

## Veterans' Affairs, Division of

### Mission

The core mission of the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) 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. DVA'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

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

### Budget Highlights

The FY 2020 Executive Budget recommends \$19.6 million for DVA. This represents a \$1.7 million net decrease in funding from FY 2019, which reflects the elimination of legislative adds as well as increased funding for county and city VSA allocations and additional appropriation authority for the agency's Veterans' Benefits Advising Program. The Executive Budget recommends a workforce of 98 Full-time Employees, unchanged from FY 2019 levels.

### 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 (Formerly 'Veterans' Counseling Services') 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.

### ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Category	Available FY 2019	Appropriations Recommended FY 2020	Change From FY 2019	Reappropriations Recommended FY 2020
State Operations	8,447,000	8,747,000	300,000	4,882,000
Aid To Localities	12,811,000	10,859,000	(1,952,000)	11,920,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,258,000</b>	<b>19,606,000</b>	<b>(1,652,000)</b>	<b>16,802,000</b>

NYS DOB | FY 2020 Executive Budget | Agency Appropriations  
**ALL FUND TYPES**  
**PROJECTED LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM**  
**FILLED ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS**

Program	FY 2019 Estimated FTEs 03/31/19	FY 2020 Estimated FTEs 03/31/20	FTE Change
Administration			
General Fund	4	5	1
Veterans' Benefits Advising			
General Fund	86	85	(1)
Veterans Education			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	8	8	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>0</b>

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

Fund Type	Available FY 2019	Recommended FY 2020	Change
General Fund	6,422,000	6,722,000	300,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	2,025,000	2,025,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,447,000</b>	<b>8,747,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>

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

Program	Available FY 2019	Recommended FY 2020	Change
Administration			
General Fund	480,000	480,000	0
Veterans Education			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	2,025,000	2,025,000	0
Veterans' Benefits Advising			
General Fund	5,942,000	6,242,000	300,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,447,000</b>	<b>8,747,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>

**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND**  
**SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES**  
**FY 2020 RECOMMENDED**  
(dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	367,000	0	367,000	0
Veterans' Benefits Advising	5,804,000	300,000	5,781,000	300,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,171,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>6,148,000</b>	<b>300,000</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 2020 RECOMMENDED  
(dollars)**

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	113,000	0	10,000	0
Veterans' Benefits Advising	438,000	0	63,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>551,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>73,000</b>	<b>0</b>

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	14,000	0	70,000	0
Veterans' Benefits Advising	104,000	0	181,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>118,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>251,000</b>	<b>0</b>

Program	Equipment	
	Amount	Change
Administration	19,000	0
Veterans' Benefits Advising	90,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>109,000</b>	<b>0</b>

**STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND  
SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES  
FY 2020 RECOMMENDED  
(dollars)**

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Veterans Education	2,025,000	0	1,199,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,025,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,199,000</b>	<b>0</b>

Program	Nonpersonal Service	
	Amount	Change
Veterans Education	826,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>826,000</b>	<b>0</b>

NYS DOB | FY2020 Executive Budget | Agency Appropriations  
**AID TO LOCALITIES**  
**ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE**  
**APPROPRIATIONS**  
(dollars)

Fund Type	Available FY 2019	Recommended FY 2020	Change
General Fund	12,311,000	10,359,000	(1,952,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	500,000	500,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,811,000</b>	<b>10,859,000</b>	<b>(1,952,000)</b>

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

Program	Available FY 2019	Recommended FY 2020	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	4,932,000	2,980,000	(1,952,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	500,000	500,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,811,000</b>	<b>10,859,000</b>	<b>(1,952,000)</b>

Note: Most recent estimates as of 1/15/2019