

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025



ANALYSIS OF THE NEW JERSEY BUDGET

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Prepared by the

NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

April 2024

NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE

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DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Budget Pages C-6, C-14, C-23, D-305 to D-317

Fiscal Summary (\$000)

	Expended FY 2023	Adjusted Appropriation FY 2024	Recommended FY 2025	Percentage Change 2024-25
State Budgeted	\$112,804	\$125,259	\$121,322	(3.1%)
Federal Funds	62,763	178,250	134,444	(24.6%)
<u>All Other Funds</u>	<u>1,988</u>	<u>7,021</u>	<u>7,021</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Grand Total	\$177,555	\$310,530	\$262,787	(15.4%)

Personnel Summary - Positions By Funding Source

	Actual FY 2023	Revised FY 2024	Funded FY 2025	Percentage Change 2024-25
State	1,266	1,262	1,419	12.4%
Federal	201	201	201	0.0%
<u>All Other</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>---</u>
Total Positions	1,467	1,463	1,620	10.7%

FY 2023 (as of December) and revised FY 2024 (as of January) personnel data reflect actual payroll counts. FY 2025 data reflect the number of positions funded.

Link to Website: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/budget-finance/governors-budget>

Highlights

Overview

The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, under the direction of the Adjutant General of New Jersey, is responsible for supporting the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard, and administering programs and services for the estimated 300,000 veterans living in New Jersey. The department also operates three veterans' memorial homes: the Menlo Park Veterans' Memorial Home, the Paramus Veterans' Memorial Home, and the Vineland Veterans' Memorial Home.

The FY 2025 Governor's Budget recommends \$262.8 million in total funding for the department, a decrease of \$47.7 million (15.4 percent). The total consists of \$121.3 million in State funds; \$134.4 million in federal funds; and \$7.0 million in all other funds. Compared to FY 2024, State funds are recommended to decrease by \$3.9 million (3.1 percent) and federal funds by \$43.8 million (24.6 percent). There is no change in the recommended all other funds appropriations.

Military Services

The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, Military Services, is responsible for the support and coordination of Army and Air National Guard activities in New Jersey. The National Guard responds to emergencies within the State upon the declaration of a State emergency by the Governor. The department's federal military responsibility is to provide trained and qualified individuals and troop units in the support of the Army and Air Force of the United States. The department estimates that as of June 30, 2024, the Army and Air National Guard will be at 100 percent of their authorized strength. The department estimates that for FY 2025, the Army National Guard will remain at 100 percent and the Air National Guard will increase to 101 percent of their authorized strength.

- FY 2025 State appropriations are recommended to decrease by \$450,000, or by 2.7 percent, to \$16.1 million. The decrease is due to the anticipated completion of the purchase and demolition of property adjacent to the Newark Armory.
- Federal funds are recommended to decrease by \$45.0 million, as the department anticipates the receipt in FY 2024 of a one-time federal grant in that amount for energy grid upgrades at the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt.

Services to Veterans

The department is responsible for the support and coordination of various services to military veterans in New Jersey, including Outreach and Assistance, Veterans' Haven, Burial Services, and the three Veterans' Memorial Homes. Based on information in the FY 2025 Budget in Brief, the department now operates 20 veteran service offices throughout the State and the one remaining office will open soon. These offices assist veterans and their dependents in securing State and federal benefits. The department anticipates serving 129,000 veterans in FY 2025; providing 19,200 veterans' transportation trips; delivering 13,700 post-traumatic stress disorder counseling sessions; housing 226 homeless veterans; and performing 4,200 interments.

Highlights (Cont'd)

- The FY 2025 Governor’s Budget recommends \$16.4 million in State appropriations for veterans’ support programs, including Veterans’ Outreach and Assistance (\$8.6 million); Veterans’ Haven (\$5.5 million); Burial Services (\$2.2 million); and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (\$1.3 million). This represents a decrease of \$4.4 million, or 21.2 percent, attributable to the removal of State funding for maintenance and upkeep expenditures for headstones at the Brigadier General Doyle Memorial Cemetery in Arneytown and the removal or reduction of various Grants-in-Aid projects.

