

## Veterans' Services, Department of

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### Mission

The core mission of the New York State Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) is to link veterans, members of the armed forces, and their families and dependents to various personal, medical, and financial benefits available to them as the result of active duty military service. DVS's professional counseling staff prepares, presents and prosecutes claims, including applications for monthly compensation and pension awards, education benefits, burial benefits, vocational rehabilitation training, health care, nursing home care, tax exemptions and other services.

### Organization and Staffing

DVS is led by a Commissioner. DVS's workforce primarily consists of Veterans' Benefit Advisors located in all State regions to allow veterans better access to services. DVS is hosted by the Office of General Services, which provides administrative, budgetary, and human resources support.

### Budget Highlights

The FY 2025 Executive Budget recommends \$30 million in appropriations for DVS. This represents a \$2.8 million decrease from FY 2024 attributable to the expiration of \$2.9 million in one-time legislative adds, \$900,000 in one-time Veterans' cemetery support, and a \$600,000 decrease in the Homeless Veterans Assistance appropriation to more closely align with annual donations from the public. These decreases are offset by the addition of \$1.5 million in workforce funding and approximately \$33,000 for union settlement agreements.

The FY 2024 Enacted Budget included a new \$1.1 million appropriation for the Homeless Veterans Assistance program to support veterans' emergency housing needs. The \$1.1 million represented an accumulated balance generated over a number of years from donations made to the Homeless Veterans Assistance Fund. The FY 2025 Executive Budget reappropriates the \$1.1 million and provides an additional \$500,000 appropriation for the program to more closely align with expected annual donations to the Homeless Veterans Assistance Fund.

The Executive Budget recommends a workforce of 110 full-time employees, which remains unchanged from FY 2024.

### Program Highlights

#### ***Blind Veteran Annuity Assistance Program***

The Blind Veteran Annuity Assistance Program provides annuities to legally blind veterans and eligible surviving spouses.

#### ***Veterans' Benefits Advising Program***

The Veterans' Benefits Advising Program offers advocacy and assistance services to veterans to secure and maintain Federal Veterans' Affairs benefits.

#### ***Veterans' Education Program***

The Veterans' Education Program staff investigates and approves educational programs on behalf of veterans who qualify for these benefits.

#### ***Veterans' Cemetery Program***

The Veterans' Cemetery Program supports the maintenance of the first State Veterans' cemetery which provides a permanent resting place to honor New York's veterans and their families.

**ALL FUNDS  
APPROPRIATIONS  
(dollars)**

<u>Category</u>	<b>Available FY 2024</b>	<b>Appropriations Recommended FY 2025</b>	<b>Change From FY 2024</b>	<b>Reappropriations Recommended FY 2025</b>
State Operations	13,449,440	14,082,000	632,560	6,080,000
Aid To Localities	15,824,000	12,359,000	(3,465,000)	25,185,000
Capital Projects	4,000,000	4,000,000	0	12,875,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,273,440</b>	<b>30,441,000</b>	<b>(2,832,440)</b>	<b>44,140,000</b>

**ALL FUND TYPES  
PROJECTED LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM  
FILLED ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS**

<u>Program</u>	<b>FY 2024 Estimated FTEs 03/31/24</b>	<b>FY 2025 Estimated FTEs 03/31/25</b>	<b>FTE Change</b>
Administration			
General Fund	3	3	0
Veterans' Benefits Advising			
General Fund	99	99	0
Veterans Education			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	8	8	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>0</b>

**STATE OPERATIONS  
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE  
APPROPRIATIONS  
(dollars)**

<u>Fund Type</u>	<b>Available FY 2024</b>	<b>Recommended FY 2025</b>	<b>Change</b>
General Fund	9,437,602	10,961,000	1,523,398
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	3,111,838	2,221,000	(890,838)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	900,000	900,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,449,440</b>	<b>14,082,000</b>	<b>632,560</b>
Adjustments:			
Transfer(s) From			
Special Pay Bill			
General Fund	(412,440)		
<b>Appropriated FY 2024</b>	<b>13,037,000</b>		

