

**DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS REPORT ON THE COLORADO STATE
VETERANS AFFAIRS TRUST FUND FOR FY 06-07**

Subject: Colorado State Veterans Trust Fund

Requirement: Pursuant to §25-1-108.5 (2), C.R.S. as amended, the following report is provided for State Fiscal Year 06-07 covering the period from July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007.

Statutory Issues Affecting the Future of the Veterans Trust Fund:

§28-5-709. Colorado state veterans trust fund - report - repeal. (1) (b) The moneys in the trust fund shall be used for:...

(3) (a) (III) (b) (I) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection (3):

(A) ... For the 2003-04 through 2006-07 fiscal years, twenty-five percent of the amount of annual transfers made pursuant to subsection (2) of this section shall be credited to the trust fund and retained as principal in the trust fund, and seventy-five percent of the annual transfers made pursuant to subsection (2) of this section and one hundred percent of any interest earned on the principal in the trust fund shall be subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly and may be allocated by the board for the purposes outlined in subsection (1) of this section.

(B) ...For 2007-08FY 35% credited to the trust fund and 65% plus 100% interest subject to annual appropriation...

(C) ...For 2008-09FY 45% credited to the trust fund and 55% plus 100% interest subject to annual appropriation...

(D) ...For 2009-10FY 55% credited to the trust fund and 45% plus 100% interest subject to annual appropriation...

(E) ...For 2010-11 FY 65% credited to the trust fund and 35% plus 100% interest subject to annual appropriation...

Funds Received: The Veterans Trust Fund received an allocation of \$873,913 from tobacco settlement monies. The amount of \$248,609 was retained as principal and \$625,304, which included less than the previous year total interest, was appropriated for administration and grant expenditures. Of the total awarded, \$547,827 was expended leaving a balance of \$77,477 returned to the fund.

Program Description: The Colorado State Veterans Trust Fund is designed with the specific goal of assisting all eligible veterans residing in the State of Colorado regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, and sexual preference, marital or religious status by providing funds for the following purposes:

- State Veteran's Nursing Homes for capital improvements and needed amenities.
- Costs incurred by the legislative oversight committee and veterans nursing home commission to evaluate quality of care provided at certain state veterans nursing homes.
- Operation and maintenance of existing or future State Veterans Cemeteries.
- Costs incurred by the Division.
- Non-profit Veterans Service Organizations to assist homeless veterans and their families, providing veteran transportation to and from Veteran Medical Centers and Doctor's appointments; stand-downs; veterans forums, and programs to assist the veteran in employment or job related services.

Population Served: The actual number of veterans in the State of Colorado is unknown since all veterans are not registered with the Veterans Administration. It is widely believed there are approximately 475,000 eligible veterans in the State. Obviously, not all of them require assistance. Those that do, include nursing home residents, homeless and indigent veterans, combat disabled veterans, invalids, under-employed and the unemployed. A breakdown of the actual number served through the grant process is provided in subsequent paragraphs to this report.

Services Provided: Of the \$625,304 available for administrative and grant expenditures, budgeted and grant award amounts included: (1) \$29,000 to the Division of Veterans Affairs for administration, (2) \$540,025 to grant eligible agencies, (3) \$31,263 for grant administration and travel. Therefore, a total of \$600,288 of the \$625,304 appropriated was either awarded or budgeted for the fiscal year. The following represents a breakdown by category of agencies that received grants or awards during the reporting period, to include the type of service and/or assistance provided.

Division of Veterans Affairs (DVA) - The Board of Veterans Affairs awarded \$29,000 to support the Division operations. Of that amount \$23,326 was expended.

State Veterans Nursing Homes (SVNH) – The SVNH in Walsenberg, CO received funds to purchase a entertainment system and a new handicapped equipped van. The SVNH at Homelake, CO was provided funds to construct a wheel chair accessible green house and gazebo. In addition, funding was provided to renovate the tub room, and to purchase an ice machine and dishwasher for the facility.

Non-Profit Veterans Service Organizations - These organizations were awarded \$540,025 in grant funds and expended \$500,354 before the grant period ended. The Regional Disabled American Veterans (DAV) supported a Denver homeless veterans stand-down, American Legion Post 203 hosted a homeless veterans stand-down in Pueblo and the Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) supported a stand-down in Colorado Springs. DAV Chapter 8 (Greeley) renovated their homeless shelter. American Legion Post 108 (Pagosa Springs), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 3621(Lamar) and DAV Chapter 5 (Loveland) purchased vehicles to support their transportation programs. American Legion Post 899 (Alamosa), American Legion Post 2700 (Grand Junction), VFW Post 6331 (Aurora), American Legion Post 1992 (Aurora), DAV Chapter 5 (Loveland) and VFW Post 5231 (Mancos) provided job assistance and/or training programs. Homeless Veteran Programs and shelters were administered in Colorado Springs, Sheridan and Lamar. VFW Post 4171, in addition to assisting homeless veterans, administered an incarcerated veteran program. Other homeless veterans and transportation programs were administered throughout the State. A breakout by organization and purpose is provided in the following chart.

