



**2013 Annual Report  
of the  
Colorado Board of Veterans  
Affairs**

# STATE OF COLORADO

## COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

#### Members

William "Robby" Robinson, Chair - Castle Pines  
James C. Bobick, Vice Chair - Aurora  
Dana Niemela - Secretary - Denver  
Jason A. Crow - Denver  
Kathleen Dunemn - Littleton  
Rene J. Simard - Highlands Ranch  
Chris M. Holden - Colorado Springs

#### Division of Veterans Affairs

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William Conroy  
Director

John Hickenlooper  
Governor

Major General  
H. Michael Edwards  
The Adjutant General



**December 18, 2013**

**The Honorable John Hickenlooper**  
Governor, State of Colorado  
200 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

**Senator Jessie Ulibarri**  
State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee  
Colorado Senate  
200 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

**Representative Su Ryden**  
State Veterans and Military Affairs Committee  
Colorado House of Representatives  
200 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

### **Subject: 2013 Annual Report of the Board of Veterans Affairs**

In accordance with the Colorado Revised Statutes, I am pleased to provide you the 2013 Report of the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs (CBVA). This report covers the period of December 1, 2012 through November 30, 2013.

The CBVA is comprised of seven members, all honorably discharged veterans of military service. Members serve four-year terms. Chris Holden and Rene Simard were appointed effective 1 July 2013 to replace retiring Board members Franklin db Jackson and Jim Stanko. Mr .Holden is a retired Army Colonel from Colorado Springs and Rene Simard is a retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant from Highlands Ranch. Both will require Senate confirmation during the 2014 General Assembly session. Other members of the Board are newly elected officers; Chairman, William "Robby" Robinson, Vice Chairman, Jay Bobick, Secretary, Dana Niemela, Jason Crow and Kathleen Dunemn. During the reporting period the Board met eleven times to address issues and plan programs of service to Colorado Veterans. They also participated in numerous veterans' events such as veterans stand downs in Denver, Grand Junction, and Colorado Springs, the opening of the expansion of the Homelake Cemetery, and the dedication of the Colorado Freedom Memorial in Aurora, and the ground breaking of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic in Colorado Springs.

The largest issue facing Colorado Veterans is the slow processing of claims by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA). The wait time from claim submission to adjudication now exceeds 8 months. If the veteran appeals the USDVA's decision, the wait time extends another 23 months. This is unacceptable. USDVA is aware of the problem and has taken several initiatives to expedite claims, but the Board would note that the lengthy processing time is one that seems perpetual, and each new Secretary of USDVA takes initiatives to solve the problem. Sometimes, there is progress, but inevitably, the problem returns. It is clear that there is a systemic problem and one that the Board and Colorado cannot solve, but we need to continue to pressure USDVA to tackle it and rethink the entire process.

These long processing times create problems for the State: we inherit the medical and financial issues the veterans face while waiting for a decision from USDVA. We are proud to say that Colorado has done a good job in trying to help these veterans by providing grant funds through the Veterans Trust Fund (financed through the Master Tobacco Settlement Agreement) and in the past two years by a Veterans Assistance Grant program, both administered through the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) and its Division of Veterans Affairs. We would note that last FY \$817,000 was provided to veterans service organizations to provide medical transportation assistance, emergency financial assistance and medical assistance. The Veterans Assistance Grant provided \$980,000 mostly for veterans' homeless prevention and treatment programs and mental health. While these funds have helped, it is worth noting that the requests for these emergency funds are more than triple the amount available, and there are many communities struggling to meet the needs. We are very pleased that the Governor's Budget Request for FY 2014-2015 includes a continuation of the \$1 million in the Veterans Assistance Grant. The breakdown of the grant funding provided is at attachment 1 and 2.

The claims process for a veteran most frequently begins at the County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) level. The CVSO helps the veterans with filling out the forms and with obtaining the necessary documentation. From the CVSO the claim goes to the Division of Veterans Affairs where it is reviewed by a service officer, logged and sent to USDVA for adjudication. If necessary, the State Service Officer can represent the veteran on an appeal. The Board was very pleased that the General Assembly authorized funding for four additional FTE within the Division of Veterans Affairs, which has been overwhelmed in recent years by loss of FTE while claims and calls for assistance were continually rising.

A second issue is the State reimbursement/contribution for County Veterans Service Officers. Colorado law mandates that each county have a veterans service officer (or for smaller counties share one with another county) and then authorizes the Division of Veterans Affairs to provide funding to the counties to meet the mandate. The rate currently appropriated is \$200 per month for a full time service officer and \$100 per month for a part time service officer a rate that has remained unchanged since at least 1998. The Board suggests that this needs to be reviewed with an eye toward helping the counties more in meeting the State mandate.

Homelessness among veterans remains higher than with the general population. The USDVA, US Department of Housing and Urban Development and the US Department of Labor have teamed to assist homeless veterans. The Governor's Office is committed to help solve the problem and the General Assembly has prioritized homeless and homeless prevention programs with funds in the Veterans Assistance Grant Program. The Ft. Lyon project holds great promise for homeless veterans.

A third issue that the Board is dealing with is the needs of the nearly 30,000 veteran students enrolled in Colorado institutions of higher education – 2 and 4 year colleges and trade schools. Through student veteran organizations on many campuses and the Annual Veterans Education Summit, the Board is seeking to encourage the institutions to be aware of the unique needs of the veterans attending schools. We continue to encourage our colleges, universities and trade schools to provide counseling services and create veteran student organizations that can assist our student veterans in meeting the challenges of college life while raising families and achieving education for meaningful careers. We are encouraged that many groups, such as Boots to Suits at the University of Colorado-Denver and Veterans Upwardbound at several schools, have been created to assist these veterans as they transition. We ask the Governor and members of the General Assembly, in their contacts with the higher education community, to encourage them to inquire about the status of veterans assistance programs at their institutions.

Sincerely yours,



William L. Robinson, Chairman  
Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs

## **2013 Report of the Board of Veterans Affairs**

### **Veterans Trust Fund**

The Veterans Trust Fund stems from the Master Tobacco Settlement Agreement, and in FY 2012-13 distributed \$867,808. Funds may be used for State Veterans Nursing Homes, the State Veterans Cemetery, the Division of Veterans Affairs and nonprofit veterans' service organizations (such as the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars) that are recognized in federal codes. The grant funds are primarily used to provide emergency assistance, transportation for medical services, and homeless prevention. Over twelve thousand veterans benefitted from the grants. The detailed report of grants provided is attachment 1.

