



Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs

Racial Equity Impact Statement

Racial Justice Council | July 20, 2022

2023-25 Agency Request Budget

PRESENTED BY
Kelly Fitzpatrick, Director





AGENCY PROGRAMS

- HOME LOAN PROGRAM
- STATEWIDE VETERAN SERVICES
- AGING VETERAN SERVICES
- OREGON VETERANS' HOMES



OUTREACH TO HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED VETERANS

Special Advocacy Programs

- **LGBTQ+ Veteran Coordinator**
- **Tribal Veteran support**
- **Women Veterans Coordinator**
- **ODVA's first Houseless Veteran Coordinator**
- **Incarcerated Veterans Coordinators**





Agency Team

- Kelly Fitzpatrick, Director, ODVA
- Sheronne Blasi, Director, Statewide Veteran Services Division

Program Overview



- REIS for the Rural Veteran Healthcare Transportation Grant Program
- Purpose: provide free transportation to veterans living in rural areas, to overcome transportation barriers to accessing USDVA and non-VA healthcare and behavioral healthcare services, and healthcare-related needs (e.g., pharmacies)
- POP to expand program into urban areas

Level of Engagement: Challenges

- Agency history and culture
- Lack of agency resources to collect and analyze data
- Dependent upon partnerships

Level of Engagement: Efforts to Date

- DEI work central to strategic plan development
- DEI workshops for exec team, expanding to agency staff
- POP to address agency need for resources to collect and analyze data
- POP to address agency need for DEI-focused staffing (internal training, community engagement)
- Outreach to partners for feedback on transportation POP
 - AOC, tri-county VSOs, ODOT
 - National Association of Black Veterans (NABVETS)

Overview of Program ARB Proposal

The Rural Veteran Healthcare Transportation Grant program was created in 2019 to complement and supplement the USDVA's Highly Rural Veteran Transportation Grant in Oregon. In the 2021 legislative session the legislature approved \$650,000 for this program, which was distributed to the recipients in 2022.

In ODVA's ARB for 2023-2025, we propose expanding the Rural Veteran Healthcare Transportation Grant program to more racially/ethnically diverse urban areas, increasing the likelihood that we will reach more veterans of color.

Resource Allocation

- Beneficiaries
 - Directly: veterans who need help traveling to meet their healthcare and healthcare-related needs
 - Indirectly: veteran family members



Overview of Feedback

- Feedback from community partners: great need exists across the state for free transportation assistance to veterans

Data Analysis

- USDVA demographic data tell us the veteran population racial demographics for the state, but not below that level
- ODVA has a POP to create four positions for data collection and analysis
- Future ODVA data activities will drive decisions about county/tribal/regional priority of effort for all agency programs

Accountability to Community Partners

- ODVA will continue to proactively seek to eliminate racial inequities and advance equity
- This process and the discussions it generated provided a new way of looking at both how the agency does and should deliver services going forward

Evaluation

- 2023-2024: Implement Legislatively Approved Budget
 - Prioritize ODVA culture change efforts, recruitment of diverse staff, and recruiting for DEI-focused positions
 - Start community engagement for feedback on transportation grant program
- 2024-2025: Use data/feedback to shape 2025-2027 ARB



WE ARE MORE THAN 28,000 OREGON STRONG. WE ARE MOTHERS, SISTERS, FRIENDS, PARTNERS, AND WE ARE ADVOCATES, BOSSES, STUDENTS, AND SURVIVORS. WE ARE ALL ERAS AND BRANCHES OF SERVICE. WE ARE WOMEN. WE ARE VETERANS.



OREGON DEPARTMENT of VETERANS' AFFAIRS

LIVE VIRTUAL TOWN HALL
LGBTQ VETERANS
 DECEMBER 4 @ NOON PST

Conversations with Director Kelly Fitzpatrick



Thank you!

Feedback?



Kelly Fitzpatrick



kelly.fitzpatrick@odva.oregon.gov



[Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs : Welcome Page : State of Oregon](#)