



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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April 2, 2015

TO: David Schumacher, Director, Office of Financial Management

FROM: Lourdes E. Alvarado-Ramos, Director, Department of Veterans Affairs

Subject: Contingency Planning For State Agency Operations on July 1

My staff and I have completed our review of the planning guidance and agency activities in consultation with our assigned Assistant Attorney General. Based on that review the following Department of Veterans Affairs activities, listed by planning category, may be authorized in the absence of appropriations.

1. Services funded by appropriations in the enacted transportation budget (ESSB 5024)

None

2. Services that do not require an appropriation:

**Washington State Veterans Cemetery – Medical Lake** provides cemetery services with full military honors for eligible veterans and their families in eastern Washington. Full operations can be sustained without an appropriation for a minimum of 4 months.

Funding – 08V Stewardship Fund (non-appropriated/allotted) 35%  
Federal VA Plot Allowance 65%

Staffing required: 5 (Full staffing is 8)

**Veterans Estate Management Program** – provides fiduciary services for 390 veterans who have been determined to need this service due to their inability to manage their own finances. Without our support, these clients would have no access what so ever to their funds.

Funding – 11V (Mixed) Operates similarly to an enterprise account with the total cost of operations supported by fees collected from the Veterans and Social Security Administrations.

Staffing required: 2 VEMP case managers and 1 full time equivalent from accounting split between receipt of revenue and processing payments.

3. Services to continue based on certain constitutional mandates and federal law.

None

4. Services necessary to the immediate response to issues of public safety:

**Washington State Veterans Homes** currently provide Medicare and Medicaid level long term nursing care for 500 vulnerable adult residents who require ongoing 24/7 assistance with activities of daily living including: feeding, bathing, dressing, toileting, transfers, and medication management. Although not involuntarily placed in our care, our residents are dependent on the Veterans Homes for room, board, medical and nursing care twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. They cannot live independently and any changes to their residence and care may have significant negative impacts on their health and quality of life. Additionally, federal and state regulations require that we provide a minimum 30 day notice for discharges, transfers and relocations. It is simply not possible to find alternate placement for these veterans prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Funding – GF-State \$122K/Bien (\$20K for FY15)  
GF-Federal \$64.8M/Bien  
GF-Local \$36.9M/Bien

Staffing required: 492 Physician, Nursing, Custodial, Food Service, and Laundry workers. This is 144 staff fewer than normally required for full operations.

**Building 9 for Veterans** (Transitional Housing Program) currently provides room and board, counseling and assistance with accessing medical care for 60 previously homeless or near homeless veterans. There are insufficient transitional housing beds available to receive these 60 veterans on short notice and rapid discharge would ultimately result in these veterans once again becoming homeless. Service center operation will be suspended and staffing will be reduced to the minimum necessary to provide safe room and board until a budget is passed or if necessary appropriate placement can be secured.

Funding – GF-Federal 91.4%  
GF-Local 8.6%

Staffing required. 1 FTE for case management