### **Veterans Assistance Grant**

In 2012 the General Assembly appropriated \$1 million for one-time grant funds that were to be administered by the Division of Veterans Affairs with advice from the Board. It is the belief of this Board that the language in the legislation provided an important change to the restrictions on the Veterans Trust Fund. It allowed the Division to award grants not only to veterans' service organizations, but to nonprofit or governmental entities that provide mental health, family counseling, job training, employment, housing, and other direct services to veterans. During FY2012-13 there was a total of \$6.4 million in requests. Grants were awarded to agencies providing services in the following categories:

Homeless Shelters (Housing, Food, Clothing, Medical, Utilities etc.)	\$174,669
Emergency Assistance (Utilities, Rent, Food or vouchers, Medical, Clothing)	\$281,111
Mental Health and Hygiene (Counseling, retreats, animal therapy)	\$489,190
Medical Transportation (Vouchers and reimbursements)	\$3,000
Job Training/Assistance (Direct training, tools, clothes)	\$8,000
Veterans Stand Downs	\$8,000
Special Programs (Training for County Veterans Service Officers)	\$16,000

In 2013 the General Assembly again provided the \$1 million in grant funds and language that prioritized funds for homeless and homeless prevention programs. The Division of Veterans Affairs budget request includes \$1 million for the grant funds in 2014-15. The Board supports this request and believes that the Veterans Assistance Grant be authorized in statute, much as the Veterans Trust Fund is now.

A spreadsheet that details the grants awarded by type and location is attachment 2.

### **Division of Veterans Affairs**

The Division of Veterans Affairs (DVA), with their Veterans Service Officers (VSOs), serves as the State "hub" for the network of County Veteran Service Officers. They review claims from the counties and forward them to the US Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) for



processing. Importantly, the State VSOs are also certified to represent veterans on claim appeals. They also provide initial direct claim service to many veterans from Denver County who walk in to the DVA offices. The Denver County VSO office is understaffed so DVA picks up what should be part of their workload. The Division experienced about a 25% increase in total workload during the FY. Partially in recognition of the steadily increasing workload, the General Assembly funded 4 additional FTE for the Division. The Division was responsible for over \$1.1 billion in claims being paid last year.

The greatest challenge, in addition to the increased workload, is the slow processing times for claims and appeals with the USDVA. Initial claims take about 8 months for processing and an appeal takes about two years. These long processing times create hardships for the veterans and their communities as many seek financial and health care assistance from overloaded State and local service agencies while USDVA decisions are pending.

The full report from the Division is attachment 3.

### **Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado**

The Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado was built using federal and State funds in 2002. The State, through the Division of Veterans Affairs, maintains and operates the cemetery and as of November October of this year has interred 2708 veterans and their eligible dependents. Over the years the Board has provided funds from the Veterans Trust primarily to add columbarium space and occasional emergency repairs. The Board has remained concerned about the long term ability of the cemetery to operate and to be maintained with existing funding which comes from three primary sources: general funds, burial reimbursements from the USDVA and gifts, grants and donations. As the cemetery has grown and equipment aged, expenses have risen. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs studied the funding trends and has initiated action through a capital construction request to address the growing needs of the cemetery. The Board strongly supports this timely action to preserve the Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

### **Veterans Service Officer Training**

The 2013 Colorado Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) training conference was conducted at the Doubletree Hilton in Westminster, CO May 20-24, 2013. The Division of Veteran Affairs (DVA) teamed up with the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO) to orchestrate and coordinate the annual training.

Sixty-three CVSO's from fifty-seven Colorado counties attended the training. Also present were nine other National Veteran Service Officers based in Colorado, seven CVSO's from other states and one 501-C-3 from Colorado's Western Slope. The training conference focused on a basic curriculum on fundamental services and changes in programs, benefits and legislative actions providing the greatest level of benefits to Colorado veterans. Two NACVSO trainers and six members of the DVA staff covered 25 different topic areas during the weeklong event.

Some highlights include: training on how to receive real time access to VA claims processing at the desk of remote based county service officers; the Fully Developed Claim program to speed up processing of claims; and breakout sessions focusing on training scenarios to fine tune established skills. The scenarios were taken from actual claims (less personal identifying

information) processed over the course of the last year. A final examination was conducted at the conclusion of the event that certified the CVSO to begin the process to become a fully accredited service officer recognized by VA Central Office. All but two of the Colorado CVSO's received a passing score.

### **Legislative Issues and Actions**

While the Board did not suggest initiating any specific legislation last year, it did support the continuation of the Veterans Assistance Grant funding as indicated earlier. For the 2014 session the Board supports the Department's budget request and its capital request for the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado. In addition, we believe that the Veterans Assistance Grant should be authorized in statute rather than just through the annual appropriation process.

### **Department of Local Affairs: Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption**

Permanently and totally disabled veterans may apply for a property tax exemption for the first \$200,000 of taxable value for their residence. They must apply through, and be approved by, the Division of Veterans Affairs for this exemption. There are 3,649 veterans who have been are using this exemption. The full report is at attachment 4.

### **Department of Labor and Employment**

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment delivers an array of labor and employment services to Colorado veterans through the State and county run One Stop Workforce Centers and satellite offices. Services provided include job matching and referral, vocational and career guidance, labor market information, and resume writing and job search workshops. Centers also refer eligible veterans to appropriate Workforce Investment Act training programs and referrals to skilled apprenticeship program. In FY 2012-13, over 47,700 veterans registered for employment assistance. The full report from the Department is attachment 5.

### **Department of Revenue: License Plates**

There are 29 different military and veterans license plates authorized in statute. Many, such as the Medal of Honor Recipient, Purple Heart and Disabled Veteran plates are free and exempt from annual vehicle fees while others, such as the U.S. Army, Navy or Air Force plates cost \$50 and do not exempt the vehicle from fees. There are 125,480 vehicles registered with one of the military or veterans license plates.

### **Colorado Parks and Wildlife**

Parks and Wildlife offers several benefits to Colorado veterans. Veterans with a disabled veterans license plate are granted free admission to State parks. Any active or retired military member receiving treatment at a military facility or convalescing can be given a free fishing license. A Purple Heart recipient or disabled veteran may also obtain a free lifetime combination small game hunting and fishing license. Wounded warriors and active duty military are also offered several benefits and exceptions for big game hunting licenses. The complete report is attachment 6.

## **Colorado Veterans Monument**

C.R.S. 24-80-1401(2) requires that one member of the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs be a member of the Preservation Trust Committee for the Colorado Veterans Monument. The monument is located at Veterans Park to the west of the Colorado State Capitol. Board member Rene Simard holds the membership position.

The Preservation Trust Committee's maintenance improvements include adding two litter receptacles next to monument courtyard. In addition, the committee is replacing pea gravel under the benches with concrete and removing litter catching in the bushes in preparation for the 2015/25th anniversary rededication.

Mr. Tim Drago of the Preservation Trust Committee continues to ensure that the monument and grounds are well maintained and reflect Colorado's pride in those men and women who have served our great nation and the State of Colorado.

