



# VA 2010 Budget Fast Facts



## Major Appropriation Issues

### Transformation

- Provides resources to support the transformation of VA into a 21<sup>st</sup> Century organization that is Veteran-centric, results-driven, and forward-looking

### Medical Care

- Continues gradual expansion of healthcare eligibility; providing access to more than 500,000 previously ineligible veterans by 2013
- \$4.6 billion (up \$288 million) to expand inpatient residential, and outpatient mental health programs
- \$440 million to improve access to care in rural and highly rural areas
- \$5.9 billion (up \$663 million) to expand institutional and non-institutional long term care services
- Expand proven homeless programs and launch a new \$26 million pilot project to work with other federal agencies and non-profits to reduce homelessness among Veterans most at risk
- \$183 million (up \$15 million) to meet the specific needs of women Veterans

### Claims Processing

- Over \$1.8 billion (up \$364 million) to improve management of benefits administration
- Improve timeliness of compensation and pension claims processing to 150 days (18 days faster than estimated for 2009)
- Sufficient funding to meet increased education claims workload resulting from new GI bill

### National Cemetery Administration

- \$242 million (up \$12 million) for operations and maintenance of national cemeteries

### Information Technology

- More than \$3.3 billion (up \$559 million) to support a reliable and accessible IT infrastructure, a high-performing workforce, and modernized information systems
- \$360 million for development and implementation of HealthVet (electronic health record)
- \$144 million for paperless claims processing system

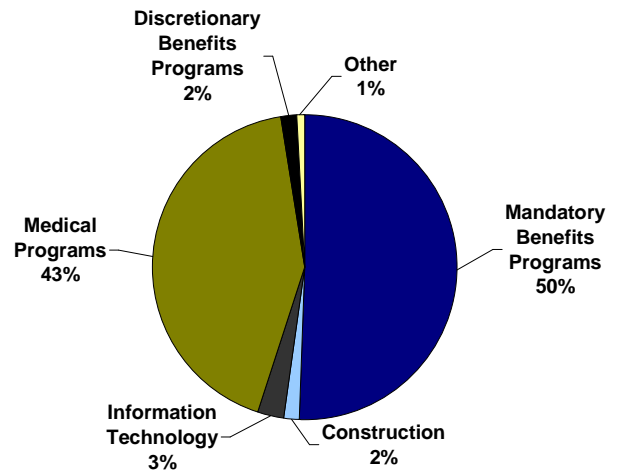
### Construction

- Over \$1.9 billion; supports five medical facility projects already underway and begins seven new medical facility projects

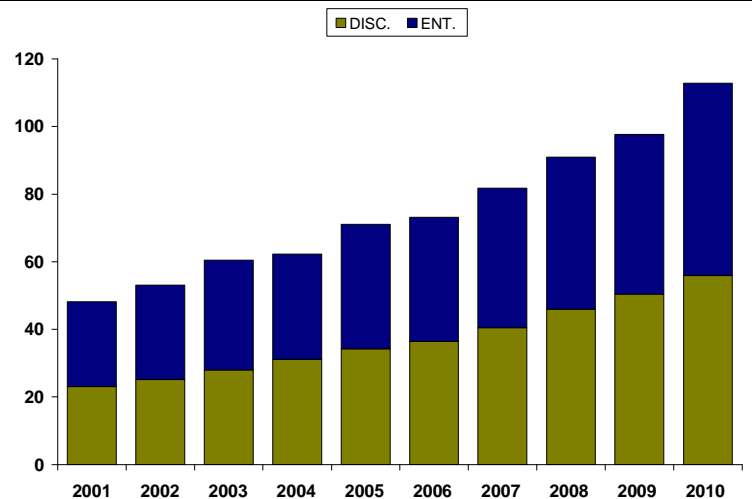
### Entitlement Benefits

- \$56.9 billion (up \$9.6 billion) for mandatory benefits; increase due to impact of new GI Bill and more service-disabled Veterans receiving compensation

## FY 2010 VA Budget Breakout



## VA's Historical Perspective



	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
DISC.	23.1	25.1	28.0	31.1	34.2	36.4	40.5	46.0	50.4	55.9
ENT.	25.1	28.0	32.4	31.2	36.8	36.8	41.3	44.9	47.3	56.9
<b>Total VA</b>	<b>48.2</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>62.3</b>	<b>71.0</b>	<b>73.2</b>	<b>81.8</b>	<b>90.9</b>	<b>97.7</b>	<b>112.8</b>

## Discretionary Funding by Appropriation (\$ in millions)

Medical Care	47,379
Medical and Prosthetic Research	580
Veterans Benefits Administration	1,825
National Cemetery Administration	242
General Administration	394
Information Technology	3,307
Construction/Grants	1,921
Office of Inspector General	107
Loan Administration Funds	166
<b>Total Discretionary</b>	<b>55,921</b>



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## *Department of Veterans Affairs 2010 Budget Highlights*

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The President's \$112.8 billion budget request for 2010 is the largest percentage increase (15 percent) requested by a President in over 30 years. It provides the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with resources needed to become a 21<sup>st</sup> Century organization that is people-centric, results-oriented, and forward-looking, and puts Veterans first. The budget request contains four major categories of transformational activity collectively designed to initiate the process of creating a 21<sup>st</sup> Century VA. These include creating a reliable management infrastructure, delivering ongoing services, making progress on Congressional priorities, and instituting some new initiatives.