NYS DOB | FY 2025 Executive Budget | Agency Appropriations  
**STATE OPERATIONS**  
**ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM**  
**APPROPRIATIONS**  
(dollars)

Program	Available FY 2024	Recommended FY 2025	Change
Administration			
General Fund	1,025,690	1,030,000	4,310
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	900,000	0	(900,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	900,000	900,000	0
Veterans Education			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	2,211,838	2,221,000	9,162
Veterans' Benefits Advising			
General Fund	8,411,912	9,931,000	1,519,088
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,449,440</b>	<b>14,082,000</b>	<b>632,560</b>

**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND**  
**SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES**  
**FY 2025 RECOMMENDED**  
(dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	417,000	4,310	417,000	4,310
Veterans' Benefits Advising	8,972,000	1,269,088	8,949,000	1,269,088
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,389,000</b>	<b>1,273,398</b>	<b>9,366,000</b>	<b>1,273,398</b>

Program	Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)		Holiday/Overtime Pay	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Veterans' Benefits Advising	0	0	23,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>0</b>

**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND**  
**SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED**  
**APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES**  
**FY 2025 RECOMMENDED**  
(dollars)

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	613,000	0	10,000	0
Veterans' Benefits Advising	959,000	250,000	63,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,572,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>73,000</b>	<b>0</b>

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Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	14,000	0	570,000	0
Veterans' Benefits Advising	104,000	0	352,000	250,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>118,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>922,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>

Program	Equipment	
	Amount	Change
Administration	19,000	0
Veterans' Benefits Advising	440,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>459,000</b>	<b>0</b>

**STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND  
SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES  
FY 2025 RECOMMENDED  
(dollars)**

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	900,000	(900,000)	0	0
Veterans Education	2,221,000	9,162	1,301,000	(12,852)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,121,000</b>	<b>(890,838)</b>	<b>1,301,000</b>	<b>(12,852)</b>

Program	Nonpersonal Service	
	Amount	Change
Administration	900,000	(900,000)
Veterans Education	920,000	22,014
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,820,000</b>	<b>(877,986)</b>

**AID TO LOCALITIES  
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE  
APPROPRIATIONS  
(dollars)**

Fund Type	Available FY 2024	Recommended FY 2025	Change
General Fund	14,224,000	11,359,000	(2,865,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	500,000	500,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	1,100,000	500,000	(600,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,824,000</b>	<b>12,359,000</b>	<b>(3,465,000)</b>

NYS DOB | FY 2025 Executive Budget | Agency Appropriations  
**AID TO LOCALITIES**  
**ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM**  
**APPROPRIATIONS**  
**(dollars)**

Program	Available FY 2024	Recommended FY 2025	Change
Administration			
General Fund	999,000	999,000	0
Blind Veteran Annuity Assistance			
General Fund	6,380,000	6,380,000	0
Veterans' Benefits Advising			
General Fund	6,845,000	3,980,000	(2,865,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	500,000	500,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	1,100,000	500,000	(600,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,824,000</b>	<b>12,359,000</b>	<b>(3,465,000)</b>

**CAPITAL PROJECTS**  
**ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM**  
**APPROPRIATIONS**  
**(dollars)**

Comprehensive Construction Program	Available FY 2024	Recommended FY 2025	Change	Reappropriations FY 2025
Veteran's Nonprofit Capital Program				
Capital Projects Fund - Authority Bonds	0	0	0	5,000,000
Veterans' Cemetery				
Capital Projects Fund - Authority Bonds	2,000,000	2,000,000	0	3,875,000
Federal Capital Projects Fund	2,000,000	2,000,000	0	4,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,000,000</b>	<b>4,000,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,875,000</b>

Note: Most recent estimates as of 01/16/2024