### **Attachments:**

1. Division of Veterans Affairs Report on Veterans Trust Fund
2. Veterans Assistance Grant Spreadsheet
3. Division of Veterans Affairs
4. Department of Local Affairs
5. Department of Labor and Employment
6. Parks and Wildlife

# STATE OF COLORADO

## DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

### DIVISION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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William H. Conroy  
Director



31 October 2013

To: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
Attn: State Board of Health  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive, South  
Denver, CO 80246-1530

John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

Major General  
H. Michael Edwards  
The Adjutant General

From: William H. Conroy  
Director, Division of Military Affairs  
1355 South Colorado Blvd  
Bldg. C, Suite 113  
Denver, CO 80222

Subject: Executive Summary to Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Report on the Colorado Veterans Affairs Trust Fund for FY 12-13.

The Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) received a Long Bill appropriation of \$932,957 at the beginning of FY 12-13. The appropriation for FY13-14 is \$843,938. The Division of Veterans Affairs was authorized to expend \$46,648 (5% of the funds) for administration of the grant; however the actual expenditures were \$27,767 (2.9%) for administration. Grants were provided to American Legion Posts, Disabled American Veterans Chapters, Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Colorado, Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts, National Association of Black Veterans, Inc. and State Veterans Nursing Homes. Homelake State Veterans Nursing Home (SVNH) expended \$10,860 for IN2L therapy hardware/software, Florence SNVH expended \$18,134 for IN2L therapy hardware/software and bingo hardware/software, Fitzsimons SVNH expended \$14,061 for Kinesis Omega Duo therapy hardware/software, and Rifle SVNH expended \$9,202 for Hi-Lo beds based on a request submitted by the director of the state veterans nursing homes. Of the \$892,893 of trust fund monies provided for grants, \$867,808 was expended.

Veterans in the front-range urban corridor, the Grand Junction area and ten (11) communities outside of these metropolitan areas were assisted via transportation, employment assistance and homeless programs that provided a means for veterans and dependents to meet medical appointments, find jobs and other needed services.

A total of 12158 veterans were provided assistance by grantees awarded Veterans Trust Fund grants.

The attached report breaks down the numerous services provided by the grants. If there are any questions concerning this report, please contact my office.

  
William H. Conroy  
Director

Encl: Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) Report



# **DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS REPORT ON THE COLORADO STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS TRUST FUND FOR FY 12-13**

**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 12-13 covering the period from July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013.

## **Statutory Issues Affecting the Future of the Veterans Trust Fund:**

Currently there are no statutory issues affecting the future of the Trust Fund.

**Funds Received:** The Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) received a Long Bill appropriation of \$932,957 at the beginning of FY 12-13. The appropriation for FY13-14 is \$843,938. The Division of Veterans Affairs was authorized to expend \$46,648 (5% of the funds) for administration of the grant; however the actual expenditures were \$27,767 (2.9%) for administration. Of the \$892,893 of trust fund monies provided for grants, \$867,808 was expended.

**Program Description (with eligible population):** The Colorado State Veterans Trust Fund is designed with the overall goal of assisting all veterans in need of assistance residing in the State of Colorado regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sexual preference, marital or religious status. The key goals of the program are to provide sufficient support and funding to meet the needs of veterans in the four areas defined below:

- State Veteran's Nursing Homes for capital improvements or needed amenities for existing or future state veterans nursing homes.
- Operation and maintenance of existing or future State Veterans Cemeteries.
- Costs incurred by the Division of Veterans Affairs.
- Veterans programs operated by nonprofit veterans' organizations that meet criteria adopted by the board and that are selected by the Board as grant recipients.

### **Non-Profit Criteria:**

Nonprofit veterans' organizations: Nonprofit veteran's organizations must be an organization nationally recognized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as an organization that can provide services to veterans under Title 38, USC.

**Program Criteria:** The Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs (BVA) criteria for veterans programs operated by nonprofit veteran's organizations located within the State of Colorado are programs that provide assistance to the needs of veterans for their health and well being. Examples of such programs are operation of homeless shelters, assistance to homeless and incarcerated veterans, homeless veteran's stand-downs, veteran's transportation programs to medical centers and/or clinics, veteran's employment training programs and job related services.

**Eligible Population:** Veterans, no income eligibility requirements

**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 2011 there were approximately 400,186 veterans living in the State of Colorado. Obviously, not all of them require assistance. Those that do require assistance include nursing home residents, homeless, 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 and the enclosure to this report.

**Services Provided:** Of the \$932,957 available \$895,588 was expended. 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.

**Non-Profit Veterans Service Organizations and State Veterans Nursing Homes** – these organizations expended \$867,821 in grant funds to support veterans and their needs. Homelake State Veterans Nursing Home (SVNH) expended \$10,860 for IN2L therapy hardware/software, Florence SNVH expended \$18,134 for IN2L therapy hardware/software and bingo hardware/software, Fitzsimons SVNH expended \$14,061 for Kinesis Omega Duo therapy hardware/software, and Rifle SVNH expended \$9,202 for Hi-Lo beds based on a request submitted by the director of the state veterans' nursing homes. A breakout by veterans service 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 \$27,767 include grant management, some Board of Veterans Affairs travel and travel for grantee site visits/inspections.

**Program Effectiveness:** This was the ninth 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 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. 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
09-10	10,645
10-11	9,776
11-12	10,422
12-13	12,158

**Evaluations:** Grantees are evaluated primarily through oversight of their execution of the grant which includes review of quarterly reports and analysis of submitted receipts and/or canceled checks. In addition, on-site visits and/or inspections are used as to further define appropriate expenditure of funds. A final year end report is required from the grantees.

**Areas for Development and additional goals:** The primary areas for development in futures years consist of four primary areas:

- Outreach to all Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) in the state especially in rural areas to provide the broadest network of VSOs for disbursement of funds throughout the state.
- Work with VSOs to develop a self sustaining program at the roots level.
- Work at the state and national level through Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to provide additional funding to support the Colorado state Veterans Trust Fund.
- Emphasize support of female veterans' issues to help rectify the imbalance in services provided to the male and female veterans' populations.

