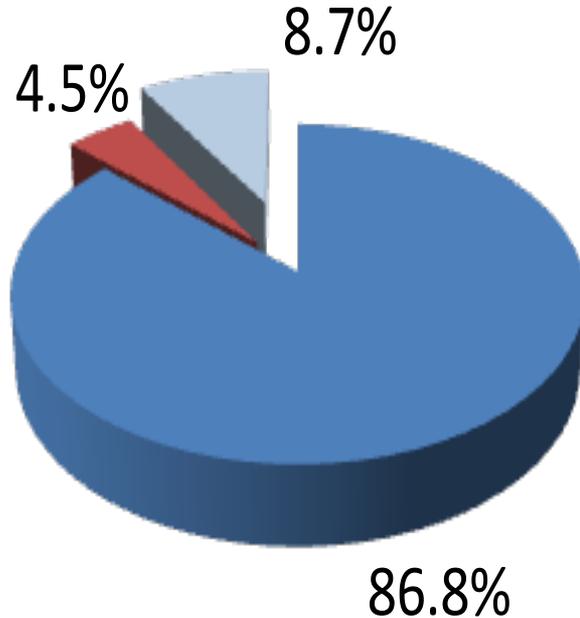
# DISABLED VETERANS TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM



As of 23 Jan 2017

> community > commonwealth > country

# DISABLED VETERANS TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM



- Applications (Approved): 287
- Applications Denied (Financial Need): 15
- Did not meet Eligibility criteria: 29

## Did Not Meet Eligibility Criteria:

- 1: Property Ownership change
- 9: Property not solely owned by Veteran and Spouse
- 5: Did not have 100% Permanent Disability in their lifetime
- 3: No war time service
- 12: Not total or 100% Disabled - Future Exam

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30 Applications Ineligible by Reason Code

\*292 Applications Received since 19 November 2016

**Total Applications: 12,043**

**Payments Sent: 9,350**

**Total Payments: \$3,966,387.50**

**Average Payment: \$424.21**

**Average Processing Time: 5.69 days**

## OVERALL MFRAP CONTRIBUTIONS - FY 2005 THRU 20 JAN 2017

TOTAL PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 119,690.29
DEPT OF REVENUE - PIT DONATIONS	\$ 1,584,895.60
TOTAL ALL CONTRIBUTIONS - PRIVATE & PIT DONATIONS	\$ 1,704,585.89
APPROVED GRANT APPLICATION PAYMENTS	\$ 797,584.86
ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$ 907001.03

## Pennsylvania Veterans Memorial Trust Fund

Beginning Trust Fund Balance (July 1, 2016)	\$565,829.99
Grants Received	0
Public / Private Donations	\$3,674.59
Interest	\$1,872.89
Refunds of Expenditures	\$28.70
Total Receipts	\$5,576.18
Expenses	(\$36,765.30)
Ending Balance	\$534,640.87

# ODAGVA/ACT 66 SUMMARY



FY 16 - 17 Claims, Compensation and Pension Summary	
Year to Date Claims Submitted	Year to Date Value of Awards
*17,615	*\$57,666,804.00

\* ODAGVA and Act 66 combined data will be available when DMVA completes the Vetraspec data conversion.

FY 15 - 16 Claims, Compensation and Pension Summary	
Year to Date Claims Submitted	Year to Date Value of Awards
22,733	\$254,503,769.00

# OUTREACH ENGAGEMENTS



## Outreach Statistics

	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Year to Date
Outreach Events Supported	51	42	4		<b>97</b>
Mobile Outreach Van Events	43	36	2		<b>81</b>
Veteran Interactions	1,011	541	529		<b>2,081</b>
Claim referrals to County Directors and Service Organizations	157	118	106		<b>381</b>
Legislator Attended Events	17	17	0		<b>34</b>

### Notes

- Two outreach vans are operational and supporting outreach events

### Upcoming Events – December

- **Legislative Events** – None
- **Events** – Monthly outreach at Cabela's, Bass Pro Shop and Brookhaven.
- **Legislators Attending Events** – None

