VA 2012 Budget Fast Facts

Major Appropriation Issues

Stewardship of Resources

- Supports management systems that ensure accountability, maximize efficiency and effectiveness, and eliminate waste while improving the delivery of high quality and timely benefits and services to Veterans.

Medical Care

- Secures timely, sufficient, and predictable funding for health care through 2013 with advance appropriations
- $939 million (up $140 million) to implement VA's comprehensive plan to reduce homelessness. This includes $224 million for the Homeless Grants and Per Diem program to assist community organizations
- Continues the expansion started in 2009 of healthcare eligibility; providing access to more previously ineligible Veterans
- $6.2 billion (up $450 million) to expand inpatient, residential, and outpatient mental health programs
- $250 million to improve access to care in rural and highly rural areas
- $6.9 billion (up $597 million) to expand institutional and non-institutional long term care services. Of this amount, $146 million (up $9 million) is for telehome health to improve access to care
- $270 million (up $28 million) to meet the needs of women Veterans
- $3 billion (up $594 million) to meet the needs of over 536,000 of U.S. operations in Iraq and Afghanistan

Claims Processing

- $2.019 billion (up $330 million, or 19.5% over 2010) to support improved benefits processing through increased staff, improved business processes, and information technology enhancements
- Supports the completion of more than 1.27 million disability compensation and pension claims, a 30% increase over 2010
- Provides funding to handle nearly 3 million education claims, a 73% increase in received claims over 2009

National Cemetery Administration

- $251 million for operations and maintenance to ensure VA's cemeteries are maintained as national shrines
- The budget also provides effective stewardship of the environment through green and renewable energy projects

Information Technology

- More than $3.1 billion to support a reliable and accessible IT infrastructure, a high-performing workforce, and modernized information systems
- $70 million for development and implementation of the President's Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) initiative
- $148 million for paperless claims processing system

Construction

- Supports seven medical facility projects already underway, and begins three new medical facility projects
- Provides funding to continue development of 5 new national cemeteries and expand the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific

Entitlement Benefits

- $70.3 billion for mandatory benefits including compensation for new Agent Orange presumptive conditions and Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits

FY 2012 VA Budget Breakout

VA's Historical Perspective

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Discretionary	28	31.1	34.2	36.4	40.5	46	50.6	55.9	60.1	61.9
Entitlements	32.4	31.2	36.8	36.8	41.3	44.9	47.1	71.3	66.4	70.3
Total VA	60.4	62.3	71.0	73.2	81.8	90.9	97.7	127.2	126.5	132.2

Discretionary Funding by Appropriation

($ in millions)

Medical Care	53,929
Medical and Prosthetic Research	509
Veterans Benefits Administration	2,019
National Cemetery Administration	251
General Administration	448
Information Technology	3,161
Construction/Grants	1,271
Office of Inspector General	109
Loan Administration Funds	156
Total Discretionary	61,853

Priority Goals

The VA develops a 5-year strategic plan, as well as an annual performance plan and annual report on our progress. The VA has also identified a limited number of priority goals that will be a particular focus over the next 2 years.

- In conjunction with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, reduce the homeless Veteran population.

- Implement a 21st Century paperless claims processing system by 2012 to eliminate the disability claims backlog so that no Veteran has to wait more than 125 days for a high quality decision

- Build and deploy an automated GI Bill benefits system to speed tuition and housing payments for all eligible veterans.

- Create the next generation of electronic record system – Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER).

- Improve the quality, access, and value of mental health care provided to Veterans by December 2011.

- Deploy a Veterans Relationship Management (VRM) Program to improve VA client access to VA Services and benefits by June 2012.

Specific performance metrics supporting these goals can be found in the department's budget submission.