**In Closing:** Over the past eleven 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 86,672 Veterans in the State.

Enclosure #1 (List of Grantees for FY12-13)

Organization	Purpose	Grant Amount	Amount Disbursed	Vets Assisted # Instances
VFW Post 899, Alamosa	Trans Program and Vet Assistance	\$26,038.00	\$26,038.00	1233
American Legion Post 2, Pueblo	Trans Program and Vet Assistance	\$18,000.00	\$15,768.00	1468
VFW Post 3821, Lamar	Trans Program & Vet Assistance	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	311
DAV Chapter 48, Durango	Trans Program & Vet Assistance	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	1008
DAV Chapter 44, Cortez	Trans Program & Vet Assistance	\$36,500.00	\$36,500.00	668
VFW Post 5231, Mancos	Trans Program & Vet Assistance	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00	43
VFW Post 8661, Conifer	Trans Program & Vet Assistance	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	26
NABVEFS Chapter 24, Denver	Endowment, Trans Prog & Vet Assist	\$25,000.00	\$18,650.00	377
Am Leg Post 25, Florence	Vet Assist and Trans Program	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	165
VFW Post 5181, Dove Creek	Transportation & Vet Assistance	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	0
Am Leg Post 103, Littleton	Transportation & Vet Assistance	\$20,000.00	\$19,255.51	46
Am Leg Post 108, Pagosa Springs	Transportation & Vet Assistance	\$43,000.00	\$43,000.00	716
Am Leg Post 170, Westcliffe	Trans Prgm & Vet Assistance	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	327
VFW Post 4171, Golden	Transportation & Vet Assistance	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	72
Am Leg Post 44, Steamboat	Trans Program & Vet Assistance	\$4,300.00	\$4,240.57	72
Am Leg Post 115, Rye	Trans Program & Vet Assistance	\$5,000.00	\$1,845.28	13
VFW Dept of Colorado, Lakewood	Veterans Assistance	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	120
Am Leg Post 22, Northglenn	Veterans Assistance	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	111
VFW Post 1247, Grand Junction	Veterans Assistance (1of2)	\$21,000.00	\$20,985.44	448
VFW Post 4863, Clifton	Pets for Vets	\$3,500.00	\$80.00	1
Am Leg Post 209, Colorado Springs	Homeless Shelter (Crawford House)	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00	126
SVNH, Florence	IN2L and Bingo Equipment	\$16,134.00	\$16,134.00	Residents
SVNH, Fitzsimons	KINESIS Omega Duo	\$14,051.50	\$14,051.50	Residents
SVNH, Rifle	Hi-Lo Beds	\$9,680.00	\$9,202.57	Residents
SVNH, Homelake	Its Never Too Late Therapy (IN2L)	\$10,859.79	\$10,859.79	Residents
VFW Post 8061, Woodland Park	Welcome Home Warrior Retreat	\$4,100.00	\$3,809.72	35
VFW Post 6624, Evans	Veterans Assistance	\$40,000.00	\$37,227.06	206
AL Post 109, Windsor	Stand down and Vet Assistance	\$55,000.00	\$54,899.90	170
AL Post 32, Longmont (1of2)	Vet Assistance (Boulder)	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	190
AL Post 32, Longmont (2of2)	Stand down, Vet Assist, Trans	\$15,000.00	\$15,552.18	148
AL Post 203, Pueblo	Stand down, Veteran Assistance	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	136
VFW Post 1, Denver (2of5)	Vet Assist (Bo Matthews Ctr for Exc)	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	200
VFW Post 1, Denver (3of5)	Stand down Denver (WVOC)	\$10,000.00	\$9,745.44	260
VFW Post 1, Denver (4of5)	CO Women Vet Conf (WVOC)	\$5,000.00	\$4,684.41	225
VFW Post 1, Denver (5of5)	Veterans Assistance (Denver)	\$79,080.00	\$79,080.00	2344
VFW Post 1, Denver (6of6)	COMPASS (Job Trans Prog MII2Civ)	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	20
VFW Post 41, Loveland	Veterans Assistance	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00	450
AL Post 29, Denver	Transportation and Vet Assistance	\$6,000.00	\$5,695.84	111
VFW Post 1247, Grand Junction	Standdown&Vet Assist (2of2)	\$14,150.00	\$14,034.76	340
	TOTALS	\$892,893.29	\$867,808.09	12158



Organization	Purpose	Grant Amount	Amount Disbursed	Vets Assisted # instances
VFW Post 899, Alamosa	Trans Program and Vet Assistance	\$25,038.00	\$25,038.00	1233
American Legion Post 2, Pueblo	Trans Program and Vet Assistance	\$18,000.00	\$18,766.00	1466
VFW Post 3621, Lamar	Trans Program & Vet Assistance	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	311
DAV Chapter 48, Durango	Trans Program & Vet Assistance	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	1008
DAV Chapter 44, Cortez	Trans Program & Vet Assistance	\$36,600.00	\$36,600.00	666
VFW Post 6231, Mancos	Trans Program & Vet Assistance	\$5,600.00	\$5,600.00	43
VFW Post 6661, Conifer	Trans Program & Vet Assistance	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	28
NABVETS Chapter 24, Denver	Endowment, Trans Prog & Vet Assist	\$25,000.00	\$18,660.00	377
Am Leg Post 26, Florence	Vet Assist and Trans Program	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	166
VFW Post 6181, Dove Creek	Transportation & Vet Assistance	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	0
Am Leg Post 103, Littleton	Transportation & Vet Assistance	\$20,000.00	\$19,266.61	48
Am Leg Post 108, Pagosa Springs	Transportation & Vet Assistance	\$43,000.00	\$43,000.00	716
Am Leg Post 170, Westcliffe	Trans Program & Vet Assistance	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	327
VFW Post 4171, Golden	Transportation & Vet Assistance	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	72
Am Leg Post 44, Steamboat	Trans Program & Vet Assistance	\$4,300.00	\$4,240.67	72
Am Leg Post 116, Rifle	Trans Program & Vet Assistance	\$5,000.00	\$1,846.28	13
VFW Dept of Colorado, Lakewood	Veterans Assistance	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	120
Am Leg Post 22, Northglenn	Veterans Assistance	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	111
VFW Post 1247, Grand Junction	Veterans Assistance (1of2)	\$21,000.00	\$20,986.44	448
VFW Post 4663, Clifton	Pets for Vets	\$3,600.00	\$60.00	1
Am Leg Post 209, Colorado Springs	Homeless Shelter (Crawford House)	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00	126
SVNH, Florence	IN2L and Blm Equipment	\$18,134.00	\$18,134.00	Residents
SVNH, Fritts	KINESIS Omega Due	\$14,061.60	\$14,061.60	Residents
SVNH, Rifle	Hi-Lo Beds	\$9,680.00	\$9,202.67	Residents
SVNH, Homelake	Its Never Too Late Therapy (IN2L)	\$10,658.79	\$10,658.79	Residents
VFW Post 6061, Wood and Park	Welcome Home Warrior Retreat	\$4,100.00	\$3,809.72	36
VFW Post 6624, Evans	Veterans Assistance	\$40,000.00	\$37,227.08	206
AL Post 109, Windsor	Stand down and Vet Assistance	\$55,000.00	\$54,999.90	170
AL Post 32, Longmont (1of2)	Vet Assistance (Boulder)	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	190
AL Post 32, Longmont (2of2)	Stand down, Vet Assist, Trans	\$18,000.00	\$16,662.18	148
AL Post 203, Pueblo	Stand down, Veteran Assistance	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	136
VFW Post 1, Denver (2of8)	Vet Assist Bo Matthews Ctr for Exc	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	200
VFW Post 1, Denver (3of8)	Stand down Denver (WVOC)	\$10,000.00	\$9,746.44	260
VFW Post 1, Denver (4of8)	CO Women Vet Conf (WVOC)	\$5,000.00	\$4,684.41	226
VFW Post 1, Denver (5of8)	Veterans Assistance (Denver)	\$79,060.00	\$79,060.00	2344
VFW Post 1, Denver (6of8)	COMPASS Job Trans Prog Milt2Civ	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	20
VFW Post 41, Loveland	Veterans Assistance	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00	460
AL Post 29, Denver	Transportation and Vet Assistance	\$9,000.00	\$8,686.84	111
VFW Post 1247, Grand Junction	Standdown&Vet Assist (2of2)	\$14,160.00	\$14,034.78	340
	TOTALS	\$682,693.20	\$667,608.09	12168