# VETERANS' TRUST FUND



Revenue	Since Last Meeting	SFY 16-17	Cumulative Total
Checkoff & Donations	\$226,628.00	\$878,281.00	\$5,028,004.00
HOV License Plate	\$495.00*	\$1,935.00	\$38,370.00
PA Monuments License Plate	\$138.00*	\$1,127.00	\$15,295.00
Interest	\$2,891.00	\$8,744.00	\$21,315.00
Disbursements			
VTF Grants	\$0.00**	\$0.00	\$1,462,617.00
VTA	\$129,936.00	\$343,640.00	\$1,628,866.00
PENN DOT Costs	\$0.00***	\$0.00	\$772,000.00

•Total number of HOV License plates sold since last meeting = 33 (Total since inception = 2,558)

\*Total number of PA Monuments License plates sold since last meeting = 6 (Total since inception =665)

\*\*Awards and distribution of funds are contingent upon the completion of a fully executed grant agreements

\*\*\* PENNDOT PAYMENT/INVOICING – DMVA has Agreed to pay \$194,000/FY over four years. Current Balance is \$194,000. DOT will issue invoices at the beginning of April for Annual Payments. (Total Cost was 966,000.00)

As of 23 Jan 2017

> community > commonwealth > country

# Veteran Service Officer Grant Program



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AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

**Pa.C.S. 51 § 9304** Grants to Veterans' Service Officer Programs allows for the award of grants to designated veterans' service organizations to support veterans' service officer programs. Grants awarded under this section shall be used solely to support accredited veterans' service officers and the associated costs that include:

- Wages, benefits, other compensation and related personnel costs
- Training provided by accredited Veterans' service advocacy staff
- Equipment to be used by accredited Veterans' service officer staff

## Program Goals

- Improve the coordination and distribution of Veterans' benefits
- Maximize the effective and efficient use of taxpayer dollars
- Increase Veterans' participation in available benefits programs

## Federal, State and Local benefits programs

It is our stated objective that our accredited Veteran Service Officers will assist our Veterans and their eligible family members to receive the full measure of every benefit that they are eligible for.

# Veteran Service Officer Grant Program



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DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY  
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

**Use of these Grants** – designated Veterans’ Service Organizations shall use these grants to Improve the administration and delivery of services to Pennsylvania Veterans by:

- Increase interaction between the Veterans’ Service Organizations and the US Department of Veterans Affairs in order to enhance the delivery of services to Pennsylvania Veterans
- Increase the number of initial claims filed with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs on behalf of Pennsylvania Veterans for service-related disabilities or pension benefits
- Develop methods to increase rates of recovery paid by the USDVA to Pennsylvania Veterans
- Expand Training Opportunities
- Increase either the number or percentage of Pennsylvania Veterans enrolled In the USDVA Health Care system
- Improve coordination among the Veterans’ Service Organizations and with the department to assure an integrated approach to claims processing
- Improve outreach services to Veterans throughout Pennsylvania and each of its counties

# Veteran Service Officer Grant Program



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**Grant Application** - developed in accordance with Pa. C.S. 51 § 9304(e)

...eligible organizations submit their grant application which includes their “spend plan” to the department in order to be eligible to receive a grant under this section...

**Amount of Grants:** The department shall determine the annual allocation to each of the designated Veterans’ Service Organizations based on the “spending plan” they submit for the upcoming year and Actual recoveries from the previous fiscal year.

If the total appropriation is less than the collective spend plans, the department shall prorate allocations among eligible organizations based on the spend plan and past Performance.

**Procedures, policies and guidelines:** The department shall establish procedures, policies, Guidelines, forms and reporting requirements necessary to carry out the purposes of this program

# Veteran Service Officer Grant Program



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**Reporting Requirements** – On or before 1 October of each year the designated Veteran Service Organizations...shall file a written report with the Adjutant General and the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs and send copies to the chairman and minority chairman of the VA&EP Committee of the Senate and the Chairman and minority chairman of the VA&EP Committee of the House of Representatives and State Veterans' Commission. The report shall contain:

- A description of all Veterans' Service Officer activities, an accounting of recoveries and a listing of volunteer hours for the preceding Commonwealth fiscal year.
- A proposed budget and spending plan for the Commonwealth fiscal year beginning on July 1 of the year following the filing of the report
- An accounting of its expenditures from grants awarded under this program...

