

Date: August 25, 2020

To: Oneida County Board of Supervisors

From: Veterans Service Officer

Re: Veterans Service Office 2019 Annual Report

Attached is the 2019 Annual Report for the Oneida County Veterans Service Office. The amount of benefits our veterans and their families and survivors received last calendar year was almost 9% higher than in 2018.

In 2019, between our daily phone calls, appointments, walk-ins, home visits, and electronic communication (Facebook, email, and texts), we averaged more than 24 veteran contacts each work day. This number does not include the number of people we saw at four different outreach events; however, we do know we had over 200 people attend our Multi-County Veterans Benefits Expo held on April 26, 2019, at the Rhinelander Army National Guard Armory.

The VA benefits paid to veterans in 2019 reflected on page 1 (minus treatment at VA facilities) illustrates the direct income received by our veterans through their VA benefits was over \$31 million. It's reasonable to assume much of that money was spent right here in Oneida County. This income is beneficial to not only our veterans but the county as well. When a veteran's income is increased through federal dollars, that can mean they need less assistance from the state or county, if they needed it in the first place. It also means more money being spent in our community. The \$15.5 million received in treatment at VA healthcare facilities is beneficial for those reasons, too, but what's most important is many veterans, especially our totally disabled veterans, wouldn't be able to afford health insurance if it weren't for the VA. Having VA healthcare as an option gives them something more valuable than money; it gives them better health, a better quality of life, and often saves lives.

The total cost to operate the Veterans Service Office in 2019 was \$140,176; however, we received a \$10,000 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs which was used toward my salary thus saving the county \$10,000 and reducing our operating cost.

Jason and I always strive to do better for our veterans than we did the year before and once again, we reached that goal in 2019. We are proud to serve those who have served along with their family members and survivors, and we're proud to be doing it in Oneida County!

Respectfully submitted,



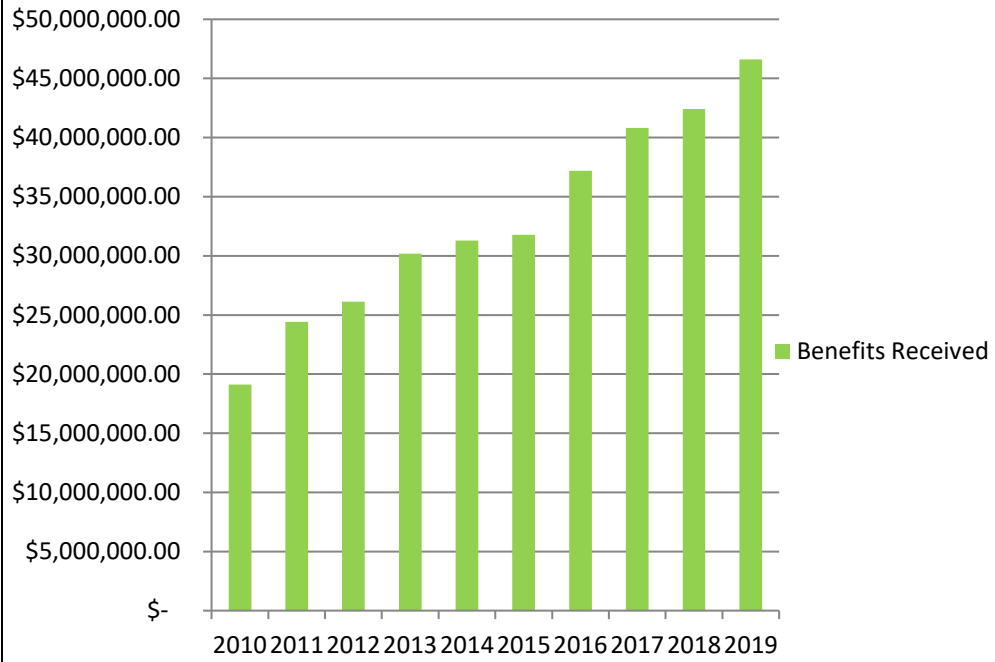
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VA BENEFITS PAID TO VETERANS

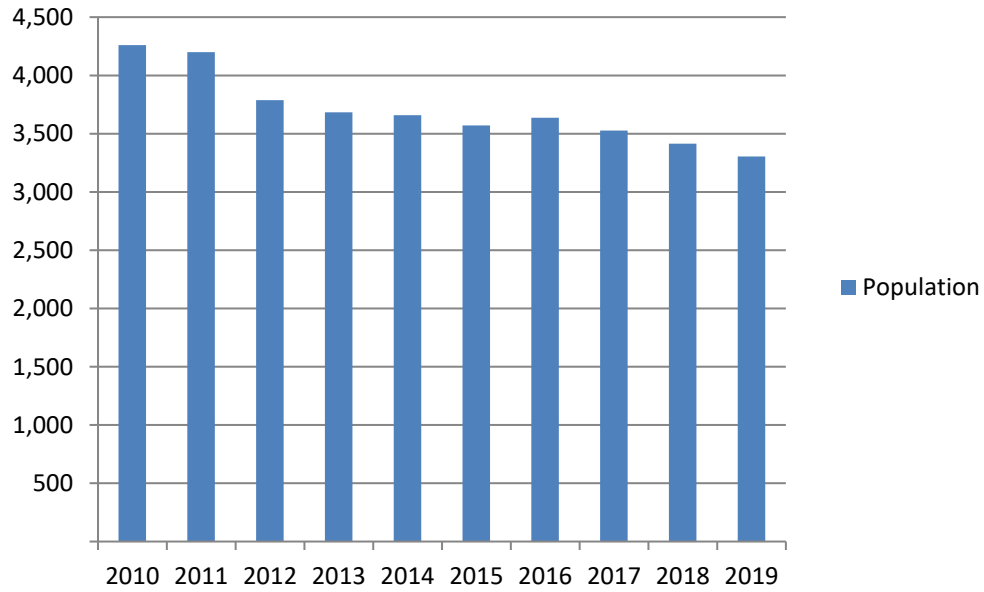
<u>Program</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Disability Compensation and Pension	\$17,333,000
Education and Vocational Rehabilitation	1,163,000
Insurance and Indemnities	421,000
WI Property Tax Credit	339,012
VA Loans	11,756,215
Treatment at VA facilities (cost of)	15,584,000
Federal and State VA benefits received	
By Oneida County veterans	\$46,596,227
Total cost to run the Veterans Service Office (after \$10,000 WDVA Grant is deducted)	130,176
Rate of return	*35,794%