# FY 12- 13 Veterans Assistance Grant Requests and Awards

No.	Location	Grantee Name	Requested	Granted	1	2	Purpose	(See Below)	4	5	6	Other
1	Boulder	Veterans Helping Veterans Mental Health; facility and therapists	\$44,980	\$44,980			\$44,900					
2	Durango	DAV Chapter 48 Homeless Shelter & Housing Assist	\$80,335	\$24,192	\$24,192							
3	Pagosa	American Legion Post 108 Mental Health , Vet Assist. Housing	\$45,000	\$20,000			\$20,000					
4	Denver	Provider's Resource Clearing House Furniture, Bedding, etc.	\$34,800	\$26,920	\$26,920							
5	Pueblo	CO County VSO Trng Program Train CVSO'S	\$16,000	\$16,000								\$16,000
6	Dolores	DAV Chapter #44 Homeless & Trans	\$86,375	\$10,400	\$10,400							
7	Denver	Catholic Charities Housing, Trans, & Asst	\$130,500	\$64,470		\$64,470						
8	El Paso	El Paso Homeless Coalition Standdown	\$8,000	\$8,000							\$8,000	
9	Jeffco	Jefferson Center for Mental Health Mental Health for Vets & Families	\$99,500	\$99,500			\$99,500					
10	Alamosa	Alamosa County Vet Assist, Home care, Prof. books	\$41,170	\$20,600		\$20,600						
11	C Springs	Colo Vet Coalition Crawford House	\$113,187	\$113,187	\$113,187							

[illegible]



# STATE OF COLORADO

## DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Division of Veterans Affairs

1355 South Colorado Blvd Suite 113.

Denver, CO 80222

(303) 284-6077 – (303) 284-3163 (Fax)

Bill Conroy  
Director

John Hickenlooper  
Governor

Major General  
H. Michael Edwards  
The Adjutant General



## COLORADO DIVISION OF VETERAN AFFAIRS

### 2013 REPORT ON SERVICE TO VETERANS

October 31, 2013

For the Colorado Department of Military and Veteran Affairs  
Annual Report to the Governor

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Chairman William Robinson  
Colorado Board of Veteran Affairs

Re: State Board of Veteran Affairs Annual Report to the Governor

Dear Mr. Robinson:

It is with great pleasure and pride that I submit to you the 2013 Report on Service to Veterans. 2013 has been and a challenging year for our state's veterans but a rewarding experience for us at the Colorado Division of Veteran Affairs. We have met—head on—the needs and issues that face our state's veterans and family members. We hope that you will find that the final report for 2013 will assist you in your presentation.

**Executive Summary:** In 2013, the Division continues to provide excellent service to Colorado veterans. In a review of this report, you will see the impact on this investment to Colorado veterans and the state economy. Counting all compensation and pension entitlements, \$1.1 billion dollars were paid out to Colorado veterans last year by the Colorado Division of Veteran Affairs team. The team is comprised of 14 full time employees and 2 part time employees; to include two employees at the Veteran Memorial Cemetery in Grand Junction, Colorado. The state's veteran's population has declined by 22,221 as a result of the passing of large numbers of WW II veterans. The remaining numbers of veterans are aging, creating a trend where our veterans experience more health care problems and suffer the impact of a fluid economy, straining the overall system.

**Summary of Significant Activities and Accomplishments:** A review of claims for benefits currently pending at the Denver Regional VA office show a total of 30% from post 9-11 veterans (2002-present), 25% from Vietnam era veterans (1965-1974), 20 % from the peacetime period (1975-1990), 17% from the first Gulf War (1991-2001), and 7.9% from pre-Vietnam era (1940-1964). The current veterans returning from Iraq and

Afghanistan are eager to utilize their benefits and those with access to Federal veterans' health care will place increasing demands on the system. Many of those that have not qualified for health care will seek access by trying to establish a link between current health issues and injuries that occurred while they were serving in the military.

State dollars to assist veterans include the following: First, with "Vetraspec," Colorado veterans are able to get an update of the status of their pending claim at any CVSO office. This program was paid for by the Division using Veteran Trust Fund dollars. Under Colorado Revised Statute 28-5-707, CVSO payments are sent to the individual counties to assist in the operation of those offices. Last year it totaled \$88,800. The General Assembly recommended during the 2008 legislative session to earmark monies for a pilot program to increase outreach in a select number of counties. This program examines the impact of a more aggressive campaign to target "hard to reach" pockets of our underserved state veteran population. Last year \$101,000 was allocated for this endeavor to 4 target counties. As an example of this program, last year, El Paso County generated 4874 additional outreach contacts. Since 2008, an annual dollar net increase of \$20,474,952.00 has been generated into El Paso County. In short, for every dollar spent, \$143.00 was generated back to the veteran. Counting all compensation and pension entitlements, \$1.1 billion dollars were paid out to Colorado veterans last year.

**Summary of Program Assessment:**

The following information is submitted for your consideration:

<b>COLORADO DIVISION OF VETTRAN AFFAIRS</b>		
Date: 10/30/13		
	<b>OFFICE ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
New Power of Attorneys	6853	6266
Letters to VA	10404	10393
New Claims	17715	13856
Telephone Calls	17652	17695
Health Care Enrollment	1432	1053
Certified Appeals Sent to BVA	210	91
Referendum E Veteran Property Tax Exemption	Running Total 5011	Running Total 4493

<b>INTERMENTS IN VETERAN MEMORIAL CEMETARY OF WESTERN COLORADO</b>	
Date 10/30/13	
Veteran	1997
Spouse	679
Dependent	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2681</b>



**Short and Long term goals:** The Division is also reporting the results of the Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption (REF E). Over the course of the last year, an additional 518 applications have been approved. To date 5011 homeowners have been recognized for this benefit. The Division believes that there is not enough data yet with this provision on which to base recommendations for change. At the same time, the Division believes the requirement of this reform is an important component and should not be allowed to expire. The Division continues to receive claims from newly released veterans from Ft. Carson and Buckley Air Base. The follow-up of these claims attempts to provide a seamless passage for our Active Duty military to receive benefits through the Federal Department of Veteran Affairs. The Division also worked to develop a similar arrangement with local assisted living and nursing homes by doing outreach events to assist in the processing of claims for veterans receiving long term treatment in those facilities.