**Review of Reports** – The VA&EP Committee of both the Senate and House of Representatives Shall review the reports filed by the participating Veterans' Service Organizations

**Audits** – The department or the Auditor General may conduct audits and reviews...

# Veteran Service Officer Grant Program



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AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

In accordance with **Pa. C.S. 51 § 9304(g)** the department has established operational procedure policies and guidelines as well as forms and reporting requirements that are necessary to carry out the purpose of this program:

- Veterans' Service Organization Veterans' Service Officer Grant Program Application Form (State Fiscal Year specific)
- Veterans' Service Organization Veterans' Service Officer Grant Program Guidelines for Program Implementation (State Fiscal Year specific)
- Monthly Claims Report
- Monthly Recap Report
- Outreach After Action Report
- Veteran Service Officer Training and Accreditation Program

# Veteran Service Officer Grant Program



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AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

This program is managed by the Chief, Division of Reintegration and Outreach. The Veterans' Service Organization Veterans' Service Officer Grant Program Guidelines for Program Implementation (State Fiscal Year specific) will reflect specific guidance that governs:

- Review Committee
- Review Criteria
- Review Procedures
- Recommendations of Awards
- TAG Approval
- Grant Agreements
- Payments
- Grant Period
- Reporting Requirements
- Audits

# Veteran Trust Fund



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AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

**Pa. C.S. 51 § 1721** Established the “Veterans’ Trust Fund” IAW Section 1701-A.1 of the Fiscal Code, Act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No. 176), as amended by the Act of Jul. 18, 2013, P.L.574, No. 71. The act of October 24, 2012 (P,L.1602, No. 194) amended the Military and Veterans Code, Title 51 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, to create the framework for the funding, operation, maintenance and use of the Veterans’ Trust Fund.

**Source of revenue:** In addition to transfers under section 1719-G of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, the Veterans' Trust Fund shall include funds from the following sources:

- Proceeds paid by the Department of Transportation ...
- Amounts payable to the fund (special plates for Veterans)....
- Grants, gifts, donations and other payments from a person or government entity
- Money appropriated to the fund

# Veteran Trust Fund



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AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

**Appropriation** – Money in the fund is appropriated on a continuing basis to the department for purposes set forth in subsection (c) which lists

**Authorized Purposes:** Grants for programs or projects to support Pennsylvania Veterans and their Families to:

- Veterans' service organizations; and  
Other Statewide charitable organizations with a primary mission to serve Veterans
- Grants or funding for new, innovative and expanded activities or programs operated by a County Director of Veterans Affairs of the State Association of County Directors of Veterans Affairs
- Assistance to Pennsylvania Veterans in need of shelter or other necessities  
Of living to the extent that other funds or resources are not available
- Assistance to operate, maintain and repair Pennsylvania monuments  
Honoring Pennsylvania service members and Veterans who served in the U.S. or overseas.
- Payments to the Motor License Fund.....
- Department-sponsored training and informational programs for Pennsylvania Veterans. No more than 10% of the balance in the fund as of October 1 of the Previous year may be used for this purpose.

# Veteran Trust Fund



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AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

**Contributions:** The department may solicit and accept gifts, donations, legacies and other money for deposit into the fund from a person, a foundation, a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (Public Law 99-514, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3)), an estate, a veterans' service organization or a government entity on behalf of the Commonwealth.

**Report:** The Department shall submit an annual report to the chairman and minority chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Senate and the chairman and minority chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives a report detailing the Veterans' Trust Fund revenues and expenditures in the prior fiscal year and describing the activities, programs and projects which received funds.

# Remember My Service



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- Remember My Service (RMS) ([www.remembermyservice.com](http://www.remembermyservice.com)) in coordination with the Governor's office is developing a Pennsylvania-specific book in honor of those that served during the Vietnam War.
- This company is working to develop the e-book first and then raise funds to produce a hardbound book. The intent is to provide a free copy of the book to the approximately 300,000 Vietnam Veterans in Pennsylvania. Funding will be provided through private donations.
- RMS has books for 32 states in progress and intends to have state-specific e-books available for every state. RMS will provide a draft copy of the book for review prior to publishing it.



## NEXT MEETING



**Friday, April 7, 2017 at 10:00AM**  
**Arrowheads Community Club**  
**Fort Indiantown Gap**  
**Annville, PA 17003**