

DEPARTMENT 321 - DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS 2027-29 BASE-LEVEL BUDGET

Base Budget - Summary

	<u>Base Level</u>
Veterans' affairs	\$2,230,517
State approving agency	390,336
New and vacant FTE pool	202,907
Grants - transportation program	1,319,706
Transport vans	23,000
Service dogs	<u>50,000</u>
Total all funds	\$4,216,466
Less other funds	<u>1,716,662</u>
Total General Fund	\$2,499,804
FTE positions	10.00

Selected Base Budget Information

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1. Includes funding for Veterans' Affairs administration, including \$1,769,738 for salaries and wages for 8.83 FTE positions, \$75,145 for travel, \$64,710 for building rent, and \$135,000 for funeral honor reimbursements	\$2,230,517	\$0	\$2,230,517
2. Includes funding for the state approving agency, including \$305,789 for salaries and wages for 1.17 FTE positions	\$0	\$390,336	\$390,336
3. Includes a portion of the funding removed from line items with salaries and wages funding for estimated savings from new and vacant FTE positions. This line item includes \$153,205 related to a new FTE veterans benefit specialist position and \$49,702 related to vacant positions. Funding may be transferred from this line if needed for filling new positions or if savings from vacant positions is less than estimated.	\$196,287	\$6,620	\$202,907
4. Includes funding for the Highly Rural Transportation Grant Program	\$0	\$1,319,706	\$1,319,706
5. Includes funding in the transport vans line item for the Nonhighly Rural Transport Van Program	\$23,000	\$0	\$23,000
6. Includes funding for the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Service Dog Program	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000

Continuing Appropriations

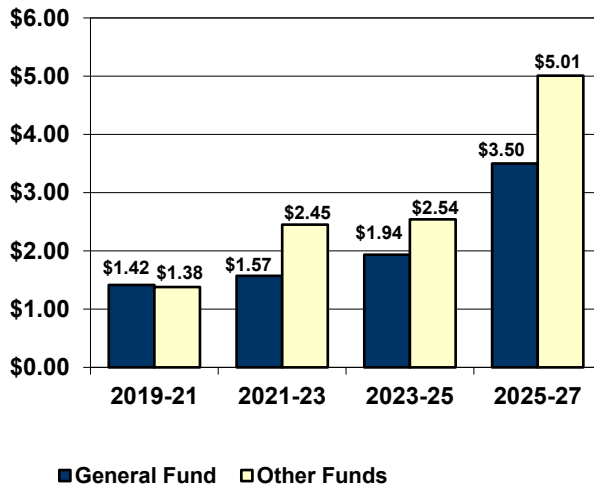
Veterans' Aid Fund - North Dakota Century Code Section 37-14-03.3 - The purpose of the Veterans' Aid Fund is to make loans to any veteran and to a surviving spouse of a veteran if the spouse has not remarried. For the 2023-25 biennium, the fund had \$135,628 of revenue, \$159,525 of expenditures, and a fund balance of \$438,960 on June 30, 2025.

Veterans' Postwar Trust Fund - Section 37-14-14 - The purpose of the Veterans' Postwar Trust Fund is to be utilized for programs of benefit and service to veterans or their dependents. For the 2023-25 biennium, the fund had \$2,090,696 of revenue, \$500,002 of expenditures, and a fund balance of \$9,840,777 on June 30, 2025.

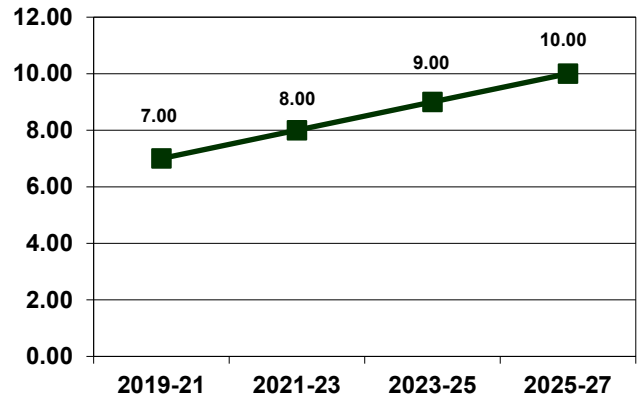
Historical Appropriations Information

Agency Appropriations and FTE Positions

Agency Funding (Millions)



FTE Positions



Ongoing General Fund Appropriations

	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27
Ongoing General Fund appropriations	\$1,136,562	\$1,268,930	\$1,570,624	\$1,916,604	\$2,499,804
Increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	\$132,368	\$301,694	\$345,980	\$583,200
Percentage increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	11.6%	23.8%	22.0%	30.4%
Cumulative percentage increase (decrease) from 2017-19 biennium	N/A	11.6%	38.2%	68.6%	119.9%