Veterans’ Memorial Homes

The department owns and operates three veterans’ memorial homes that provide long-term care, medical care, and nursing services to eligible veterans of all wars living in New Jersey who served on active duty and were honorably discharged. The veterans’ memorial homes are located in Menlo Park, Paramus, and Vineland. The homes are inspected and licensed annually by the New Jersey Department of Health and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

- The FY 2025 Governor’s Budget recommends total funding of \$107.4 million to support up to 948 resident veterans in FY 2025, an increase of \$1.9 million, or 1.8 percent. This net growth is comprised of increases in State appropriations of: a) \$1.1 million to support additional direct care staff at the homes and b) \$237,000 for utility costs at the homes; and anticipated increases in federal funds of \$1 million for Medicare Part A Receipts for Resident Care and Operational Costs. These increases are partially offset by a decrease of \$400,000 in State funds to reflect the anticipated completion of the design phase for the conversion of double occupancy rooms to single occupancy rooms at the Menlo Park and Paramus Veterans’ Memorial Homes.
- According to the FY 2025 Budget in Brief, the Governor intends to request \$21.0 million from the off-budget Debt Defeasance and Prevention Fund for the conversion of double occupancy rooms to single occupancy rooms at the Menlo Park and Paramus Veterans’ Memorial Homes. The department is also working on a grant application to request \$23.0 million in funding from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for these projects.

Background Papers:

Armory Rentals p. 11
 Veterans Haven p. 13

Fiscal and Personnel Summary

AGENCY FUNDING BY SOURCE OF FUNDS (\$000)

	Expended FY 2023	Adj. Approp. FY 2024	Recom. FY 2025	Percentage Change	
				2023-25	2024-25
General Fund					
Direct State Services	\$109,937	\$118,614	\$118,052	7.4%	(0.5%)
Grants-In-Aid	2,867	6,645	3,270	14.1%	(50.8%)
State Aid	0	0	0	---	---
Capital Construction	0	0	0	---	---
Debt Service	0	0	0	---	---
Sub-Total	\$112,804	\$125,259	\$121,322	7.6%	(3.1%)
Property Tax Relief Fund					
Direct State Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	---	---
Grants-In-Aid	0	0	0	---	---
State Aid	0	0	0	---	---
Sub-Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	---	---
Casino Revenue Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	---	---
Casino Control Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	---	---
State Total	\$112,804	\$125,259	\$121,322	7.6%	(3.1%)
Federal Funds	\$62,763	\$178,250	\$134,444	114.2%	(24.6%)
Other Funds	\$1,988	\$7,021	\$7,021	253.2%	0.0%
Grand Total	\$177,555	\$310,530	\$262,787	48.0%	(15.4%)

PERSONNEL SUMMARY - POSITIONS BY FUNDING SOURCE

	Actual FY 2023	Revised FY 2024	Funded FY 2025	Percentage Change	
				2023-25	2024-25
State	1,266	1,262	1,419	12.1%	12.4%
Federal	201	201	201	0.0%	0.0%
All Other	0	0	0	---	---
Total Positions	1,467	1,463	1,620	10.4%	10.7%

FY 2023 (as of December) and revised FY 2024 (as of January) personnel data reflect actual payroll counts. FY 2025 data reflect the number of positions funded.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION DATA

Total Minority Percentage	64.3%	65.5%	N/A	---	---
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Significant Changes/New Programs (\$000)

MILITARY SERVICES

General Fund, Direct State Services Additions, Improvements and Equipment				Budget Page: D-308	
FY 2022 Expended	FY 2023 Expended	FY 2024 Adj. Approp.	FY 2025 Recomm.	Change FY 2024 – FY 2025	
\$904	\$1,804	\$498	\$48	(\$450)	(90.4%)

This recommended decline represents the non-renewal of a one-time \$450,000 appropriation in FY 2024 for the purchase and demolition of property adjacent to the Newark Armory.

