



## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is responsible for providing military veterans and VA survivors with the benefits, care, and support they have earned through sacrifice and service to the Nation. The President's 2023 Budget for VA honors the Nation's sacred obligation to veterans by investing in: world-class healthcare, including mental health, and enhancing veterans' general well-being; benefits delivery, including disability claims processing; education; employment training; and insurance, burial, and other benefits to enhance veterans' prosperity. The Budget ensures that all veterans, including women veterans, veterans of color, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex veterans receive the care they have earned, and prioritizes addressing veteran homelessness, suicide prevention, and caregiver support.

The Budget requests \$135 billion in discretionary funding for VA, a \$31 billion or 29-percent increase, from the 2021 enacted level. The Budget also includes \$128 billion in advance appropriations for VA medical care programs in 2024.

### The President's 2023 Budget:

- **Prioritizes VA Medical Care.** The Budget provides \$119 billion—a historic 32-percent increase above the 2021 enacted level for VA. In addition to fully funding inpatient, outpatient, mental health, and long-term care services, the Budget supports programs that improve VA healthcare quality and delivery, including investments in training programs for clinicians, health professionals, and medical students. The Budget also further supports VA's preparedness for regional and national public health emergencies.
- **Prioritizes Veteran Suicide Prevention.** The Budget provides \$497 million to support the Administration's veteran suicide prevention initiatives, including implementation of: the Veterans Crisis Line's 988 expansion initiative; the suicide prevention 2.0 program to grow public health efforts in communities; a lethal means safety campaign in partnership with other agencies; and the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program to enhance community-based prevention strategies.
- **Improves Veterans' Mental Healthcare Services.** The Budget provides \$13.9 billion for VA mental healthcare, which offers a system of comprehensive treatments and services to meet the needs of each veteran and the family members involved in the veteran's care. The Budget focuses on increasing access to quality mental healthcare and lowering the cost of mental health services for veterans, with the goal of helping veterans take charge of their treatment and live full and meaningful lives.

- **Supports Women Veterans' Healthcare.** The Budget invests \$9.8 billion for all of women veterans' healthcare, including \$767 million toward women's gender specific care. More women are choosing VA healthcare than ever before, with women accounting for over 30 percent of the increase in veterans enrolled over the past five years. Investments support comprehensive specialty medical and surgical services for women veterans at a VA facility or through referrals to the community. The Budget proposes to increase access to infertility counseling and assisted reproductive technology and to eliminate copayments for contraceptive coverage. The Budget also improves the safety of women veterans seeking healthcare at VA facilities by supporting implementation of the zero-tolerance policy for sexual harassment and assault.
- **Bolsters Efforts to End Veteran Homelessness.** The Budget increases resources for veterans' homelessness programs to \$2.7 billion, with the goal of ensuring every veteran has permanent, sustainable housing with access to healthcare and other supportive services to prevent and end veteran homelessness.
- **Invests in Caregivers Support Program.** The Budget recognizes the important role of family caregivers in supporting the health and wellness of veterans. The Budget provides funding for the Program of General Caregivers Support Services. The Budget also provides \$1.8 billion for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, which includes stipend payments and support services to help empower family caregivers of eligible veterans.
- **Invests in Overdose Prevention and Treatment Programs.** The Budget provides \$663 million toward opioid use disorder prevention and treatment programs, including programs authorized in the Jason Simcakoski Memorial and Promise Act.
- **Supports Research Critical to Veterans' Health Needs.** VA conducts thousands of studies at VA medical centers, outpatient clinics, and nursing homes each year. This research has significantly contributed to advancements in healthcare for veterans and other Americans from every walk of life. The Budget provides \$916 million to continue the development of VA's research enterprise, including research in support of *American Pandemic Preparedness: Transforming Our Capabilities* plan goals.
- **Addresses Environmental Exposures.** The Budget increases resources for new presumptive disability compensation claims related to environmental exposures from military service. The Budget also invests \$51 million within VA research programs and \$63 million within the VA medical care program for Health Outcomes Military Exposures to increase scientific understanding of and clinical support for veterans and healthcare providers regarding the potential adverse impacts from environmental exposures during military service.
- **Supports Cancer Moonshot and Precision Oncology.** The Budget invests \$81 million within VA research programs, together with \$167 million within the VA medical care program, for precision oncology to provide access to the best possible cancer care for veterans. Funds support research and programs that address cancer care, rare cancers, and cancers in women, as well as genetic counseling and consultation that advance tele-oncology and precision oncology care.
- **Provides Claims Processing Automation.** The Budget provides \$120 million for VA to support automating the disability compensation claims process from submission to authorization. Investments in automation would increase VA's ability to deliver faster and more accurate claim decisions for veterans.

- **Supports VA Home Loan Programs.** The Budget provides \$284 million for VA housing program administration to ensure that all eligible veterans receive maximum benefits and protections as new or existing homeowners, and enable VA to manage record growth in its home loan guaranty volume, which exceeded \$860 billion in outstanding principal in 2021. In addition, in accordance with the President’s Executive Order 14030, “Climate-Related Financial Risk,” the VA housing program is working with the Departments of Agriculture and Housing and Urban Development to consider approaches to better integrate climate-related financial risk into Federal credit programs. Efforts to date include contracting for additional expert analytical support, identifying and sharing initial risk assessments in working groups comprised of credit representatives of these agencies, and exploring the financial sensitivity of proposed 2023 activity to adverse movements in default and recovery performance that could be related to climate-change risks.
- **Modernizes VA Information Technology.** The Budget includes \$5.8 billion for VA’s Office of Information Technology to prioritize cybersecurity, financial management business transformation, claims automation, and the Infrastructure Readiness program, with the mission to ensure a seamless customer experience for veterans. The Budget also provides \$1.8 billion to continue modernizing VA’s Electronic Health Record to ensure veterans receive world-class healthcare well into the future.
- **Invests in New and Replacement Medical and Cemetery Facilities.** The Budget includes \$3 billion for construction and expansion of critical infrastructure and facilities. This funding supports seven major investments in new and replacement medical facilities and new or expanded cemeteries in three locations. In addition, VA would make improvements and alterations to existing medical facilities, further expanding healthcare capacities. These capital investments enable the delivery of high-quality healthcare, benefits, and services for veterans.
- **Honors the Memory of All Veterans.** The Budget includes \$430 million to ensure veterans and their families have access to exceptional memorial benefits including two new and replacement national cemeteries. These funds maintain national shrine standards at the 158 VA managed cemeteries and provide the initial operational investment required to open new cemeteries.