

**DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS REPORT ON THE COLORADO STATE
VETERANS AFFAIRS TRUST FUND FOR FY 08-09**

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 08-09 covering the period from July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009.

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:...

SECTION 1. 28-5-709 (3) (a) (III), (3) (b) (I) (C), (3) (b) (I) (D), (3) (b) (I) (E), and (3) (b) (II), Colorado Revised Statutes , are amended to read:

28-5-709. Colorado state veterans trust fund – created – report.

(3) (a) (III) For fiscal YEARS 2006-07 and 2007-08, seventy-five percent of the amount of the annual transfer made pursuant to subsection (2) of this section shall be credited to the trust fund and retained as principal in the trust fund. For fiscal YEARS 2006-07 and 2007-08, twenty-five percent of the amount of the annual transfer 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 annual appropriation by the general assembly and may be allocated by the board for purposes outlined in subsection (1) of this section.

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

SECTION 2. 28-5-709 (3), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PARAGRAPH to read:

28-5-709. Colorado state veterans trust fund – created – report

(3) (c) For the 2008-09 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, ten percent of the amount of the annual transfer made pursuant to subsection (2) of this section shall be credited to the trust fund and retained as principal in the trust fund, and ninety percent of the amount of the annual transfer made pursuant to the 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.

Funds Received: The Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) received an appropriation of \$627,500 at the beginning of FY 08-09 which was increased by \$350,000 on 2 June 2009 one month before the close of the fiscal year making it extremely difficult to use the additional money to support veterans during FY08-09. The total money appropriated to the trust fund in FY08-09 was \$977,500. Of that amount \$28,335 was used for administration, and an additional \$54,063 went to the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado for a drainage project. \$593,725 was provided to the grant program. Of the \$593,725 provided for grants, \$562,392 was expended. By the end of the fiscal year \$644,764 was disbursed by the fund which was \$17,264 more than the initial appropriation, however due to the timing of the plus up \$332,736 was returned to the VTF.

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, however the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics demographic analysis of the veteran population for the State of Colorado estimates that as of 30 September 2008 there were approximately 426,000 veterans living in the State of Colorado. 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 of this report.

Services Provided: Of the \$977,500 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.

Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado - The Board of Veterans Affairs awarded \$54,063 for a cemetery drainage project.

State Veterans Nursing Homes (SVNH) – No funds were disbursed to State Veteran Nursing Homes during this fund cycle.

Non-Profit Veterans Service Organizations – these organizations were awarded \$593,725 in grant funds to support veterans and their needs. A breakout by organization with the purpose and amounts provided to and expended by each grantee with number of veterans served is provided as enclosure #1 to this report.

Administration - Administrative costs of \$28,335 include grant management, some Board of Veterans Affairs travel and travel for site visits.

Program Effectiveness: This was the seventh year that the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs administered the Colorado State Veteran's Trust Fund. The trust fund is operating effectively. It is achieving it's 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. Shown here by Fiscal Year and Number of Veterans Served:

Fiscal Year	Veterans Served
02-03	1,514
03-04	2,704
04-05	3,517
05-06	7,045
06-07	11,058
07-08	7,717
08-09	10,116

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 seven 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 43,671 Veterans in the State. The fund still provides some minimal support to the Division for it's operation.

Organization	Purpose	Grant Amount	Amount Advanced/Spent	Veterans Served
VFW Post 899, Alamosa	Transportation Program	\$28,000.00	\$28,000.00	1718
Am Leg Post 108, Pagosa	Transportation Program	\$24,000.00	\$23,309.17	83
VFW Post 4171, Golden	Homeless and Incarcerated Vet Assistance	\$24,000.00	\$22,020.62	169
Am Leg Post 109, Windsor	Homeless Stand-down & Employment Assistance	\$30,000.00	\$29,998.72	354
VFW Post 3621, Lamar	Transportation Program	\$12,900.00	\$12,900.00	521
Am Leg Post 170, Westcliffe	Transportation Program & Vet Assistance	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	102
DAV Chapter 48, Durango	Transportation Program & Vet Assistance	\$28,000.00	\$28,000.00	132
NABVETS, Denver	Computers, Transportation Program & Vet Assistance	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	24
Am Leg Post 22, Northglenn	Vet Assistance Employment Services	\$20,000.00	\$18,735.95	270
DAV Chap 17, Montrose	Job & Vet Assistance Stand-down	\$9,950.00	\$5,734.21	20
Am Leg Post 87, Aurora	Homeless Vet Assistance Transportation & Housing	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	2891
VFW Post 5231, Mancos	Vet Assistance and Employment Services	\$9,000.00	\$7,905.00	28
Am Leg Post 777, Lakewood	Vet Assistance and Employment Services	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	120
Am Leg Post 2, Pueblo	Vehicle Purchase Transportation Program	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	1815
Am Leg Post 66, Akron	Transportation Program	\$5,000.00	\$4,132.32	94
Am Leg Post 44, Steamboat	Transportation Program	\$5,500.00	\$3,755.50	68
TREA Chap 1, Colo Sprgs	Vet Assistance Employment Services	\$29,000.00	\$28,939.00	105
Am Leg Post 10, Boulder	Job Training Program	\$29,375.00	\$23,538.00	34
VFW Post 6051 Woodland Park	Support Homeless Shelter Crawford House	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	311
Am Leg Post 1992, Aurora	Vet Assistance Employment Services	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	55
VFW Post 4265, Craig	Transportation Program	\$15,000.00	\$14,676.46	203
AmLeg Post 18, Greeley	Vet Assistance Employment Services	\$9,000.00	\$8,670.41	18
DAV Region, Denver	Homeless Stand-down	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	467
Am Leg State Hq's, Denver	Vet Services	\$8,000.00	\$5,181.15	33
VFW Post 1247 Grand Junction	Vet Assistance Employment Services	\$20,000.00	\$19,966.00	260
VFW Post 41, Loveland	Vet Assistance Employment Services	\$13,000.00	\$10,035.00	57
VFW Dept of CO, Lakewood	Vet Services	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	22
Am Leg Post 1, Denver	Vet Assistance Employment Services	\$20,000.00	\$17,894.51	180
Am Leg Post 203, Pueblo	Homeless Stand-down	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00	39
	Totals:	\$593,725.00	\$562,392.02	10193

Enclosure #1