**Challenges and Goals:** We remain a nation engaged in military operations in Afghanistan as well as personnel deployed around the world honoring national commitments. Members of the Uniformed Services include the unprecedented utilization of Colorado Guard and Reserve personnel called up to respond to events outside the state borders and around the world. As the mission draws down, those members return back to their families and communities in Colorado. Concurrently, we are a nation faced with new economic constraints and an economy that went to the brink of a recession and now entering a fifth year of recovery. We recognize the complexity of attempting to legislate programs or entitlement enhancements in a time of dwindling fiscal resources. However, the benefits to the State of Colorado far outweigh the cost.

**Administrative Condition:** The Division is tasked under Colorado Revised Statue 28-5-705 to supervise, direct and train all sixty four county veteran service officers (CVSO's). The majority of our veteran population utilizes the CVSO's as they seek assistance with their claims for benefits with the Federal Department of Veteran Affairs. Utilizing "Vetraspec," a first in the nation statewide data system paid by the Division for each county, Colorado veterans are able to have their claim information accessible no matter which county they choose to contact. With the training and direction my staff has provided, they were able to service 17,717 entitlement claims over the last year. Once completed, all applications for benefits are then processed through the State Division of Veteran Affairs office before being sent to the Federal VA for Adjudication.

I would be happy to meet with you to discuss the Division's recommendations and its annual report. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Ben Mestas, my Deputy Director at 303-284-6077.

Sincerely,

  
Bill Conroy, Director



# STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor

Department of Local Affairs  
Reeves Brown, Executive Director

Division of Property Taxation  
JoAnn Groff, Property Tax Administrator

September 19, 2013

William Robinson, Chairman  
Colorado Board of Veterans  
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs  
1355 South Colorado Blvd., Building C, Suite 113  
Denver, Colorado 80230

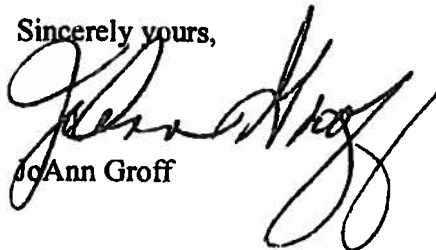
Dear Mr. Robinson:

Per a request from Bill Conroy, Director, I have provided below the number of properties and the exempted taxes for disabled veterans who have received the property tax exemption in 2012, payable in 2013. This data is provided by the Colorado State Treasurer's Office. My office administers the program to determine if a veteran or a senior has applied on more than one property in the state and answers questions of county offices and taxpayers regarding the program. At this time we do not provide any other direct services to veterans in Colorado beyond the administration of the property tax exemption program.

For the 2012 tax year on property taxes paid in 2013, 3,649 properties owned by disabled veterans qualified for the exemption. The actual value of the exempted properties is \$288,938,096.08, and the total exempted property tax amount for these properties is \$1,906,308.50. We have not yet verified the status of the 2013 tax year applicants; those applications will be reviewed in October, and any exempt property tax amount will be calculated after those taxes are due in 2014.

Should you have additional questions regarding the property tax exemption for disabled veterans, or any other activities of the Division of Property Taxation please contact me.

Sincerely yours,



JoAnn Groff

JAG:rmb



JOHN HICKENLOOPER  
Governor

ELLEN GOLOMBEK  
Executive Director

WILLIAM B. DOWLING  
Employment and Training Director

ELISE LOWE-VAUGHN  
Workforce Programs, Policy and  
Strategic Initiatives Director



**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT**  
**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

633 17<sup>th</sup> Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Denver, Colorado 80202-3627

October 30, 2013

William Robinson, Chairman  
Colorado Board of Veterans  
Department of Military and Veteran Affairs  
1333 South Colorado Blvd. Building C, Suite 113  
Denver, CO 80222

Dear Mr. Robinson,

The following information reflects the annual accomplishments of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Veterans Employment and Training Program. We continue to dedicate ourselves to providing Colorado's Veterans with outstanding employment and training services with the goal of providing Colorado Businesses with qualified and viable Veteran job seekers.

The enclosed report outlines the outreach services provided to the Veterans by the Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG), Wagner Peyser and Workforce Investment Act (WIA) staff. We continue to align our Veterans Program to reflect the guidelines outlined in the U.S. Department of Labor/VETS Veterans Program Letters, particularly VPL 07-10 which clearly refocuses and delineates the duties and responsibilities of the Local Veteran Employment Representative (LVER) and the Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist. These 41 individuals are strategically located within county and state operated Workforce centers that have the highest veteran population.

Our mission is to provide veterans and transitioning service members with the employment services and training needed to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce by meeting labor-market demands with qualified veterans. As always, we look forward to our continued partnership with the Division of Veterans Affairs Office as we work towards meeting the employment needs of Colorado's Veterans and their families. Should you have any questions is regards to this report please feel free to contact Elaine Edon, State Veterans Program Coordinator at (303) 318-8937 or [elaine.edon@state.co.us](mailto:elaine.edon@state.co.us). Again we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Elise Lowe-Vaughn  
Director  
Workforce Programs, Policy and Strategic Initiatives

**Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE)**

**PY 2012 Report on Service to Veterans  
July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013**

**For the Colorado Department of Military and Veteran Affairs  
Annual Report to the Governor**

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) deliver the full array of labor and employment services to Colorado veterans to the 59 State and County-run One Stop Workforce Centers and satellite offices around the state. CDLE and County Labor and Employment Specialists provide veterans with employment services that include Job Matching and Referral to posted job openings, Vocational and Career Guidance, Labor Market Information, Workshops on Resume Preparation and conducting effective Job Searches. One Stop Workforce Centers also refer eligible and qualified veterans to appropriate Workforce Investment Act (WIA) training programs as well as referrals to skilled trade apprenticeship programs throughout the state. Our One Stops make referrals to various Federal, State, and local agencies in the community that provide supportive services to those in need.

As illustrated in the chart below 47,734 veterans registered for employment assistance on the Department's job bank, Connecting Colorado. Connecting Colorado is the department's website where job seekers and employers are able to meet each other's employment needs. Employers are able to view resumes, search for qualified candidates, post job openings, and learn of the hiring incentives offered by the state. Veterans can post resumes, conduct job searches, access employment resources using self-directed virtual employment tools or receive in person staff assisted services through their local workforce center.

Of the 47,734 registered veterans, 28,085 or 59% used their local workforce centers to receive staff assisted services. Those who receive staff assisted services are more likely to have a higher success rate in entered employment, employment retention and average wages. For this reason, CDLE strongly encourage veterans to visit their local workforce centers to receive one on one staff assisted services. A comparison of PY 2011 and PY 2012 Veteran registrations by demographics and those who received staff assisted services are listed below.