Major Increases (Decreases) in Ongoing General Fund Appropriations

2019-21 Biennium

1. Reduced funding for temporary salaries (\$100,053)
2. Added funding for stand down events to provide total funding of \$5,000 \$5,000
3. Added funding for county and tribal veteran service officer outreach and training to provide total funding of \$30,000 \$30,000

2021-23 Biennium

1. Added funding for 1 FTE loan and grant officer position, of which \$90,910 is from the General Fund and \$68,000 is from federal funds \$90,910
2. Added funding for a temporary half-time training and information officer position \$70,000
3. Removed funding for stand down events to provide a total of \$0 (\$5,000)

2023-25 Biennium

1. Added funding to convert a temporary position to 1 FTE veterans benefit specialist position \$99,966
2. Added funding for administration of the Highly Rural Transportation Grant Program \$50,000
3. Removed funding for service dogs (\$50,000)
4. Added funding to provide reimbursement to a veterans' service organization that provides funeral services \$135,000

2025-27 Biennium

1. Added funding for an FTE veterans benefit specialist position, including \$6,270 for operating expenses \$176,498
2. Added funding for veterans' service officer salary equity increases \$50,000
3. Added funding for operating expenses \$84,000

One-Time General Fund Appropriations

	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27
One-time General Fund appropriations	\$18,600	\$147,500	\$0	\$19,066	\$1,000,000

Major One-Time General Fund Appropriations**2019-21 Biennium**

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Grant database enhancements | \$7,500 |
| 2. Temporary loan and grant position | \$140,000 |

2021-23 Biennium

- | | |
|------|-----|
| None | \$0 |
|------|-----|

2023-25 Biennium

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Accrued leave of retiring staff | \$19,066 |
|---------------------------------|----------|

2025-27 Biennium

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Homeless veterans' services | \$500,000 |
| 2. Transfer to Veterans' Postwar Trust Fund | \$500,000 |

Other Funds**Major sources of special funds include:**

- **Melvin Norgard Memorial Fund** - Established as a bequest to the Veterans' Home by Melvin Norgard, pursuant to Section 37-15-23. Funding is used to support projects and programs that benefit Veterans' Home residents, including the repair and maintenance of the cemetery located on the Veterans' Home campus.

Major sources of federal funds include:

- **Highly rural transportation grants** - Funding provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to assist veterans living in highly rural areas with transportation, at no cost to the veteran, to health care facilities operated or authorized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
- **State approving agency** - Funding provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to oversee, evaluate, and approve education and training programs in the state, ensuring they meet the standards for veterans and other eligible persons using federal education benefits.

Other Funds Appropriations

	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27
Other funds appropriations	\$2,091,571	\$1,380,017	\$2,450,650	\$2,541,550	\$5,008,162
Increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	(\$711,554)	\$1,070,633	\$90,900	\$2,466,612
Percentage increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	(34.0%)	77.6%	3.7%	97.1%
Cumulative percentage increase (decrease) from 2017-19 biennium	N/A	(34.0%)	17.2%	21.5%	139.4%

Major Increases (Decreases) in Other Funds Appropriations**2019-21 Biennium****Ongoing**

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| Reduced funding for the Highly Rural Transportation Grant Program (federal funds) | (\$819,467) |
|---|-------------|

One-time

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| Veterans' Home Cemetery Grant Program (federal funds (\$265,000) and the Melvin Norgard Memorial Fund (\$26,500)) | \$291,500 |
|---|-----------|

2021-23 Biennium**Ongoing**

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Added funding for 1 FTE loan and grant officer position, of which \$90,910 is from the General Fund and \$68,000 is from federal funds | \$68,000 |
| 2. Added funding for the Highly Rural Transportation Grant Program (federal funds) | \$432,000 |

One-time

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Veterans' Home Cemetery Grant Program (federal funds) | \$291,500 |
| 2. Fisher House construction grant (federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund) | \$500,000 |
| 3. Veterans' medical transportation improvements (State Fiscal Recovery Fund) | \$147,000 |

2023-25 Biennium**Ongoing**

Reduced funding for the Highly Rural Transportation Grant Program (federal funds) (\$93,915)

One-time

1. Document scanning project (State Fiscal Recovery Fund) \$100,836
2. Veterans' Home Cemetery Grant Program (federal funds (\$265,000) and the Melvin Norgard Memorial Fund (\$26,500)) \$291,500
3. Fisher House construction grant (State Fiscal Recovery Fund) \$500,000
4. Highly Rural Transportation Grant Program (federal funds) \$200,000

2025-27 Biennium**Ongoing**

Added funding for the Highly Rural Transportation Grant Program (federal funds) \$193,621

One-time

1. Veterans' Home Cemetery Grant Program (federal funds (\$265,000) and the Melvin Norgard Memorial Fund (\$26,500)) \$291,500
2. Veterans' National Cemetery grant (Bank of North Dakota line of credit) \$3,000,000