*This means that for every dollar the county spends on the Veterans Service Office, veterans receive \$357.94 in benefits.

Veterans' Benefits Received



Veteran Population



OUTREACH, SPEAKING EVENTS, AND OTHER EVENTS

- February 3: ACVSO attended Resource Fair at Petco, Rhinelander
- March 13: CVSO held Town Hall meetings with the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center, Iron Mountain, MI, in Minocqua and Rhinelander
- March 15: ACVSO attended QPR "Train the Trainer" class at the Oneida County Sheriff's Department
- April 4: CVSO attended Veterans Housing and Recovery Program training, Rhinelander
- April 8-12: CVSO and ACVSO attended County Veterans Service Officers Association spring conference, Racine
- April 24: CVSO attended Town Hall meeting with Wisconsin Department Of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Secretary Mary Kolar, Wausau
- April 26: Veterans Service Offices from Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, Price, and Vilas counties hosted Multi-County Veterans Benefits Expo at the Army National Guard Armory, Rhinelander
- April 30: ACVSO attended Northwoods Community Outreach Prevention and Education (COPE) training/meeting, Rhinelander
- May 6: CVSO attended Veterans Service Officer training/meeting at the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center, Iron Mountain, MI
- May 27: CVSO planned, organized, and attended Memorial Day Ceremony at the Rhinelander High School, Rhinelander
- July 26: CVSO and ACVSO hosted and attended the Northeast County Veterans Service Officers meeting, Nokomis
- August 5: CVSO called in to Veterans Service Officer training/meeting with the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center, Iron Mountain, MI
- August 13: CVSO attended I-team training/meeting, Rhinelander
- Sept 16-20: CVSO and ACVSO attended County Veterans Service Officers Association fall conference, Madison

OUTREACH, SPEAKING EVENTS, AND OTHER EVENTS, CONT.

- October 8: CVSO attended I-team training/meeting, Rhinelanders
- October 17: CVSO was guest speaker at Leadership Oneida County meeting, Rhinelanders
- November 5: CVSO held Town Hall meetings with the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center, Iron Mountain, MI, in Three Lakes and Rhinelanders
- November 8: CVSO and ACVSO attended Veterans Day ceremony at James Williams Middle School, Rhinelanders
- November 11: CVSO emceed and ACVSO attended Veterans Day ceremony at the Oneida County Courthouse. LT Governor Mandela Barnes, WDVA Secretary Mary Kolar, and Senator Tom Tiffany were guest speakers.
- December 12: ACVSO attended Northwoods Community Outreach Prevention and Education (COPE) training/meeting, and Suicide/Depression subcommittee meeting, Rhinelanders

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE BUDGET

The following is a report of the Oneida County Veterans Service Office and Veterans Service Commission budget for January through December 2019.

Receipts

Non-personnel appropriations	\$12,023.00
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Expenses

Other Professional Services	\$ 500.00
Telephone and Fax	516.00
Postage and Box Rent	298.00
Printing and Duplication	617.00
Central Purchasing	1,043.00
Subscriptions	28.00
Membership Dues	200.00
Advertising	698.00
Training/Conference Fees	295.00
Employee Auto Allowance	968.00
Meals, Lodging and Travel	2,149.00
Gravemarkers and Flags	1,805.00
Direct Payments	2,958.00
Direct Payments-Transportation	146.00
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Total	\$12,221.00

ONEIDA COUNTY DAV VAN

The Veterans Service Office coordinates the DAV van which in 2019, served 124 veterans from five different counties. This service is free to Oneida County and free to the veterans. If we paid mileage at the VA rate to the Oneida County veterans who used the van, we would pay them \$.415 per mile for an annual total of \$4,764.20. That amount can also be regarded as an annual savings to the county.

Month	Forest County	Langlade County	Lincoln County	Oneida County	Vilas County	Cost Savings (Oneida County only)
January	3	1	0	7	3	\$476.42
February	2	0	1	6	2	\$408.36
March	6	0	0	10	1	\$680.60
April	2	0	0	0	2	\$0.00
May	4	0	0	2	0	\$136.12
June	2	0	1	7	2	\$476.42
July	2	0	0	8	2	\$544.48
August	2	0	1	5	0	\$340.30
September	1	0	2	2	0	\$136.12
October	1	0	2	6	1	\$408.36
November	0	0	1	10	3	\$680.60
December	1	0	1	7	2	\$476.42
Total	26	1	9	70	18	\$4,764.20