**Colorado Veteran Demographics of Veterans Serviced by Workforce Center Staff**

	<b>Total Vets</b>	<b>18-44</b>	<b>45-54</b>	<b>55+</b>	<b>Campaign Badge</b>	<b>Disabled Vets &lt;30%</b>	<b>Special Disabled &gt;30%</b>	<b>Recently Separate</b>
<b>PY 2011</b>	44,343	19,530	11,780	12,916	8,002	8,110	4,255	5,794
<b>PY 2012</b>	47,734	22,747	12,003	12,962	8,748	9,230	5,369	7,437
<b>PY12 Staff Assist Serv.</b>	28,085 (59%)	12,488 (55%)	7,562 (63%)	8,025 (62%)	5,271 (60%)	5,574 (60%)	3,221 (60%)	3,855 (52%)

(Source: 9002)

Public Law 107-288 requires our department to provide priority of service to veterans in all programs funded by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). This means eligible veterans are enrolled into programs or provided services ahead of non-veterans notwithstanding any other provision in law. CDLE has issued statewide guidance on this requirement and as a result, is in compliance with this federal mandate.

When a job is posted on Connecting Colorado, our system searches for qualified veterans first and places them at the top of all job referral listings ahead of non-veterans. Additionally, qualified veterans appear at the top of all employer generated electronic applicant referral list. Our system also places new job postings on a 24 hour "veteran" hold, allowing the veteran job seeker the first 24 hours to view job opportunities in which they are qualified for before non-veterans. As a consequence, our department referred nearly 22,257 or 47% of our registered veteran job seekers to a job compared to 40% of our non-veterans.

In addition to our State and County Labor and Employment Specialists who provide outstanding front-line services to all veterans, our department employs 34 full-time Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialists and 7 full-time staff who are assigned to Workforce Regions around the state. These positions are funded through a U.S. DOL Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) grant.

Our DVOP specialist provided staff assisted services to 4,566 registered veterans. Of the 4,566 veterans who received in person employment services, 2,290 or 50% received intensive employment services by the DVOP specialists. These veterans were considered most in need of intensive services in order to obtain viable employment. Delivery of services can be provided by using the case management approach. The following veterans received priority in the provision of intensive services: disabled, homeless, those released from incarceration, recently separated as well as veterans who have other barriers to employment. Intensive services require more staff time than regular employment services. Intensive services are designed to coordinate comprehensive employment plans to assure access to the necessary training and supportive services. Intensive services provide support during program participation and after job placement. Listed below is a breakdown by demographic of veterans who received Services from a DVOP last year:

**Colorado Veteran Demographics of Veterans Serviced by DVOP Specialists**

	Total Vets	18-44	45-54	55+	Campgn Badge	Disabled Vets <30%	Special Disabled >30%	Recently Separated
<b>PY 2012 Staff Assisted Services</b>	4,566	2,091	1,309	1,165	1,164	1,344	841	805
<b>PY12 Intensive Services</b>	2,290 (50%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	638 (55%)	721 (54%)	469 (56%)	443 (55%)

(Source Vets 200 Report)

Our DVOP's also conduct outreach to local Federal VA Vet centers throughout the state, and have made important linkages and partnerships with other service providers such as the Denver Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) office and local military installations as well as a host of non-profits and other service providers. Our DVOP specialists also assist in the "Homeless Veteran Stand Downs" that take place in Colorado Springs, Denver and Fort Collins. During these stand downs, homeless veterans are able to receive winter clothing, personal hygiene products, haircuts, hot meals, flu shots, dental exams, mental health resources as well as employment services.



Our department has placed two DVOP specialists at the Department of Corrections (DOC) Canon City Correctional Facility with the responsibility of conducting outreach and employment transition workshops inside DOC facilities throughout the state for veterans within 12 months of release.

One DVOP has been placed at the Colorado National Guard and Reserve Headquarters to conduct mini Transition Assistance Program classes and Federal Job Search Workshops. This DVOP also briefs returning Colorado Guard and Reserve members on employment services available at their local One Stops.

In addition, we have a DVOP placed on the Colorado State University campus in Fort Collins and another at the Department of Veteran Affairs, Vocational Rehabilitation and Education department. These DVOP specialists case manage the veteran's transition from an educational training program into the workforce by providing employment assistance within 6 months to a year of their program completion date.

The LVER's primary role is to conduct employer relations on behalf of veterans advocating the valuable knowledge, skills and abilities the veterans bring to the workforce. They do this through job fairs, job search workshops, career events, employer panels and personal visits to the businesses themselves. During PY 2012 our LVER's have organized and hosted over 61 job fairs or employer specific hiring events at their local workforce centers. These events are designed to bring groups of veterans and employers together at a single event in order to quickly fill employer vacancies and provide veterans vocational and career guidance from private employers.

On January 16-18, 2013 in Denver, our LVER's and DVOP specialists supported one of Colorado's largest collaborative hiring events, the Military and Veteran Employment Expos (MVEE). This three day event was a collaborative partnership between CDLE, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Guard and other public, private, non-profit, faith based and community organizations. The first two days were dedicated to preparing the military service member and veteran for the job fair which was held on the third day. A total of eight employment focused classes were offered twice a day. Those who took 4 of the 8 classes were given a two hour early entrance into the job fair where they met face to face with 104 hiring employers. Over 700 Veterans registered for this event, with an additional 200 walk-ins.

On May 15-18, 2013, we repeated this event in Colorado Springs but this time with 113 employers and 1093 Veterans in attendance. We also included a Virtual Job Fair which allowed an additional 25 employers to participate in the hiring of veterans. This virtual job fair received 2,000 hits in the first several hours.

In PY 2012, Connecting Colorado received 938,719 job openings from 14,854 employers. Most of these job openings were a result of our active participation with Job Central. Job Central is the Internet's first public-service employment web site owned and managed by leading U.S. employers through their membership in Direct Employers Association enabling them to outreach through a network of 50 state sites and over 6,200 cities and communities. Participating employers are able to make their jobs available on a national nonprofit, public service employment network and to increase their recruiting reach throughout the nation. Through this partnership our job seeker to job opening ratio of 5 to 1 dropped 3 to 1.

Again our main mission is to provide veterans and transitioning service members with quality employment services and training needed to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce by meeting labor market demands. We work diligently to place them in meaningful and sustainable employment. As a department we strive for three measurable outcomes: entered employment,

employment retention and average wages rates. Our PY 2012 achievements in these areas are outlined in the chart below.

