



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE VETERANS HOMES

“Caring for America’s Heroes”

NASVH 2019 Federal Legislative Priorities

Provide \$250 Million to Fully Fund the State Home Construction Grant Program

Since State Veterans Homes provide more than half the total number of VA-supported long term care beds, it is critical that sufficient federal funding be provided to sustain the Homes. Under the VA State Home Construction Grant program, the federal government covers 65 percent of the cost of construction and repair for State Homes, with States responsible for the balance in matching funding. The last published VA State Home Construction Grants Priority List (FY 2018) included over 100 grant requests with a total estimated federal funding match requirement of over \$1.5 billion. Among those were 61 Priority List Group 1 projects that already had State matching funding totaling over \$750 million. For FY 2018, VA received a regular appropriation of \$110 million for State Home Construction Grants, as well as a supplemental appropriation of \$575 million. For FY 2019, VA received \$150 million. Thanks to this funding, the growing backlog of Priority 1 projects was effectively addressed for the first time in decades. Although VA has not yet released the FY 2019 List, it is estimated there will be between \$250 - \$300 million in Priority 1 grant requests, and another \$900 million awaiting State matching funds. It is imperative that Congress continue to fully fund this program.

For FY 2019, Congress should appropriate \$250 million for State Home Construction Grant Program to fully fund the anticipated all Priority Group 1 grant request that have State matching funds.

Increase VA Support for State Home Domiciliary Care Programs

State Home Domiciliary Care programs provide alternative long term support for veterans who are not in need of skilled nursing care, but who need shelter and supportive services. The State Home Domiciliaries (“Doms”) can play an integral role in VA's mission of helping the homeless, keeping veterans out of institutions and providing a safety net for veterans in their communities. However, the current per diem rate is inadequate to sustain many of the current State Home Doms.

VA should work with NASVH to develop more adequate Domiciliary Care per diem rates to sustain existing and encourage new State Veteran Home Domiciliary programs.

VA and CMS Should Reach Agreement to Eliminate Duplicative State Home Inspections

State Veterans Homes undergo an annual inspection survey by VA that reviews clinical practices and life safety protocols. VA also performs a fiscal audit required for the Home to remain certified to receive VA per diem payments. Many of the State Homes are also certified by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for reimbursement and undergo a separate inspection survey by CMS, which is almost identical to the clinical and life safety sections of the VA survey. However, requiring State Homes to undergo two separate and duplicative inspections surveys is disruptive to State Homes and financially inefficient by the federal government.

NASVH is asking that VA negotiate an agreement with CMS so that State Homes would undergo a single annual survey conducted by VA and accepted by CMS for their certification purposes.



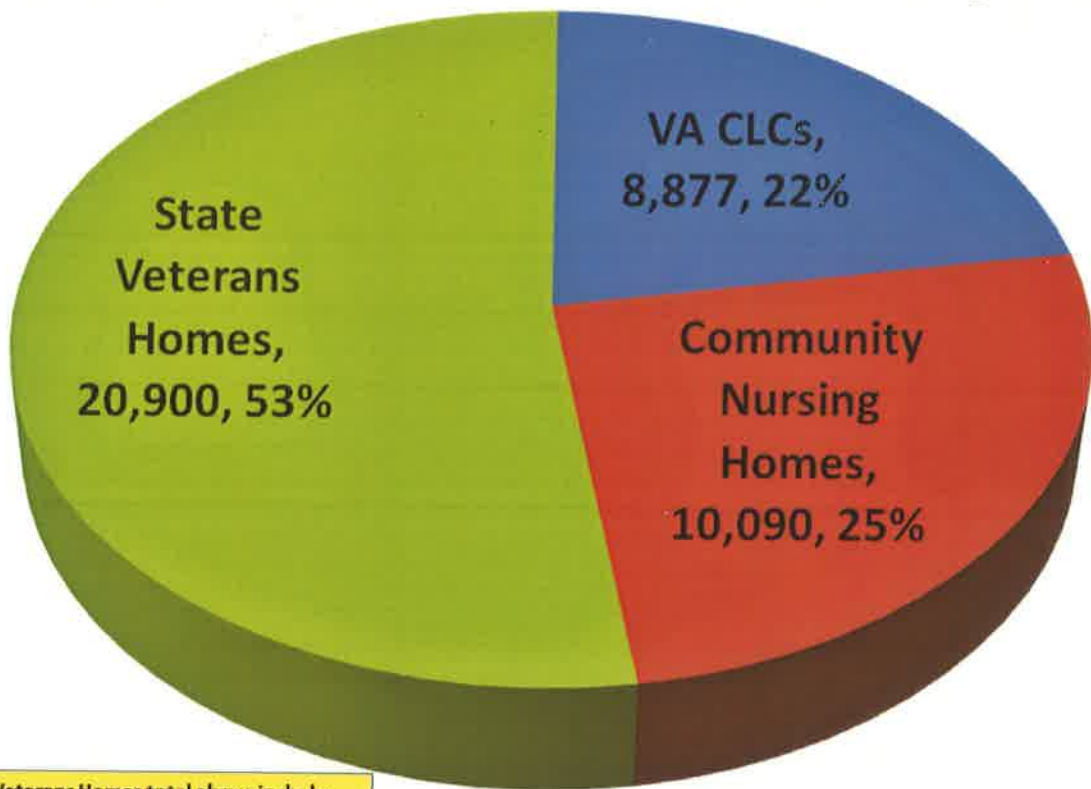
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About State Veterans Homes

- The State Veterans Home Program was established by a Congressional Act on August 27, 1888, right after the Civil War.
- For 130 years, State Veterans Homes have been in a cooperative relationship with the federal government in order "to provide support of disabled soldiers and sailors of the United States."
- There are currently 156 State Veterans Homes located in all 50 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
- With over 30,000 beds, the State Veterans Home Program is the largest provider of long term care to our nation's veterans. Current services include Skilled Nursing Care, Domiciliary Care and Adult Day Health Care.
- The State Veterans Homes are available to all honorably discharged veterans and in some states, widows and spouses as well as Gold Star Parents are also eligible for admission.
- All honorably discharged veterans are eligible for a daily VA per diem payment which can be used for long-term care at a State Veterans Home. Fiscal year 2019 basis state home per diem rates are as follows:
 - Nursing Homes: \$109.73 per veteran, per day
 - Adult Day Health Care: \$87.42 per veteran, per visit
 - Domiciliary: \$47.36 per veteran, per day
- Honorably discharged veterans who are 70% service connected disabled are eligible for "no cost" nursing home care at 156 State Veterans Homes around the nation, as well as medical model adult day health care at selected Homes that offer the service. Veterans must meet the admission requirements as established by each of the States as well as each individual State Veteran Home.
- Veterans can easily locate one of our State Veterans Homes by checking the NASVH website at: www.nasvh.org.

VA Supported Long Term Care - Average Daily Census



NOTE: The State Veterans Homes total above includes Skilled Nursing Care beds occupied by veterans ONLY. This number does not include beds occupied by spouses, widows or Gold Star parents, nor does it include Domiciliary Care beds. In total, there are over 30,000 authorized State Veterans Homes beds.

SOURCE: VA FY 2019 Budget Submission

Institutional Per Diem

