

Agency Purpose

The purpose of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is to provide support, encouragement, and a better life for the noble men and women who became disabled while upholding world peace and freedom of the United States of America. The purpose and mission of the DAV is accomplished by:

- ◆ representing the interests of disabled veterans, their families, their widowed spouses, and their orphans before Congress, the White House, the Judicial Branch, as well as state and local government;
- ◆ providing free professional service to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other agencies of government;
- ◆ extending the DAV’s mission of hope into the communities where these veterans and their families live through a network of the department and chapter outreach service programs; and
- ◆ providing a structure through which disabled veterans can express compassion for their fellow veterans through a variety of volunteer programs.

Core Functions

The DAV service officers serve as representatives for veterans and their families in obtaining benefits to which they are entitled. The DAV also provides informational seminars and publishes articles to bring about an awareness concerning potential entitlements to benefits and services available through the DAV and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The DAV provides direct assistance to veterans through the Older Veterans Assistance Program, Thrift Store Gift Certificate program, DAV Transportation Network program, and Veterans Service programs, all of which provide direct aid to veterans and their families in Minnesota.

Operations

The DAV has a Veteran National Service Office at Fort Snelling, staffed by four service officers and two secretaries. Services are rendered to individual veterans and are represented before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to obtain entitled benefits. The Minnesota DAV department office is located in the Veteran Service Building in St. Paul with three personnel and has two other offices located at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Minneapolis and the VAMC in St. Cloud. All services are coordinated with the department and rendered to individual veterans and families. We have nearly 20,000 members of the DAV in 33 Chapters and 24 Auxiliary units across the state of Minnesota.

Budget

The DAV receives a grant from the General Fund and uses it to benefit veterans primarily through the agency’s transportation program. In the FY 2004-05 biennium, this state funding was \$13,000 per year, and represented less than 3% of the DAV’s total budget. In FY 2003, DAV allocated 86.4% of all funds to veteran programs.

At A Glance

- ◆ There are approximately 465,000 veterans in Minnesota.
- ◆ In FY 2003, DAV representation before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs resulted in over \$61 million in new benefits to Minnesota veterans.
- ◆ Over 2,200 Minnesota Veterans received new benefits. Over 1,400 veterans had their claims maintained (\$20 Million) and 1,500 veterans had claims increased through our Minnesota DAV Service Officers representation (\$22 million). Overall, this is more than a 10% increase in compensation from the prior year.
- ◆ In FY 2003, the Transportation Network provided over 29,000 individual rides to VA medical appointments, comprising over 1.2 million miles traveled.
- ◆ Volunteer efforts by DAV chapters, county veteran service officers, and other veteran service organizations resulted in over 96,000 volunteer hours donated.
- ◆ Over 3,000 veterans were assisted with Thrift Store gift certificates for clothing needs.
- ◆ Minnesota DAV provided TV programming to five Minnesota Veterans Homes with more than 400 TVs. DAV donated these TVs in recent years.

Contact

Disabled American Veterans
Veterans Service Building, 3rd Floor
20 West 12th Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
Department Adjutant, Dean Ascheman (651) 291-1212

Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2006-07
	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	
<u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u>					
General					
Current Appropriation	13	13	13	13	26
Forecast Base	13	13	13	13	26
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2004-05					0%
 <u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
General	13	13	13	13	26
Total	13	13	13	13	26
 <u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Local Assistance	13	13	13	13	26
Total	13	13	13	13	26
 <u>Expenditures by Program</u>					
Disabled American Veterans	13	13	13	13	26
Total	13	13	13	13	26