



## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Funding Highlights:

- Builds on the historic past increase in funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), for a 20 percent total increase since 2009.
- Secures timely, sufficient, and predictable funding for health care services through 2012 with advance appropriations for VA Medical Care.
- Increases access to medical care services by focusing on the unique needs of women veterans and continuing the enrollment of over 500,000 previously ineligible veterans into VA health care by 2013.
- Supports timely and high-quality delivery of health care and benefits through 21st Century technology, including the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record and benefits processing systems.
- Funds the Administration's commitment to dramatically reduce veteran homelessness.
- Continues the emphasis on specialized care for veterans with psychological and cognitive health needs, especially due to post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury.
- Provides greater benefits to veterans who are medically retired from service.
- Dramatically expands access to national cemeteries for eligible veterans.

Veterans earn an array of benefits and services through their dedicated service to America. The President's Budget makes it easier for veterans to access the benefits and services they have earned, by investing in 21st Century technology and in improved services for veterans with specialized needs.

**Builds on the Historic Past Increase in Funding for VA.** The Budget provides \$57 billion in funding for a 20 percent total increase since 2009. This significant increase contributes to the President's pledge to increase funding for the VA, providing a foundation to transform the Department and better serve veterans and their families today.

**Provides Advance Appropriations for VA Medical Care.** The 2011 Budget requests \$50.6 billion in advance appropriations for the VA medical care program so that care for the Nation's veterans is not hindered by budget delays. This funding will enable the Department to have timely and predictable funding from year to year, ultimately making it easier for veterans to rely on accessible VA care.

**Focuses on the Unique Needs of Women Veterans.** The 2011 President's Budget responds to the growing number of women veterans by providing for their unique needs, from an appropriate environment of care to specialized medical and counseling services.

**Continues to Increase Enrollment of Previously Ineligible Veterans into VA Health Care.** The President's Budget continues enrolling more than 500,000 moderate-income veterans into the VA health care system by 2013 while maintaining high-quality and timely care for the lower-income and disabled veterans who currently rely on VA.

**Supports Timely and High-Quality Delivery of Health Care and Benefits through 21st Century Technology.** VA and the Department of Defense (DOD) are jointly implementing the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record, which will enable VA to maintain a complete health record for each veteran and to deliver care and benefits to veterans with efficiency and accuracy. The President's Budget also invests over \$200 million in automated processing to directly improve the accuracy and timeliness of veterans benefits, particularly disability compensation and the new Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit.

**Works to Dramatically Reduce Veteran Homelessness.** With an investment of almost \$800 million, the President's Budget expands VA's services for homeless veterans and those at risk of becoming homeless through the expansion of collaborative partnerships with local governments, non-profit organizations, and the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Justice, and Labor.

**Continues the Emphasis on Specialized Care for Veterans with Psychological and Cognitive Health Needs.** The President's Budget strengthens VA's ability to provide veterans the best possible care for Post-Traumatic Stress, Traumatic Brain Injury, and other mental health conditions by investing \$5.2 billion in specialized care. These conditions will continue to be urgent issues for the VA for many years to come. The Budget increases collaboration between joint DOD and VA programs that target psychological health; increases research to develop new evidence-based approaches; and increases outreach to veterans.

**Provides Greater Benefits to Veterans who are Medically Retired from Service.** For the first time, highly-disabled veterans who are medically retired from service will be eligible for concurrent receipt of disability benefits from VA in addition to DOD retirement benefits. All medically retired servicemembers will be eligible for concurrent receipt of VA and DOD benefits by 2015.

**Dramatically Expands Access to National Cemeteries for Eligible Veterans.** VA will reduce the population threshold used to determine where new national veterans cemeteries should be built from 170,000 to 80,000 veterans living within 75 miles of a potential location. The lower threshold will provide a nearby national cemetery burial option to at least 500,000 additional veterans and will result in 94 percent of all veterans having a veterans cemetery burial option within a reasonable distance of their homes.

**Department of Veterans Affairs**  
(In millions of dollars)

	Actual 2009	Estimate	
		2010	2011
<b>Spending</b>			
Discretionary Budget Authority:			
Medical Care .....	40,183	44,512	48,183
<i>Medical Collections (non-add)</i> .....	2,767	3,026	3,355
<i>Total Medical Care including collections (non-add)</i> .....	42,950	47,538	51,538
Medical Care and Prosthetics Research .....	510	581	590
Information Technology .....	2,748	3,307	3,307
Construction .....	1,882	2,043	1,750
Veterans Benefits Administration .....	1,461	1,689	2,149
General Administration .....	336	398	463
Housing and Other Credit .....	158	166	165
National Cemetery Administration .....	230	250	251
Office of Inspector General .....	88	109	109
Total, Discretionary budget authority .....	47,596	53,055	56,967
<i>Memorandum:</i>			
<i>Budget authority from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act</i> .....	1,408	—	—
<i>Budget authority from supplementals</i> .....	198	—	—
Total, Discretionary outlays .....	46,580	51,516	55,224
<i>Memorandum: Outlays from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act</i> .....	86	590	465
Mandatory Outlays:			
Disability Compensation and Pensions:			
Existing law .....	44,270	47,901	57,109
Supplemental .....	—	13,377	—
Legislative proposal .....	—	531	44
Education Benefits .....	3,155	8,444	9,704
Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment .....	720	787	830
Housing (credit) .....	329	828	19
Insurance .....	48	49	63
All other .....	-188	549	764
Total, Mandatory outlays .....	48,334	72,466	68,533
<i>Memorandum: Outlays from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act</i> .....	465	—	—
Total, Outlays .....	94,914	123,982	123,757
<b>Credit activity</b>			
Direct Loan Disbursements:			
Vendee and Acquired Loans .....	79	965	1,102

**Department of Veterans Affairs—Continued**

(In millions of dollars)

	Actual 2009	Estimate	
		2010	2011
All other programs .....	22	15	12
Total, Direct loan disbursements .....	101	980	1,114
Guaranteed Loan Commitments:			
Veterans Home Loans.....	67,849	58,286	53,570