### **Dramatically Increasing Funding for Health Care while Expanding Health Care Eligibility**

2010 funding level: \$47.4 billion (total Medical Care funding, with collections)

2009 funding level: \$42.8 billion (total Medical Care funding; with collections)

The 2010 budget provides the resources for VA to treat nearly 6.1 million patients and includes funds to continue the gradual expansion of health care eligibility for Priority 8 Veterans.

### **Enhancing Outreach and Services Related to Mental Health Care**

2010 funding level: \$4.564 billion

2009 funding level: \$4.276 billion

These resources will allow VA to expand inpatient, residential, and outpatient mental health programs, to include integrating mental health services with primary and specialty care.

### **Combating Homelessness**

2010 funding level: \$3.222 billion

2009 funding level: \$2.801 billion

The President has committed to expanding proven programs and launching innovative services to prevent Veterans from falling into homelessness. The 2010 budget includes \$26 million for VA to work with other federal agencies, in partnership with non-profit organization, to reduce homelessness.

**Ensuring Seamless Transition** VA will continue to collaborate with the Department of Defense (DoD) to simplify the transition of military personnel into civilian status through a uniform approach to both registering into VA and accessing electronic records data.

### **Meeting the Needs of Women Veterans**

2010 funding level: \$183 million

2009 funding level: \$167 million

These resources will address the gender-specific health care needs of women Veterans with a particular emphasis on primary care.

### **Expanding Care for Veterans in Rural Areas**

2010 funding level: \$440 million

2009 funding level: \$60 million

Congress provided VA with \$250 million for rural health care initiatives in 2009. These resources, along with additional funds the Department is requesting in 2010, will be used to implement the President's initiative to continue improving access to medical care for Veterans in rural areas.

### **Increasing Investments in Research**

2010 funding level: \$580 million

2009 funding level: \$510 million

These resources will be used to fund nearly 2,400 high-priority research projects to expand knowledge in areas critical to Veterans' health care needs.

**Automating the Delivery of Education Benefits** The 2010 budget provides resources to continue development of an automated system for education claims processing. The automated solution will be available by the end of calendar year 2010.

**Processing Benefits Claims in a Paperless Environment** This budget includes resources to continue moving toward the President's goal of reforming the benefits claims process to ensure claims decisions are timely, accurate, fair, and consistent through the use of automated systems.

**Increasing Investment in Training and Career Development** This budget will help ensure that VA's workforce will remain leaders and standard-setters in their fields.

**Establishing a Program Analysis and Evaluation Service** The Department will establish an office with robust program analysis and evaluation capability to assess programs' return on investment.

### **Funding the New Office of the Assistant Secretary for Acquisition, Construction, and Logistics**

The 2010 budget includes resources to fund this new office that is responsible for overseeing the resources, services, and projects that comprise VA's capital facilities program, and directing the Department's acquisition and logistics activities.

### **Enhancing Long-Term Care**

2010 funding level: \$5.940 billion

2009 funding level: \$5.276 billion

These resources will be used to meet the growing demand for extended care services for Veterans, including those suffering from severe injuries such as traumatic brain injury and polytrauma.

### **Improving Claims Processing**

2010 funding level: \$1.825 billion

2009 funding level: \$1.461 billion

This funding will be used to improve the management of the following non-medical benefits administered by VA—disability compensation; pensions; education; vocational rehabilitation and employment; home loan guaranty; and insurance.

### **Investing in Better Technology**

2010 funding level: \$3.307 billion

2009 funding level: \$2.748 billion

The increase in IT resources in 2010 will fund many important projects, two of which are the continued operation and improvement of the Department's electronic health record system (HealtheVet) and the paperless claims processing initiative.

### **Strengthening Capital Programs**

2010 funding level \$1.921 billion

2009 funding level: \$1.882 billion

The 2010 budget provides \$1.194 billion for major construction, \$600 million for minor construction, \$85 million in grants for the construction of state extended care facilities, and \$42 million in grants for the construction of state Veterans cemeteries.

### **Providing Entitlement Benefits**

2010 funding level: \$56.923 billion

2009 funding level: \$47.328 billion

The 2010 budget includes a 20 percent increase in mandatory benefits. Over 90 percent of the growth in entitlement spending is due to increases in compensation and education payments.