

**Veterans' Home
Budget No. 313
House Bill No. 1007**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2023-25 legislative appropriation	114.79	\$6,009,999	\$22,972,974	\$28,982,973 ¹
2021-23 legislative appropriation	114.79	5,805,643	21,024,040	26,829,683
2023-25 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2021-23 appropriation	0.00	\$204,356	\$1,948,934	\$2,153,290

¹This amount does not include any transfers of appropriation authority from the Office of Management and Budget funding pools for targeted market equity adjustments, retirement contribution increases, or new and vacant FTE positions.

Item Description

Full-time equivalent changes - The Legislative Assembly approved 114.79 FTE positions for the Veterans' Home for the 2023-25 biennium, the same as the 2021-23 biennium.

Targeted market equity - The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$82.5 million, of which \$45.1 million is from the general fund, to the Office of Management and Budget for a targeted market equity pool to be distributed to state agencies.

New and vacant FTE funding pool - The Legislative Assembly reduced the 2023-25 biennium appropriation authority for the Veterans' Home by \$892,213, including \$229,015 from the general fund and \$663,198 from other funds, related to estimated vacant position savings for the new and vacant FTE funding pool.

Employee reclassifications and salary adjustments - In House Bill No. 1007, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$50,000 from the general fund for staff salaries and wages, including \$15,000 to reclassify an FTE licensed practical nurse (LPN) position to an FTE registered nurse (RN) position and \$35,000 to increase salaries of shift differential staff.

One-time funding - In House Bill No. 1007, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$2,454,680 of one-time funding from other funds to the Veterans' Home for the 2023-25 biennium, including:

	Other Funds
Rentable indoor parking and storage building ¹	\$750,000
Mill, patch, and chip seal Veterans' Home parking lots and roads ²	1,100,000
Equipment ²	125,750

Status/Result

No changes to FTE positions were made by the 2023 Legislative Assembly.

The Veterans' Home received \$454,584 for targeted market equity increases, including \$188,028 from the general fund and \$266,556 from other funds. Equity increases were provided to 74 employees.

Through January 2024, the Veterans' Home had not received any funding from the new and vacant FTE funding pool to fill vacant FTE positions and had estimated vacant FTE position savings of \$116,712. The Veterans' Home used \$105,634 of the savings for other purposes, including temporary staff funding and overtime funding. In addition, the Veterans' Home has spent \$124,009 from the operating expenses line item on contract agency staff due to workforce challenges. The number of vacancies at the Veterans' Home has ranged from six to none with an average monthly vacancy rate of 2.29 FTE positions.

Through March 2024, the Veterans' Home has not reclassified an FTE from an LPN position to an RN position. The LPN positions will be reclassified to RN positions only if the Veterans' Home is unable to hire LPNs. It is unknown if any LPN positions will be reclassified during the biennium. The \$35,000 appropriated to increase salaries of shift differential staff has been used for incentive pay to dietary staff for covering additional shifts due to staffing challenges.

The following is a summary of the status of the Veterans' Home one-time funding items:

Rentable indoor parking and storage building	Through March 2024, the Veterans' Home has spent \$15,000 of the \$750,000 appropriation. The Veterans' Home anticipates the building will be completed in 2024.
Mill, patch, and chip seal Veterans' Home parking lots and roads	Through March 2024, the Veterans' Home has spent \$15,064 of the \$1.1 million appropriation to hire KLJ Engineering as the engineer and to complete the land survey. Bidding for the project is anticipated

Thermostat and air handling unit replacement project ³	478,930
Total	\$2,454,680
¹ Funding for this item is from the Melvin Norgard memorial fund. ² Funding for these items is from the soldiers' home fund. ³ Funding for this item is from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund.	

Equipment	<p>to open on May 21, 2024, and the Veterans' Home anticipates the project to be completed in summer 2024.</p> <p>Through March 2024, the Veterans' Home has spent \$83,418 of the \$125,750 appropriation to purchase a compact tractor (\$58,123) and a utility task vehicle (\$25,205). The Veterans' Home anticipates using the remaining funding to purchase bed extenders, mattresses, and refrigerators during the 2023-25 biennium.</p>
Thermostat and air handling unit replacement project	<p>Through March 2024, the Veterans' Home has spent \$104,617 of the \$478,930 appropriation on the thermostat and air handling unit replacement project. The project is expected to be completed by summer 2024 at a total cost of \$436,960.</p>

Veterans' Home strategic plan - Section 6 of House Bill No. 1007 requires the Veterans' Home to provide a report to the Legislative Management during the 2023-24 interim and to the Appropriations Committees of the 69th Legislative Assembly regarding its progress to implement recommendations from the Veterans' Home strategic plan.

The Veterans' Home vendor, Eide Bailly LLP, has completed their strategic plan report and is working with the Veterans' Home to complete a staffing analysis and an agency data audit. A finalized plan is not yet available. Through March 2024, the Veterans' Home had all of its 52 skilled care beds filled (100 percent) and 58 of its 98 basic care beds filled (59 percent).