Federal Funds, Administration and Support Services				Budget Page: D-309	
FY 2022 Expended	FY 2023 Expended	FY 2024 Adj. Approp.	FY 2025 Recomm.	Change FY 2024 – FY 2025	
\$106	\$0	\$45,000	\$0	(\$45,000)	(100.0%)

The department anticipates the receipt in FY 2024 of a one-time federal grant in the amount of \$45.0 million for energy grid upgrades at the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt. Additional federal funding for this capital project is not anticipated for FY 2025.

Significant Changes/New Programs (\$000) (Cont'd)

SERVICES TO VETERANS – VETERANS' PROGRAM SUPPORT

General Fund, Direct State Services Veterans' Outreach and Assistance				Budget Page: D-311	
FY 2022 Expended	FY 2023 Expended	FY 2024 Adj. Approp.	FY 2025 Recomm.	Change FY 2024 – FY 2025	
\$3,926	\$3,963	\$5,823	\$6,097	\$274	4.7%

The proposed \$274,000 increase is the net effect of two changes: a) a \$379,000 increase for salaries and wages to provide a Veterans Service Officer in every county offset by b) a \$105,000 reduction for one-time funding for information technology equipment costs at these new offices.

The recommended \$379,000 increase for salaries and wages would annualize the cost of operating seven new Veterans Service Offices. Specifically, the FY 2024 Appropriations Act provided \$380,000 in additional salaries and wages appropriations to open, in the course of the fiscal year, a Veterans Service Office in the seven counties that did not have one already: Camden County, Cape May County, Middlesex County, Passaic County, Salem County, Union County, and Warren County. The FY 2025 Budget in Brief states that six of the seven new offices had been opened by December 2023.

General Fund, Direct State Services Burial Services				Budget Page: D-311	
FY 2022 Expended	FY 2023 Expended	FY 2024 Adj. Approp.	FY 2025 Recomm.	Change FY 2024 – FY 2025	
\$3,894	\$3,220	\$3,503	\$2,203	(\$1,300)	(37.1%)

This recommended decrease represents the discontinuation of a one-time appropriation in FY 2024 for straightening, cleaning, and realigning headstones in Section Z at the Brigadier General Doyle Memorial Cemetery.

General Fund, Grants-In-Aid Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation				Budget Page: D-312	
FY 2022 Expended	FY 2023 Expended	FY 2024 Adj. Approp.	FY 2025 Recomm.	Change FY 2024 – FY 2025	
\$250	\$250	\$250	\$125	(\$125)	(50.0%)

For FY 2025, the Governor recommends a reduction of \$125,000 in grant funding for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation. The foundation received \$250,000 in funding in seven of the last eight fiscal years.

Significant Changes/New Programs (\$000) (Cont'd)

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation commemorates New Jersey service members who served in Vietnam and provides education about the Vietnam War Era to the general public. The Foundation serves over 10,000 New Jersey students annually.

General Fund, Grants-In-Aid SOS Veterans Stakeholder Group				Budget Page: D-312	
FY 2022 Expended	FY 2023 Expended	FY 2024 Adj. Approp.	FY 2025 Recomm.	Change FY 2024 – FY 2025	
\$0	\$0	\$250	\$0	(\$250)	(100.0%)

The Governor proposes eliminating the \$250,000 appropriation that the Legislature added to the FY 2024 Appropriations Act for the New Jersey SOS Veterans Stakeholder Group. This group is a coalition that provides financial assistance, housing support, emergency transportation, benefits counseling, and other services to veterans in Northern New Jersey.