<u>Name of Organization</u>	<u>Purpose of Grant</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Veterans Served</u>
Am Legion Post 113 Alamosa, CO	Transportation of Veterans	\$ 25,870	\$ 25,870	1,565
Am Legion Post 2 Pueblo, CO	Transportation of Veterans	\$ 10,540	\$ 9,050	768
Am Legion Post 108 Pagosa Springs, CO	Vehicle Purchase Transportation of Veterans	\$ 35,210	\$ 32,755	211
VFW Post 3621 Lamar, CO	Vehicle Purchase Transportation for Veterans	\$ 31,400	\$ 31,203	442
VFW Post 4031 Durango, CO	Transportation of Veterans	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	402
VFW Post 4265 Craig, CO	Transportation of Veterans	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	209
DAV Chapter 8 Greeley, CO	Renovate Homeless Shelter Transportation Program	\$ 8,949	\$ 8,218	10

VFW Post 9644 Sheridan, CO	Veterans Assistance	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	4,099
Am Legion Post 1992 Aurora, CO	Support Services to Veterans Work Program	\$ 30,000	\$ 22,435	498
Am Legion Post 66 Akron, CO	Transportation of Veterans	\$ 10,000	\$ 3,777	63
SVNH Walsenberg, CO	Entertainment System	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	600
Am Legion Post 2700 Grand Junction, CO	Job Related Assistance	\$ 33,000	\$ 26,407	430
Am Legion Post 44 Steamboat Springs, CO	Transportation of Veterans	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,827	37
DAV Region 8 Denver, CO	Homeless Veterans Stand-down (Denver)	\$ 10,200	\$ 10,200	406
VFW Post 6331 Aurora, CO	Veteran Training Program	\$ 9,650	\$ 9,400	14
VFW Post 4051 Colorado Springs, CO	Support Homeless Shelter	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	387
VFW Post 4171 Golden, CO	Homeless & Incarcerated Veterans Support	\$ 20,000	\$ 19,128	221
Am Legion Post 203 Pueblo, CO	Homeless Stand-down	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	86
VFW Post 5231 Mancos, CO	Veteran Employment Program Veteran Assistance	\$ 2,063	\$ 1,400	15
SVNH Walsenberg Walsenberg, CO	Vehicle Purchase	\$ 22,033	\$ 22,033	300
VFW Post 899 Alamosa, CO	Veteran Employment Program Veteran Assistance	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,482	21
TREA Chapter 1 Colorado Springs, CO	Veterans Stand-down Veteran Employment Program	\$ 11,500	\$ 11,024	140
DAV Chapter 5 Loveland, CO	Vehicle Purchase Veteran Employment Program	\$ 31,000	\$ 21,580	44
SVNH Homelake, CO	Amenities, Ice Maker, and	<u>\$ 63,110</u>	<u>\$ 63,065</u>	<u>90</u>
Total:		\$540,025	\$500,354	11,058

Administration - Administrative costs include grant management, some Board of Veterans Affairs travel and travel for site visits in the amount of \$25,075 which was \$6,188 less than the budgeted amount.

Program Effectiveness: This was the fifth year that the Colorado State Veteran's Trust Fund was administered by the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The trust fund is operating effectively and is achieving its designed purpose. On-site visits continue to be conducted by the grant administrator, members of the board and staff members. Success is evidenced by a strong marketing program and by the significant increase in the number of veterans directly served. In FY 02-03 the number of veterans served were 1,514, FY 03-04 there were 2,704, FY 04-05 there were 3,517, FY 05-06 the number of veterans served was 7,045 and in FY 06-07 the number of veterans served was 11,058.

Evaluations: Grantees are evaluated by on-site visits and/or inspections, quarterly reports and the submission of receipts and/or canceled checks submitted by the grantees. A final year end report is also required from the grantees.

Closing: Over the past five years the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs, through the Colorado Veterans Trust Fund, have provided direct benefits to 25,838 Veterans in the State. During the budget crisis and before Referendum "C" was approved the Veterans Trust Fund funded operations of the State Veterans Cemetery and the Division of Veterans Affairs in the absence of General Funds. The fund still provides some minimal support to the Division for its operation.