

**DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS REPORT ON THE COLORADO STATE  
VETERANS AFFAIRS TRUST FUND FOR FY 07-08**

**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, 2007 - June 30, 2008.

**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 appropriation from the legislature in the amount of \$716,693, which included interest, for administration and grant expenditures. Of the total awarded, \$35,835 was expended for administration, \$35,732 was provided for operation of the Division of Veterans Affairs and \$645,126 made available for grants. A total of \$603,250 was awarded to grantees of which 589,785.16 was expended leaving a balance of \$55,340.84 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 \$716,693 available the following represents a breakdown by category of agencies that received funding, 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 \$35,876 to support the Division's operations.

**State Veterans Nursing Homes (SVNH)** – The SVNH at Homelake received funds for renovation of the home's laundry room. The SVNH in Rifle received funds to purchase a vehicle and upgrade their HVAC system. The SVNH in Walsenberg received funds to purchase new bath tubs and replace boiler coils at their facility.

**Non-Profit Veterans Service Organizations** – The following organizations were awarded \$603,250 in grant funds to support veterans and their needs. The Regional Disabled American Veterans (DAV) supported a Denver homeless veterans stand-down, American Legion (Am Leg) Post 203 hosted a homeless veterans stand-down in Pueblo, the Veterans Homeless Coalition supported a stand-down in Colorado Springs, DAV Chapter 25 supported a stand-down in Grand Junction and Am Leg Post 109 supported a homeless stand-down in Longmont. Veterans of Foreign (VFW) Post 899 (Alamosa), Am Leg Post 2 (Pueblo), and DAV 25 (Grand Junction) purchased vehicles for their transportation programs. VFW Post 8661 (Conifer), Am Leg Post 108 (Pagosa Springs), VFW Post 3621(Lamar), Am Leg Post 44 (Steam Boat Springs), VFW 4265 (Craig) and VFW Post 4031 (Durango) provided transportation programs. Am Leg Post 170 (Westcliffe), Am Leg Post 1992 (Aurora), Am Leg Post 87 (Aurora) and Am Leg Post 22 (Northglenn) provided assistance to needy veterans. Homeless Veteran Programs and shelters were administered in Colorado Springs and Golden. VFW Post 4171 (Golden), 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 purpose of each grant and amounts are 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>
VFW Post 899 Alamosa, CO	Vehicle Purchase Transportation of Veterans	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 37,937.82	1,522
Am Legion Post 2 Pueblo, CO	Vehicle Purchase Transportation of Veterans	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 29,357.00	1,714
Am Legion Post 108 Pagosa Springs, CO	Transportation of Veterans	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	354
VFW Post 3621 Lamar, CO	Transportation for Veterans	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,363.00	494
VFW Post 4031 Durango, CO	Transportation of Veterans Vet Assistance	\$ 28,500.00	\$ 28,500.00	212
VFW Post 4265 Craig, CO	Transportation of Veterans Vet Assistance	\$ 11,900.00	\$ 8,617.12	186
DAV Chapter 25 Grand Junction, CO	Purchase Vehicle Homeless Stand-down	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 17,000.00	75

VFW Post 8661 Conifer, CO	Transportation Program	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,940.52	15
Am Legion Post 1992 Aurora, CO	Support Services to Veterans Work Program	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 21,221.82	67
Am Legion Post 109 Windsor, CO	Vet Assistance Homeless Stand-down	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	197
Am Legion Post 170 Westcliffe, CO	Transportation Program Vet Assistance	\$ 23,500.00	\$ 23,500.00	77
Am Legion Post 44 Steamboat Springs, CO	Transportation of Veterans	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,259.53	44
DAV Region 8 Denver, CO	Homeless Veterans Stand-down (Denver)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	410
VFW Post 101 Colorado Springs, CO	Support Homeless Shelter	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	315
VFW Post 4171 Golden, CO	Homeless & Incarcerated Veterans Support	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	114
Am Legion Post 203 Pueblo, CO	Homeless Stand-down Vet Assistance	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,389.82	110
Am Legion Post 22 Northglenn, CO	Veteran Employment Program Veteran Assistance	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 24,541.09	186
Am Legion Post 87 Aurora, CO	Transportation Vet Assistance	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 73,544.63	992
Veterans Coalition Colorado Springs, CO	Homeless Stand-down	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	93
SVNH Homelake, CO	Laundry Room Renovation	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	90
SVNH Rifle, CO	Vehicle Purchase HVAC Upgrade	\$ 78,500.00	\$ 78,500.00	200
SVNH Walsenberg Walsenberg, CO	Bath Tub Purchase Replace Boiler Coils	\$ 25,350.00	\$ 25,112.81	250
Total:		\$603,250.00	\$589,785.16	7,717

**Administration** - Administrative costs include grant management, some Board of Veterans Affairs travel and travel for site visits.

**Program Effectiveness:** This was the sixth 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 number of veterans directly served.

In FY 02-03 the number of veterans served were 1,514; 2,704 in FY 03-04 ; 3,517 in FY 04-05; 7,045 in FY 05-06; 11,058 in FY 06-07; and in FY 07-08 there were 7,717 served.

**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 six 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 ranging from bus passes, food cards, work clothes, rent assistance, utility assistance and transportation to Veterans Affairs medical facilities to 33,555 Veterans in the State. The fund still provides some minimal support to the Division for it's operation.