General Fund, Grants-In-Aid Unite Us – Veterans-Focused Coordinated Care Network				Budget Page: D-312	
FY 2022 Expended	FY 2023 Expended	FY 2024 Adj. Approp.	FY 2025 Recomm.	Change FY 2024 – FY 2025	
\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	(\$3,000)	(100.0%)

The Governor proposes discontinuing this \$3.0 million appropriation that the Legislature added to the FY 2024 Appropriations Act for a grant to the Unite Us – Veterans-Focused Coordinated Care Network. Launched on January 1, 2024, the Unite New Jersey Veterans digital platform is a network intended to connect service providers throughout New Jersey to streamline the process for veterans and military families seeking access to care and benefits earned.

Federal Funds, Veterans' Outreach and Assistance				Budget Page: D-312	
FY 2022 Expended	FY 2023 Expended	FY 2024 Adj. Approp.	FY 2025 Recomm.	Change FY 2024 – FY 2025	
\$507	\$587	\$808	\$923	\$115	14.2%

This budget line reflects an anticipated increase in federal funding for Veterans' Education Monitoring. The department hired two new staff members for the Veterans' Education Monitoring program unit.

Significant Changes/New Programs (\$000) (Cont'd)

SERVICES TO VETERANS – VETERANS’ MEMORIAL HOMES

General Fund, Direct State Services						
Salaries and Wages						
FY 2022 Expended	FY 2023 Expended	FY 2024 Adj. Approp.	FY 2025 Recomm.		Change FY 2024 – FY 2025	
A) Menlo Park Veterans’ Memorial Home						Budget Page: D-314
\$21,873	\$22,401	\$23,317	\$23,695		\$378	1.6%
B) Paramus Veterans’ Memorial Home						Budget Page: D-315
\$22,158	\$22,122	\$25,140	\$25,394		\$254	1.0%
C) Vineland Veterans’ Memorial Home						Budget Page: D-317
\$23,857	\$24,452	\$26,631	\$27,076		\$445	1.7%
TOTAL, VETERANS’ MEMORIAL HOMES, SALARIES AND WAGES						
\$67,888	\$68,975	\$75,088	\$76,165		\$1,077	1.4%

This recommended increase of \$1.1 million is requested to comply with direct care staff-to-resident ratios in nursing homes pursuant to P.L.2020, c.112. Funding for this initiative has been phased-in since FY 2022. According to the Office of Management and Budget, the \$1.1 million increase for FY 2025 is the final installment to achieve compliance with the law.

General Fund, Direct State Services						
Materials and Supplies						
FY 2022 Expended	FY 2023 Expended	FY 2024 Adj. Approp.	FY 2025 Recomm.		Change FY 2024 – FY 2025	
A) Menlo Park Veterans’ Memorial Home						Budget Page: D-314
\$1,964	\$1,965	\$1,965	\$2,050		\$85	4.3%
B) Paramus Veterans’ Memorial Home						Budget Page: D-315
\$1,339	\$1,369	\$1,370	\$1,439		\$69	5.0%
C) Vineland Veterans’ Memorial Home						Budget Page: D-317
\$1,477	\$1,482	\$1,482	\$1,565		\$83	5.6%
TOTAL, VETERANS’ MEMORIAL HOMES, MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES						
\$4,780	\$4,816	\$4,817	\$5,054		\$237	4.9%

This recommended increase is for utility costs across all three veterans’ memorial homes. The utilities supported by this appropriation include water, gas, sewer, and electric.

Significant Changes/New Programs (\$000) (Cont'd)

General Fund, Direct State Services Additions, Improvements and Equipment						
FY 2022 Expended	FY 2023 Expended	FY 2024 Adj. Approp.	FY 2025 Recomm.		Change FY 2024 – FY 2025	
A) Menlo Park Veterans' Memorial Home						Budget Page: D-314
\$1,101	\$0	\$314	\$114		(\$200)	(63.7%)
B) Paramus Veterans' Memorial Home						Budget Page: D-315
\$582	\$0	\$239	\$39		(\$200)	(83.7%)
TOTAL, VETERANS' MEMORIAL HOMES, ADDITIONS, IMPROVEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT						
\$1,683	\$0	\$553	\$153		(\$400)	(72.3%)

This decline represents the anticipated completion of the design phase for the Menlo Park and Paramus Veterans' Memorial Homes to convert double occupancy rooms to single occupancy rooms. Design funding is required in advance of awarding project funds.

