

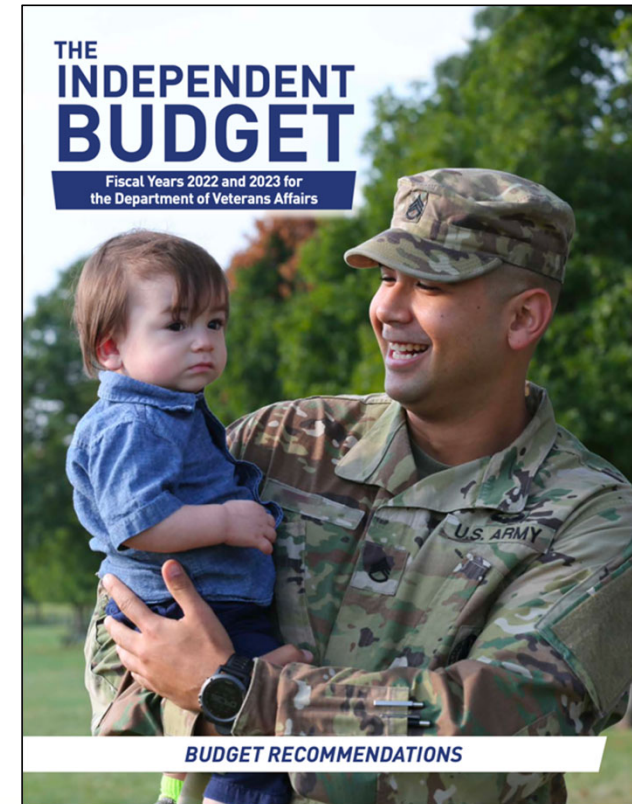


VA's FY 2022 Budget Request

Marquis Barefield
Assistant National Legislative Director

IB Budget Report for FY 2022

- Joint Effort of DAV, PVA & VFW
- Released on February 1, 2021
- Uncertainty on Assumptions Due to COVID
 - *Deferred Care*
 - *Unemployment*
 - *Inflation*



VA FY 2022 Budget Request

- Submitted on May 27, 2021
- Includes Additional Resources
 - Recurring Expenses Transformational Fund
 - American Rescue Plan (COVID)
 - *American Jobs Plan (Infrastructure) - Proposed*

FY 2022 BUDGET SUBMISSION



"To care for him who shall have borne the battle,
and for his widow, and his orphan..."

Medical Programs
and
Information Technology Programs

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THE INDEPENDENT BUDGET

A Budget for Veterans by Veterans
www.independentbudget.org

Joint Testimony of
The Independent Budget Veterans Service Organizations
DAV (Disabled American Veterans)
Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

on
VA Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 Advance Appropriations

Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs
June 16, 2021

Chairman Tester, Ranking Member Moran and Members of the Committee:

The co-authors of The Independent Budget (IB)—DAV (Disabled American Veterans), Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)—are pleased to present our recommendations for funding the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for fiscal year (FY) 2022, including advance appropriations for FY 2023, as well as present our views on the President's budget request. For more than 30 years, The Independent Budget veterans service organizations (IBVSOs) have presented comprehensive budget and policy recommendations to ensure that VA remains adequately funded and capable of carrying out its mission to serve veterans and their families, both now and in the future.

As is typical in the transition year following a presidential election, the new Administration did not present its federal budget request in February, instead releasing a high-level summary in April, before submitting its full budget request on May 27. Overall, the Administration's budget request for FY 2022—combined with appropriated funding from the American Rescue Plan (ARP), available funding from the Recurring Expenses Transformational Fund (Transformational Fund), and proposed funding from the American Jobs Plan (AJP)—would fully fund veterans' programs, benefits and services for the first time in a generation.

We commend the Administration for this historic VA budget request and call on Congress to ensure that VA receives all of the funding needed to ensure that every enrolled veteran receives timely, high quality health care; that every veteran receives all of the benefits they have earned without delays; and that every transitioning service member has the support to live a high-quality and meaningful life.

Earlier this year, in February, the IBVSOs released our "Budget Recommendations for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 for the Department of Veterans Affairs." The IB recommendations reflected a cautious approach based on historical trends, but recognizing that the past year has been one of the most challenging ever for VA and veterans as the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted VA's operations across the country and significantly impacted veterans' ability to access health care, benefits and transition services. As a result of this unprecedented national



***“Overall, the Administration’s budget request for FY 2022—
—combined with appropriated funding from the American
Rescue Plan (ARP), available funding from the Recurring
Expenses Transformational Fund (Transformational Fund),
and proposed funding from the American Jobs Plan (AJP)—
—would fully fund veterans’ programs, benefits and
services for the first time in a generation.”***

**IBVSO Testimony to Senate VA Committee
June 16, 2021**



VA Provided Medical Care

- IB Report \$81.4 Billion
- VA Request \$78.1 Billion
 - *PLUS \$12.5 Billion from ARP*



Medical Community Care

- IB Report \$20.7 Billion
- VA Request \$23.4 Billion
 - *PLUS \$2 Billion from ARP*



Medical & Prosthetic Research

- IB Report \$902 Million
- VA Request \$882 Million



Veterans Benefits Administration

- IB Report \$3.6 Billion
 - 190,000 claims backlog
 - 1,000 New FTE
- VA Request \$3.4 Billion
 - PLUS \$272 Million from ARP
 - 429 New FTE



Board of Veterans Appeals

- IB Report \$216 Million
 - 90,000 pending hearings
 - 200 New FTE
- VA Request \$228 Million
 - 162 New FTE



Information Technology (IT)

- **IB Report** **\$5.2 Billion**
 - *\$175 million for VBA*
 - *\$25 million for Board*
 - *\$42 million for Research*
- **VA Request** **\$4.8 Billion**
 - *PLUS \$670 Million from Transformation Fund*



Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM)

- IB Report \$3.0 Billion
 - \$60 million for Scheduling Solution
- VA Request \$2.7 Billion
 - Strategic Review



Next Steps

- House & Senate Appropriations Bills
- House-Senate-Administration Agreement
- New Fiscal Year Starts October 1st



Threats to VA & Veterans Funding

- Rising Federal Deficits & National Debt
- Freezing Infrastructure Spending During AIR
- Enforcement of PAYGO & Offsets



Additional Resources for VA's FY 2022 Budget

- IB Budget Report – February 1, 2021
www.independentbudget.org/117-congress
- VA Budget Request – May 27, 2021
www.va.gov/budget/products.asp
- IB Budget Testimony – June 9, 2021
www.dav.org/wp-content/uploads/Testimony20210609.pdf




Thank You!

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