



You Earned More than a Thank You:

Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs

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Outreach Program Manager



Mission & Purpose

- Mission: Serve and honor Oklahoma veterans
- Advocate for benefits, care, and recognition
- Deliver programs that improve quality of life
- Bridge state, federal, and community resources

The Veteran Landscape in Oklahoma

- ~275,000+ veterans statewide
- ~49% receiving VA benefits
- ~140,000 veterans not receiving benefits
- Growth: ~4% annually in benefit usage

Organizational Structure



- Claims & Benefits Division
- Veterans Centers
- State Veterans Cemetery
- Women Veterans Program
- Mental Health Program
- OKVETWORKS (Employment)
- Education Services
- Outreach Program
- Specialty Programs (TEEM, Agrivets)



Claims & Benefits Division

- Accredited Veteran Service Officers (VSOs)
- Disability Compensation Claims
- Pension Claims
- Survivor Benefits (DIC)
- Appeals & Claim Reopening

How a VA Claim Works

- File Claim
- Evidence Gathering
- Compensation Pension Exam (If Needed)
- VA Review
- Decision
- Appeal (if needed)

Veterans Centers

- Long-term care facilities across Oklahoma
- Skilled nursing care
- Memory care services
- Veteran-centered environment



State Veterans Cemetery

- Honorable burial services
- No-cost or low-cost eligibility
- Military honors
- Perpetual care



Women Veterans Program

- Dedicated support for women veterans
- Benefits navigation
- Healthcare access coordination
- Outreach & community events

Mental Health Program

- Suicide prevention initiatives
- Governor's Challenge participation
- Resource coordination
- Crisis support connections

OKVETWORKS (Employment Program)

- Employment placement assistance
- Employer partnerships
- Job training & career transition
- Workforce integration

Education Services

- GI Bill guidance
- State education benefits
- Tuition assistance programs
- Certification and training support

Outreach Program

- Community outreach events
- Employer-based claims clinics
- Partnerships (VFW, Legion, DAV, EagleOps)
- Targeting underserved veterans

Specialty Programs

- TEEM (Justice-Involved Veterans)
- Agrivets
- Homeless veteran support coordination
- Rural outreach initiatives

Why Veterans Don't File

- Lack of awareness
- Belief they don't qualify
- Prior denial
- Complexity of process

Impact of VA Benefits

- Monthly tax-free income
- Healthcare access
- Family benefits
- Long-term financial stability

Economic Impact to Oklahoma

- \$3.7B+ annual benefits delivered (2025)
- Increased local spending
- Reduced reliance on state services

Employer & Community Benefits

- Reduced employee healthcare costs
- Increased employee income (VA compensation)
- Reduced absenteeism
- Improved retention



How to Partner with ODVA

- Host an onsite claims clinic
- Provide employee access to VSOs
- Partner for outreach events
- Share information with veterans

What Success Looks Like

- More veterans receiving benefits
- Faster claims processing
- Increased outreach coverage
- Stronger partnerships



Call to Action

- If you are a veteran → Get connected
- If you know a veteran → Refer them
- If you are an organization → Partner with us

Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs



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