

Department of Veterans Affairs

Act 413 of 2021 Report

Update on divisions

- Division Name: Veterans Services Division
- Division Name: Veterans State Cemeteries Division
- Division Name: Veterans State Veterans Homes Division
- Arkansas Veterans Commission
- Division Name: Arkansas Veterans' Child Welfare Services

Significant Department Projects

- Project Name:
 - Reorganization of District Veterans Services Offices
 - Legislative Incentive of Accredited County Veterans Services Officers with Veterans Benefit Management System (VBMS) Access.
 - o Arkansas Virtual Veterans Experience Action Center
- Project Name: North Little Rock Cemetery Grant Expansion Projects Phase IV \$6.5M
- Project Name: North Little Rock and Fayetteville Veterans Homes Operationally Sustaining in SFY 2021

Transformation Examples

- Example 1:
 - Optimizing Collaboration with Federal Veterans Affairs (VBA/VHA/VCA)
 - Reorganization to 6 functioning district offices from 9 district Offices of which 8 were manned and functioning.
 - Reengineering of 4 positions Program Manager, Public Affairs, Receptionist, Assistant Director of Homes
- Example 2:
 - V-VEAC
 - o 24 VSO Assisting 657 veterans and their eligible dependents
 - \$575,221.50 combined retroactive payments
 - o \$93,619.58 received in new monthly awards
 - o 106 claims filed to the US Dept of Veterans Affairs
 - o 66 veterans enrolled in VA healthcare
 - 5 homeless veterans assisted
 - 2 veterans assisted in crisis

- Example 3
 - o Interagency Collaboration
 - Department of Ag
 - Department of Parks and Tourism
 - > Department of Health
 - Department of Human Services
 - > Department of Commerce

Staffing

<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
136	136	173	214	218	232	213

Legislative Initiatives

- Initiative Name: Legislative Incentive of Accredited County Veterans Services Officers with Veterans Benefit Management System (VBMS) Access increased competency of County Veterans Services Officers and Accredited Veterans Services Offices from 57 to 62.
- Initiative Name: Birdeye Cemetery Grant Expansion Phase I \$4M