



# The Independent Budget FY 2026 – 2027

March 6, 2025

# Introduction to The Independent Budget

## THE INDEPENDENT BUDGET

A Comprehensive Budget Document  
Created by Veterans for Veterans



Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027  
for the Department of Veterans Affairs

### Summary Table of IB Budget Recommendations

(In Thousands)	FY 2024 Total Resources Enacted	FY 2025 Total Resources Projected	FY 2026 Total Resources IB Recommended	FY 2027 Total Resources IB Recommended
<b>Veterans Health Administration (VHA)</b>				
Medical Services	80,496,000	84,953,000	106,118,000	111,216,000
MCCF for Medical Services	3,415,000	3,490,000	Note 1	Note 1
<b>Subtotal, VA Medical Services (w/MCCF)</b>	<b>83,911,000</b>	<b>88,442,000</b>	<b>106,118,000</b>	<b>111,216,000</b>
Medical Support and Compliance	11,600,000	12,076,000	12,380,000	12,718,000
Medical Facilities	8,949,000	9,402,000	14,149,000	14,403,000
<b>Subtotal, VA Medical Care</b>	<b>104,460,000</b>	<b>109,919,000</b>	<b>132,647,000</b>	<b>138,337,000</b>
Medical Community Care	37,082,000	32,398,000	33,732,000	34,174,000
MCCF for Community Care	854,000	902,000	Note 1	Note 1
<b>Subtotal, Medical Community Care</b>	<b>37,936,000</b>	<b>33,300,000</b>	<b>33,732,000</b>	<b>34,174,000</b>
<b>Total Medical Care</b>	<b>142,396,000</b>	<b>143,219,000</b>	<b>166,379,000</b>	<b>172,511,000</b>
Medical and Prosthetic Research	989,000	961,000	1,205,000	
<b>Total Veterans Health Administration</b>	<b>143,385,000</b>	<b>144,180,000</b>	<b>167,584,000</b>	
<b>Non-VHA Offices and Programs</b>				
Veterans Benefits Administration	5,668,000	5,436,000	6,457,000	
Board of Veterans Appeals	291,000	287,000	296,000	
National Cemetery Administration	480,000	495,000	620,000	
General Administration	565,000	512,000	549,000	
Office of Inspector General	296,000	300,000	309,000	
Information Technology	7,644,000	7,617,000	8,183,000	
Electronic Health Records Modernization	1,334,000	894,000	921,000	
<b>Construction Programs</b>				
Major Construction	961,000	2,069,000	5,119,000	
Minor Construction	692,000	380,000	3,694,000	
Grants for State Extended Care Facilities	171,000	147,000	650,000	
Grants for State Veterans Cemeteries	60,000	63,000	100,000	
<b>Total Construction Programs</b>	<b>1,884,000</b>	<b>2,658,000</b>	<b>9,563,000</b>	
Other Discretionary Loan Programs	320,000	326,000	336,000	
<b>Total Budget Authority</b>	<b>161,868,000</b>	<b>162,705,000</b>	<b>194,818,000</b>	

For nearly 40 years, The Independent Budget veterans service organizations (IBVSOs)—DAV (Disabled American Veterans), Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW)—have worked to develop and present concrete recommendations to ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs remains fully funded and capable of carrying out its mission to serve veterans and their families, both now and in the future. Throughout the year, the IBVSOs work together to promote their shared recommendations, while each organization also works independently to identify and address legislative and policy issues that affect the organizations' members and the broader veterans' community.



Disabled American Veterans  
1300 I Street, NW, Suite 400 West  
Washington, D.C. 20025  
202-554-3501 | dav.org



Paralyzed Veterans of America  
1875 Eye Street, NW, Suite 100  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
202-872-1300 | pva.org



Veterans of Foreign Wars  
200 Maryland Avenue, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20002  
202-543-2239 | vfw.org

[www.IndependentBudget.org](http://www.IndependentBudget.org)



# Purpose and Goal of the IB

- The Independent Budget (IB) veterans service organizations (IBVSOs), for almost 40 years, DAV, PVA, and VFW.
- Provide unbiased, needs-based funding estimates for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)



# Veterans Health Administration

- Medical services
- New Users
- Staffing
- Long-term Care
- Caregivers Support
- Mental Health
- Emergency and urgent care
- Dental care
- Prosthetic and sensory aids services

# Women Veterans Health Care

Women Veterans (\$130 Million) plus-up

- 30 percent increase in WV enrolling in VHA of the past 5 years
- Trend expected to continue 900,000 enrolled
- High users of VA HC/mental health services/high rates of SC/complex medical conditions
- Must have access to timely, **comprehensive**, high quality care

# WV Additional Funding Needs

- Recruit and train more clinical providers—with expertise in women's health to deliver high-quality care
- Hire more highly specialized GYNs for surgery and complex health conditions
- Hiring Peer support specialists
  - care specialists for treating women with MST-Related PTSD or
  - who experienced Interpersonal Violence
- Care coordinators for women using community care services—maternity care; prosthetics

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# Office of Women's Health

Increase staff in the Office of Women's Health for:

- Strategic Planning
- Evaluating Research
- DATA
- Best practices and Evidence Based treatments
- Adjustments in programing

# Non-VHA Offices and Programs

Overview of funding recommendations for:

- Veterans Benefits Administration
- Board of Veterans' Appeals
- National Cemetery Administration
- General Administration
- Office of the Inspector General

# Information Technology Systems

Recommendations for IT systems:

- Support for VBA, BVA, NCA
- Digital GI Bill
- Medical research IT needs

# Veterans Electronic Health Record System

- Overview of the EHR Modernization efforts
- Funding requirements



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# Construction Programs

- Budget recommendations for major and minor construction projects
- State Home and State Cemetery Construction Grants

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# Other Discretionary Programs

Other VA discretionary programs include:

- The Veterans Housing Benefit Program Fund,
- The Vocational Rehabilitation Loans Program,
- The Native American Veterans Housing Loan Program

# Conclusion

The IBVSOs call on Congress to fully fund VA to ensure that health care and benefits are available in a timely manner to those who have sacrificed in their service to the American people



**Independent Budget**



*Thank You!*