

VETERANS SERVICE BUREAU - 6510

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Veterans Service Bureau is to ensure that all honorably discharged military personnel in Albany County and their dependents receive the benefits to which they are entitled under the law. The Department assists Albany County veterans and their dependents in order to receive the maximum benefits to which they are entitled from Federal, State, and local government sources. The department will accomplish this while ensuring that all veterans and their family members are treated with the respect and dignity they deserve.

WHO WE SERVE

We serve WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon & Grenada, Panama, Persian Gulf/War on Terror, returning veterans from Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), peace time veterans, spouse and dependents.

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

The Veterans Service Bureau work with veterans and their dependents in filing claims with various governmental entities, we assist individuals through the application processes and determine eligibility requirements for these benefits.

The Bureau provides assistance to Albany County Veterans applying for the following benefits:

- Return the FAVOR program was established in 2011 with the collaboration of the County Clerk's Office to provide honorably discharged Albany County veterans with discounts on purchases or services at local participating merchants. This outreach has increased the services to a large amount of veterans.
- VA Pension payments to wartime veterans with limited income who are permanently disabled and are 65 or older.
- Service Connected Disability Benefits from the Veterans Administration to veterans at least 10 percent disabled as a result of military service.
- Aid and Attendance pension benefits for certain widows of veterans to help pay for their medical or nursing facility costs.
- Assisted Living Benefits, including Blind Annuity Benefits, which pay blind veterans and eligible widowed spouses who have not re-married.
- Home Loan Guaranties by the Veterans Administration of private lender loans to eligible veterans and certain surviving spouses to purchase a home.

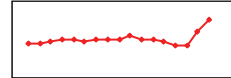
Dependents and Survivors Benefits, including Death and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and a Health and Medical Program for dependents and survivors of a veteran.

In addition, the Bureau provides general information and referrals to veterans regarding employment, health care issues and Federal Agencies including the Small Business Association and the Social Security Administration.

2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

Since the Veterans Bureau partnership with Soldier On, we have assisted numerous homeless veterans and veterans with dependents to obtain housing. We have also partner with the Albany County Airport Authority, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and Homeless and Travelers Aid Society (HATAS) to provide clothing to homeless veterans through Clothe a Homeless Hero Act, H.R. 6328. This bill was passed to direct the TSA to give unclaimed clothing recovered at airport security checkpoints to local veterans' organizations or other charitable groups for distribution to homeless or needy veterans and their families. The Bureau assisted 240 veterans in applying and ultimately receiving the Return the Favor benefits. Veterans Service Bureau staff attended The American Legion Department of NY, Advance Training Accreditation class.

APPROPRIATION HISTORY



1998:	\$124,100
1999:	\$126,441
2000:	\$132,943
2001:	\$151,136
2002:	\$153,624
2003:	\$132,393
2004:	\$145,298
2005:	\$146,057
2006:	\$147,043
2007:	\$181,053
2008:	\$149,903
2009:	\$147,201
2010:	\$132,941
2011:	\$115,695
2012:	\$115,046
2013:	\$202,671
2014:	\$279,098

CONTACT INFORMATION

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2014 GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

Members of the Veterans Bureau will participate in Federal, State and local communities outreach programs upon request and availability.

The Bureau will continue to work with the Hon. Stephen W. Herrick and his staff at 6 Lodge Street in the VetTrak Drug Court Program as a mentor. VetTrak is an alternative to incarceration for veterans who find themselves in County or City Court facing criminal charges.

SUMMARY OF BUDGET CHANGES

The 2014 Executive budget for the Department of Social Service does not include any substantive programmatic changes.

The Department of Veterans Service Bureau assisted a son and daughter of a WW II veteran with housing at the Albany County Nursing Home (ACNH). The Veterans Service Bureau (VSB) received a phone call from a veteran's person they have given their Power of Attorney (POA) requesting assistance with his father issue at the Stratton VA Medical Center (VAMC). Per the POA his father had to move out of the VA facility, with a limited time to do so. The VAMC had a placement for the veteran in Massachusetts, but the family wasn't happy with the distance, because the seriousness of their father illness. The POA and other family members were unable to take care of the veteran at their home. Both the POA and I contacted ACNH seeking a bed. As the Director, I visit the VAMC and spoke with VAMC Director regarding the POA concern requesting a couple of more days to finalize paperwork with their lawyer. The POA was granted enough time to finalize paperwork with their lawyer, and establish residence at the Albany County Nursing Home. The family was very pleased with the outcome. A thank you letter was drafted to various political leaders and the VSB for their assistance.

				2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2014	2014	
A 6510 Veterans Service Bureau				Count	Count	Expended	Adjusted	Requested	Proposed	Adopted	
Personnel Services Individual											
A	6510	11027 001	480001 Director III	1	1	\$28,248	\$49,630	\$50,623	\$50,623	-	
A	6510	11927 001	480011 Veterans Service Officer I	1	1	-	\$41,616	\$42,448	\$42,448	-	
A	6510	11927 002	480012 Veterans Service Officer I	1	1	-	\$20,000	\$42,448	\$42,448	-	
A	6510	16236 001	480010 Clerk Typist I	1	1	\$9,115	\$30,000	\$31,836	\$31,836	-	
<i>Personnel Services Individual Subtotal</i>				4	4	\$37,364	\$141,246	\$167,355	\$167,355	\$0	
Personnel Non-Individual											
A	6510	19951	Health Insurance Buyout			\$792	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<i>Personnel Non-Individual Subtotal</i>						\$792	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Equipment											
Contractual Expenses											
A	6510	44020	Office Supplies			\$123	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$0	
A	6510	44035	Postage			\$570	\$865	\$800	\$800	\$0	
A	6510	44036	Telephone			\$404	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$0	
A	6510	44037	Insurance			\$1,917	\$2,003	\$1,896	\$1,896	\$0	
A	6510	44038	Travel,Mileage,Freight			\$2,308	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	
A	6510	44039	Conferences Training Tuitio			\$886	\$3,052	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	
A	6510	44040	Books/Transcripts/Subscripts			\$0	\$300	\$0	\$0	\$0	
A	6510	44041	Computer Fees			\$700	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$0	
A	6510	44042	Printing And Advertising			\$656	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0	
A	6510	44049	Special Programs			\$3,245	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	
A	6510	44070	Equipment Repair And Rental			\$356	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$0	
A	6510	44903	DGS Shared Services Charges			\$10,315	\$10,022	\$12,076	\$12,076	\$0	
<i>Contractual Expenses Subtotal</i>						\$21,479	\$25,442	\$28,472	\$28,472	\$0	
Fringe Benefits											
A	6510	89010	State Retirement			\$3,156	\$27,125	\$34,579	\$34,579	\$0	
A	6510	89030	Social Security			\$3,946	\$9,141	\$12,803	\$12,803	\$0	
A	6510	89060	Hospital and Medical Insurance			\$9,138	\$12,428	\$35,889	\$35,889	\$0	
<i>Fringe Benefits Subtotal</i>						\$16,240	\$48,694	\$83,271	\$83,271	\$0	
Total Appropriations						\$88,348	\$193,611	\$279,098	\$279,098	\$0	
Revenue											
A	6510	02705	Gifts and Donations			(\$500)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
A	6510	03710	Veterans Service Bureau			\$0	(\$17,309)	(\$17,309)	(\$17,309)	\$0	
Total Revenue						(\$500)	(\$17,309)	(\$17,309)	(\$17,309)	\$0	
County Share						\$87,848	\$176,302	\$261,789	\$261,789	\$0	