State Veteran Performance Outcomes

Wagner Peyser One Stop Veteran Program Measures	PY 2011 OUTCOMES
ERR All Vets	47.46%
ERR All Vets	70.23%
Average Earnings All Vets	\$18,627
ERR Disabled Vets	43.20%
ERR Disabled Vets	66.88%
Average Earnings Disabled Vets	\$19,659
DVOP VETERAN PROGRAM MEASURES	
ERR Disabled Vets	43.19%
ERR Disabled Vets	69.85%
LVER VETERAN PROGRAM MEASURES	
ERR Recently Sep Vets	46.63%
ERR Recently Sep Vets	72.08%
DVOP/LVER Consolidated:	
ERR All Vets Weighted	49%
ERR All Vets	69.69%
Average Earnings All Vets	\$17,248



## COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

6060 Broadway • Denver, Colorado 80216

Phone (303) 297-1192

wildlife.state.co.us • parks.state.co.us

October 2, 2013

Colorado Board of Veterans  
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs  
William Robinson, Chairman  
1355 South Colorado Blvd. Building C, Suite 113  
Denver, CO 80230

Dear Mr. Stanko:

Per your annual request, under State Statute and Wildlife Commission regulation, the Division of Parks and Wildlife offers, the following types of licenses and services to our states' veterans or active military:

C.R.S 33-12-106 – (1) Any resident who displays on the resident's vehicle a Colorado disabled veteran's license plate pursuant to [section 42-3-304 \(3\) \(a\)](#), C.R.S., shall be allowed free entrance to any state park or recreation area, not to include campgrounds, on any day of the year such park or area is open. For the purpose of this section, display of such license plates shall entitle the disabled veteran and passengers in such veteran's vehicle to enter such park or recreation area free of charge.

C.R.S 33-12-106 – (2.3) The commission may promulgate rules to allow free entrance to any state park or recreation area, not to include campgrounds, yurts, or other amenities and services offered, for veterans on one day each year. The commission may determine by rule which day veterans are allowed free entrance to state parks and recreation areas.

Commission Regulations – CCR 445 -#700-2(j) Any vehicle occupied by a current, reserve or honorably discharged member of any United States military service, on the State observance of Veteran's Day. At least one form of past or present military identification shall be presented at the Park entrance. Acceptable forms of military identification include:

- DD214;
- Active, retired or veteran military cards;
- The display of military license plates.

In addition to those very specific programs, Veterans may also qualify for:

C.R.S 33-12-103.5 (1) – Columbine annual pass - As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, a person is "disabled" if the person has been determined to be totally and

### STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor • Mike King, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources

Steven M. Yamashita, Acting Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Parks and Wildlife Commission: Robert W. Bray • Chris Castilian • Jeanne Home

Bill Kane, Vice-Chair • Gaspar Perricone • James Pribyl • John Singletary, Chair

Mark Smith, Secretary • James Vigil • Dean Wingfield • Michelle Zimmerman

Ex Officio Members: Mike King and John Salazar

permanently disabled by the social security administration, the division of worker's compensation or pursuant to rule or regulation of the division.

The current fee for the Columbine annual pass is \$14.00 and also provides entry into any of our 42 State Parks. Again, this pass does not provide for further discounts such as camping or cabin/yurt rentals. Disabled Veteran's are encouraged to apply for a Columbine Pass even if they have the Disabled license plate. The applicant must be a Colorado resident and complete an application at either our Denver office or one of our Regional Offices. If the applicant is on VA disability, they may contact the Veteran's Administration to request a letter of documentation as to their disability. In return, The Veteran's Administration can provide a form letter which will fulfill the required documentation.

Veterans 64 years of age or older may that are Colorado residents may also qualify for either the Aspen Leaf (Senior Citizen) Annual Pass at a cost of \$60 per year or the Aspen Leaf Lifetime Pass (\$300 onetime charge).

C.R.S 33-4-104 – (1) Any active or retired member of the United States armed forces while stationed as a resident patient at any United States armed forces hospital or convalescent station located within Colorado, any resident patient at a veterans administration hospital ...may obtain a fishing license free of charge, valid for taking fish during the period of residency only, under rules and regulations of the commission.

(2) Any Colorado resident on active duty outside this state with any branch of the armed forces of the United States may obtain, from the division of wildlife, a fishing license free of charge, valid for taking fish while such person is in this state on temporary leave from such duty, but not to exceed a total of thirty days during any year. (3) (a) Any resident of this state who has received a purple heart for service in the United States armed forces or who is a disabled veteran may obtain from the division of wildlife, free of charge, a lifetime resident combination small game hunting and fishing license.

Commission Regulation #206(B)(4)(f) Wounded Warrior Hunting Licenses - The Director may make certain deer, elk, and pronghorn licenses available to qualified participants in any United States Armed Services Wounded Warrior programs.

1. Applicants must be members of the United States Armed Forces, who are residents of, or stationed in, Colorado returning from post-September 11, 2001 overseas contingency operations who have been so severely injured during combat, including combat-related support activities that they will require years of intense, ongoing care or assistance. Additionally, applicants must be members of a United States Armed Services Wounded Warrior program, as defined in 33-4-102(1.9) C.R.S., and must be assigned to a military medical treatment facility at the time of application for this program.

Commission Regulation - #206(B)(4)(h)(1) (bb) In addition to the \$3 application fee, an unsuccessful applicant (except youth as defined by 33-4-117 C.R.S., lifetime license holders and Colorado resident military personnel on active duty outside Colorado), or one who applies using a first choice hunt code established for the purpose of accumulating a preference point only, for deer, elk, pronghorn or bear will be assessed a \$25 fee to receive a preference point unless they have purchased one of the following: an annual license (fishing, small game or resident combination small game/fishing license, furbearer) for the year previous to which they are seeking a preference point; any big game license for the previous year or a current draw license

for the species for which they are seeking a preference point. The \$25 fee, per species, shall entitle the hunter to preference points for any unsuccessful deer, elk, pronghorn or bear application in that year.

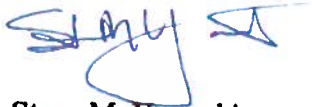
Commission Regulation-#206(B)(4)(h)(1)(ee) In lieu of applying through the regular limited license draw, any active duty member of the United States Armed Forces who is stationed at any military facility in Colorado and actively deployed outside the United States, or any active duty member of the United States Armed Forces who is a Colorado resident and is deployed outside the United States, shall, upon their return to the United States, be eligible to apply for preference points for any limited license draw that occurred during their absence. Applications for preference points shall be made on forms provided by the Division and filed within six months upon the member's return to the United States.

Commission Regulation- #206(B)(6)(d) Any active duty member of the United States Armed Forces stationed at any military facility in Colorado and actively deployed outside the United States, or any active duty member of the United States Armed Forces who is a Colorado resident and is deployed outside the United States, shall be allowed a preference for the purchase of leftover licenses prior to their sale to the general public.

As of September 27, 2012 the Division has issued year-to-date 661 free combination small game and fishing licenses to veterans with disabilities; we have processed 5 requests for military leftover license privileges, 4 requests for military applications for preference points and issued 3 Wounded Warrior big game licenses.

We look forward to continuing to serve those who have sacrificed so much. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Steve M. Yamashita  
Acting Director, Colorado Division of Park and Wildlife

Cc: Mike King - Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources  
Gary Thorson - Assistant Director, I & E Branch, Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
Henrietta Turner - Manager, License Administration, Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
File