



## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is responsible for providing military veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors with the benefits, care, and support they have earned through sacrifice and service to the Nation. The President's 2025 Budget for VA honors the Nation's sacred obligation to veterans by: investing in world-class healthcare, including enhancing veterans' general well-being and mental health; prioritizing veteran mental health services and suicide prevention programs; increasing support for family caregivers; improving delivery of benefits, including disability claims processing; supporting efforts to end veteran homelessness; and bolstering other benefits to enhance veterans' prosperity.

The Budget requests \$153.7 billion for VA, which is a 10-percent increase over the 2023 level, including \$129.3 billion in discretionary budget authority and \$24.5 billion in mandatory budget authority provided by the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (FRA) for the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund (TEF) in 2025. The Budget also includes advance appropriations of \$131.4 billion in discretionary budget authority and \$22.8 billion in mandatory budget authority for TEF for VA medical care programs in 2026.

### The President's 2025 Budget:

- **Expands Healthcare, Benefits, and Services for Environmental Exposures.** The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 (PACT Act) represented the most significant expansion of VA healthcare and disability compensation benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits and other environmental exposures in 30 years. As part of the PACT Act, the Congress authorized TEF to fund increased costs above 2021 funding levels for healthcare and benefits delivery for veterans exposed to certain environmental hazards—and ensure there is sufficient funding available to cover these costs without shortchanging other elements of veteran medical care and benefits delivery. The Budget continues this commitment and includes \$24.5 billion for TEF in 2025, through funds appropriated by the FRA, which is \$19.5 billion above the 2023 enacted level.
- **Strengthens VA Medical Care.** The Budget provides a total of \$112.6 billion in discretionary medical care funding in 2025, equal to the 2025 advance appropriation request. In addition, the Budget, through funds appropriated by FRA, includes \$21.5 billion in TEF for medical care, bringing the medical care total to \$134 billion in 2025, an \$11.5 billion increase over the 2023 enacted level. In addition to fully funding inpatient, outpatient, mental health, and long-term care services, the Budget supports programs that enhance VA healthcare quality and delivery, including a \$2 billion investment for non-recurring maintenance to improve medical facility infrastructure, and continued efforts to address the opioid and drug overdose epidemic. In addition, to provide VA with a committed cadre of veteran-oriented,

mission-focused physicians, the Budget implements a joint VA-Public Health Services Health Professions Scholarship Program for medical students enrolled in the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

- **Advances the Biden Cancer Moonshot.** The Budget invests \$45 million within VA research programs, together with \$215 million within the VA Medical Care program, for precision oncology and to provide access to the best possible cancer care for veterans. Funds also support research and programs that address cancer care, rare cancers, and cancers in women, as well as genetic counseling and consultation that advance tele-oncology and precision oncology care to improve veterans' health outcomes.
- **Prioritizes Veterans' Mental Health Services and Suicide Prevention.** The Budget invests \$135 million within VA research programs, together with \$17.1 billion within the VA Medical Care program, to increase access to quality mental healthcare with the goal of helping veterans take charge of their treatment and live full, meaningful lives. VA will also expand and strengthen the future mental health provider pipeline in innovative ways through strategic engagement, planning, interagency collaboration, and academic expansion. In addition, the Budget provides \$583 million to further advance the Administration's veteran suicide prevention initiatives, including continued support of the Veterans Crisis Line's 988 and additional support for VA's National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide.
- **Supports Women Veterans' Healthcare.** The Budget invests \$13.7 billion for women veterans' healthcare, including \$1.1 billion toward women's gender-specific care. More women are choosing VA healthcare than ever before, with women accounting for over 30 percent of the increase in enrolled veterans over the past five years. These investments support comprehensive specialty medical and surgical services for women veterans, improve maternal health outcomes, increase access to infertility counseling and assisted reproductive technology, and eliminate copayments for contraceptive coverage. The Budget also improves the safety of women veterans seeking healthcare at VA facilities by supporting implementation of the zero-tolerance policy for sexual harassment and assault.
- **Bolsters Efforts to End Veteran Homelessness.** The President believes that every veteran should have permanent, safe, and sustainable housing with access to healthcare and other supportive services. The Budget invests \$3.2 billion to end current veteran homelessness and prevent veterans from becoming homeless in the future. In addition to investments made in VA programs, the Budget for the Department of Housing and Urban Development provides \$13 billion in mandatory funding to expand the Housing Choice Voucher Program to reach an additional 400,000 extremely low-income veteran families, paving a path to guaranteed assistance for all who have served the Nation and are in need.
- **Invests in Caregivers Support Programs.** Recognizing the critical role family caregivers play in supporting the health and wellness of veterans, the Budget provides critical funding for the Program of General Caregivers Support Services. The Budget also specifically provides \$2.9 billion for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, which includes stipend payments and support services to help empower family caregivers of eligible veterans.
- **Invests in Overdose Prevention and Treatment Programs.** The Budget invests \$713 million toward opioid use disorder prevention and treatment programs, including using predictive analytics to stratify a patient's risk of overdose, provide augmented care as appropriate, and to support programs authorized in the Jason Simcakoski PROMISE Act. In

addition, investments contribute to distribution of naloxone to veterans, which, according to researchers with the VA Palo Alto Health Care System, has demonstrated success in effective utilization of the lifesaving opioid overdose reversal medication, and development of an opioid safety toolkit that provides clinicians materials that aid in decisions related to safe opioid prescribing and non-opioid pain management options.

- **Honors the Memory of All Veterans.** The Budget includes \$495 million to ensure veterans and their families have access to exceptional memorial benefits. These funds maintain national shrine standards at the 158 VA-managed cemeteries and support the operations and maintenance of Mare Island Cemetery transferred in 2023 from the City of Vallejo, California.
- **Invests in Veteran Medical and Other Facilities.** The Budget includes \$2.8 billion in budgetary resources for construction and expansion of critical infrastructure and facilities, in addition to the \$2 billion investment for non-recurring maintenance to improve medical facility infrastructure. The Budget also provides \$141 million for grants for construction of State extended care facilities to deliver high-quality healthcare, benefits, and services for veterans.
- **Modernizes VA Information Technology.** The Budget provides \$6.2 billion in total budgetary resources for VA's Office of Information Technology to continue upgrades to information technology systems to enable faster benefits delivery and easier access to medical care services. In addition, VA will continue its investments in expanding the safe use of artificial intelligence to improve veteran care.
- **Supports Claims Processing and Benefits Delivery.** The Budget provides \$4 billion to the General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration account, notably to support the timely processing of claims. This is an increase \$172 million over the 2023 enacted level and would enable VA to continue to focus on delivering timely benefits and services to veterans.
- **Invests in Housing.** The Budget provides \$326 million in discretionary housing loan program administration resources aiding veterans in buying, building, improving, or refinancing a home. The Budget supports program modernization, loss mitigation efforts to keep veterans in their homes, and the Administration's Justice40 and Property Appraisal Valuation Equity initiatives.