According to the FY 2025 Budget in Brief, the Governor intends to request \$21.0 million from the off-budget Debt Defeasance and Prevention Fund for the conversion of double occupancy rooms to single occupancy rooms at the Menlo Park and Paramus Veterans' Memorial Homes. The department is also working on a grant application to request \$23.0 million in funding from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for these projects.

Vineland Veterans' Memorial Home

Federal Funds, Domiciliary and Treatment Services				Budget Page: D-317		
FY 2022 Expended	FY 2023 Expended	FY 2024 Adj. Approp.	FY 2025 Recomm.		Change FY 2024 – FY 2025	
\$4,724	\$2,974	\$3,000	\$4,000		\$1,000	33.3%

This recommended increase in federal funds appropriations reflects an anticipated increase in Medicare Part A Receipts for Resident Care and Operational Costs. According to the Office of Management and Budget, Medicare Part A receipts are expected to increase due to a growing number of Medicare patients at the Vineland Veterans' Memorial Home who need services, along with how often, or how long, patients are hospitalized or stay in acute care facilities. According to the Office of Management and Budget, approximately 95 percent of the residents across all three veterans' memorial homes are on Medicare.

Significant Language Changes

The FY 2025 Governor's Budget recommendations for the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs do not contain any changes in language provisions when compared to the FY 2024 Appropriations Act.

Background Paper: Armory Rentals

Budget Pages D-307 to D-309

Introduction

The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs operates 33 military armories throughout the State of New Jersey with 28 serving as active military facilities. The armories are used to train military units and store equipment. Twenty-six armories are situated on State property and operated by the department and two are considered federal sites. Four armories are currently unoccupied and four armories have been divested since FY 2022.

The majority of National Guard armories in New Jersey are available for public use that does not interfere with military operations. Numerous armories have established both recurring and intermittent public use through formal use agreements. The uses of armory space have ranged from community athletic events, such as basketball tournaments and track meets, to hosting arts and crafts shows. Other armories provide a space for governmental operations, such as the Joint Military and Family Assistance Center located in the armory in Bordentown and the Joint Force Headquarters located at Fort Dix. The department expects the receipts from armory rentals to generate \$1.3 million in revenue in FY 2025.

Armory Use Days

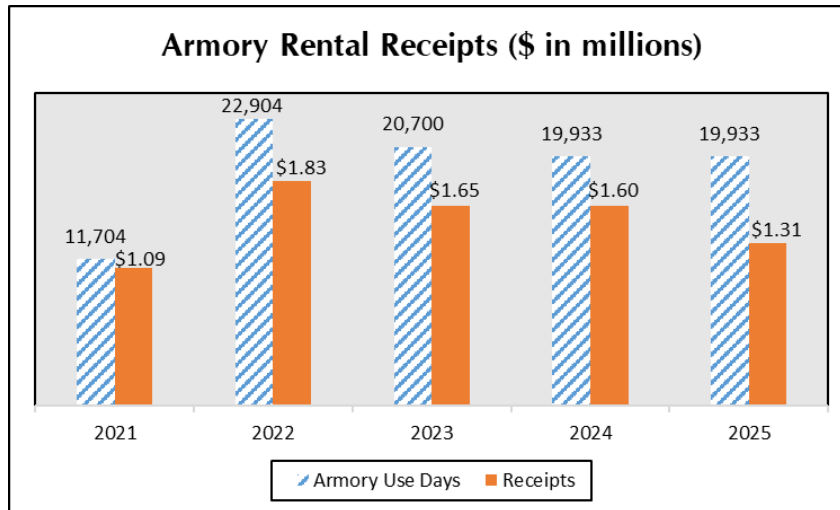
Armory leases are measured by Armory Lease Days. Total lease days have decreased by 15.5 percent since FY 2018, from 23,600 in FY 2018 to an estimated 19,933 each year in FY 2024 and FY 2025.

Armory Use Days								
	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Military	14,400	14,400	13,870	5,379	13,570	12,400	12,490	12,490
Other State Agencies	3,000	3,400	3,552	2,737	2,829	2,500	2,244	2,244
Private/Public	6,200	6,500	4,928	3,588	6,505	5,800	5,199	5,199
Total days	23,600	24,300	22,350	11,704	22,904	20,700	19,933	19,933

Armory Rental Receipts

The armory rental rates are based on the size of the facility, maintenance costs, utility costs, and the duration of the lease. These revenues are appropriated to the department by budget language for the operation and maintenance of the armories. The rental receipts generated approximately \$1.1 million in FY 2021, \$1.8 million in FY 2022, and \$1.7 million in FY 2023. The department anticipates that lease rental revenues will generate \$1.6 million in FY 2024 and \$1.3 million in FY 2025. The fluctuations in armory rental receipts reflect yearly changes in the number of leases, as well as the sale of property.

Background Paper: Armory Rentals (Cont'd)



Increasing armory space rentals has been limited by the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs divesting multiple armories, as well as the deterioration of the facilities due to aging. The department expends federal funds to repair, renovate, and improve the armories. The FY 2025 Governor's Budget, for example, includes \$9.1 million in federal funds to continue to rehabilitate the armories. The department spent \$2.2 million for armory renovations and improvements in FY 2022 and \$7.8 million in FY 2023, and anticipates to spend \$8.6 million thereon in FY 2024.

The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs has not relocated any new services to the armories within the past three years.

Active Armories

Atlantic City	Hackettstown	Mount Holly	Teaneck	Woodbridge
Cape May Court House	Hammonton	Newark	Toms River	Woodbury
Cherry Hill	Jersey City	Port Murray	Tuckerton	Woodstown
Dover	Joint Base	Riverdale	Vineland	
Flemington	Lawrenceville	Sea Girt	West Orange	
Freehold	Morristown	Somerset	Westfield	

Occupied Armories

Bordentown

Unoccupied Armories

Lodi
New Egypt
Newton
West Trenton

Background Paper: Veterans Haven

Budget Pages D-311 to D-312

Introduction

Veterans Haven is the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs transitional housing program for homeless veterans. The department has operated Veterans Haven South on the grounds of the former Ancora Psychiatric Hospital since the early 2000s. In 2012, the State opened a second Veterans Haven facility on the grounds of the former Senator Garrett W. Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital, in Glen Gardner, Lebanon Township, which is now known as Veterans Haven North.

The mission of the Veterans Haven program is to provide temporary housing, counseling, and occupational training for homeless veterans to assist them in their return to society. The program focuses on treatment, self-reclamation, and community integration through vocational training and job search assistance. The program has the capacity for approximately 230 residents with up to 99 beds at Veterans Haven South and up to 130 beds at Veterans Haven North.

Veterans Haven South

Veterans Haven South was established in the early 2000s with the capacity for approximately 50 residents. In October 2011, the number of beds grew to 99. In FY 2022, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs awarded \$1.6 million to the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs through the Veterans Affairs Homeless Grant and Per Diem Program for interior and exterior renovations at Veterans Haven South. The renovations included installation of a new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system for all resident rooms, the addition of en suite bathrooms in 20 resident rooms, as well as other repair projects.

Veterans Haven North

Veterans Haven North is the newer of the State's two transitional housing program facilities. The facility opened in July 2012 with a 100 bed capacity; the department expects a 130 bed capacity in FY 2025.

Veterans Haven Program

The Veterans Haven facilities offer three program models known as Bridge Housing, Clinical Treatment, and Service Intensive Transitional Housing.

The Bridge Housing program offers short-term housing solutions to veterans in coordination with tailored case management and other support services. The program is intended to provide housing stays lasting approximately three months to veterans who have accepted a permanent housing intervention or are in the process of accepting a permanent housing intervention. Services are provided in concert with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' Supportive Services for Veteran Families program, or other community-based

Background Paper: Veterans Haven (Cont'd)

programs where available. The Housing and Urban Development's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program combines the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance program with case management and support services from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The United States Department of Veterans Affairs' Supportive Services for Veteran Families program, in turn, is a case management and support services program for low-income veterans and their families designed to stop homelessness before it happens or provide rapid re-housing to veterans experiencing homelessness.

The Clinical Treatment program provides transitional housing and access to licensed substance-use disorder professionals and mental health professionals to veterans in need. The program focuses on helping veterans find ways to increase their income and work towards securing permanent housing.

The Service-Intensive Transitional Housing program provides transitional housing and additional support services to veterans. The program aims to improve a veteran's overall stability and well-being through increased income and permanent housing intervention, but the veteran specifies the level and range of services to be provided. Veterans Service Officers may provide extensive support related to employment or receipt of State and federal benefits to veterans in this program.

All programs require a veteran to be homeless, qualify as a veteran under U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs guidelines, and be eligible for U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare benefits for admission. Applicants to the Veterans Haven South facility must also be alcohol-free at the time of admission and are required to maintain sobriety throughout the program. All programs begin with a medical evaluation and are generally divided into three phases corresponding to Treatment, Self-Reclamation, and Community Reintegration. Each phase takes three to six months to complete on average. Programs may be also be offered in conjunction with one another depending on a veteran's needs.

Funding

A combination of State and federal funds supports the Veterans Haven program. The FY 2025 Governor's Budget recommends appropriating \$8.5 million to the Veterans' Haven program, unchanged from FY 2024. State funds appropriations account for \$5.5 million of the total, federal funds for \$2.1 million, and donations for the residual \$1.0 million. Because federal funds are recorded as payments to the Veterans Haven program with the residents serving as conduits, the FY 2025 Governor's Budget includes these federal funds among All Other Funds.

Federal funding is awarded through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Homeless Provider Grant and Per Diem Program. New Jersey requires veterans who stay at the Veterans Haven facilities and have an income to pay 30 percent of their adjusted net income, less \$100 for personal allowances, in rent. The maximum monthly rent is \$300.

NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Office of Legislative Services provides nonpartisan assistance to the State Legislature in the areas of legal, fiscal, research, bill drafting, committee staffing and administrative services. It operates under the jurisdiction of the Legislative Services Commission, a bipartisan body consisting of eight members of each House. The Executive Director supervises and directs the Office of Legislative Services.

The Legislative Budget and Finance Officer is the chief fiscal officer for the Legislature. The Legislative Budget and Finance Officer collects and presents fiscal information for the Legislature; serves as Secretary to the Joint Budget Oversight Committee; attends upon the Appropriations Committees during review of the Governor's Budget recommendations; reports on such matters as the committees or Legislature may direct; administers the fiscal note process and has statutory responsibilities for the review of appropriations transfers and other State fiscal transactions.

The Office of Legislative Services Central Staff provides a variety of legal, fiscal, research and administrative services to individual legislators, legislative officers, legislative committees and commissions, and partisan staff. The central staff is organized under the Central Management Unit into ten subject area sections. Each section, under a section chief, includes legal, fiscal, and research staff for the standing reference committees of the Legislature and, upon request, to special commissions created by the Legislature. The central staff assists the Legislative Budget and Finance Officer in providing services to the Appropriations Committees during the budget review process.

Individuals wishing information and committee schedules on the FY 2025 budget are encouraged to contact:

Legislative Budget and Finance Office

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