

Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Budget Highlights and Goals

Veterans Assistance Commission

FY2012 Highlights

- According to the US Department of Veterans Affairs expenditure figures for 2011, McHenry County continues to rank 10th in the state for VA Disability & Pension dollars. Prosecution of Veterans Claims over 2011 moved the VAC 8% closer to the 9th position. New claims dollars received in the hands of our veterans over 2011 exceeded \$850,000 (104 client decisions, and 195 claims outstanding).
- Anticipate exceeding goal of 1.25 Million in new VA Pension and Disability Claims (Anticipate 100 client decisions and 330 claims outstanding).
- The VAC's Part Time Service Officer successfully completed an advanced course in VA Claims Prosecution.
- The Superintendent was elected President of the Illinois Association of County Veterans Assistance Commissions.
- VAC Staff received training from outside agencies such as; the Illinois Department of Human Services – Applying for LINK (food stamps), Medicaid Basics – conducted by an elder law attorney, & NACO Veterans Services webinar.
- Completed renovation of high top Van to create the VAC Mobile Office.
- The VAC continued to provide presentations covering topics such as; services offered by the VAC, VA Benefits, and VA Aid & Attendance (Pension) and VA Disability Compensation. Presentations are provided to organizations such as; Senior Service Associates, Skilled Care Facilities, Senior Fair, etc.

FY2013 Goals

- Exceed \$1,460,000 in VA Pension & Disability Compensation Claims on behalf of McHenry County Veterans and their eligible dependents (17% increases).
- Continue to receive training from outside agencies such as Consumer Credit Counseling, Prairie State Legal Services, Faith In Action, Etc. about programs offered that can be a valuable service to our veterans.
- Use various media outlets such as Face Book, Twitter, Newspaper, Blogs, etc. to keep the veterans community of all generations informed of services offered by the VAC, changes at the VA, and other important topics.
- Develop a plan to seamlessly integrate staff and clients into new office space (pending move). Plan will prepare clients and staff for move by providing regular updates, explain features of new layout, encourage clients to use workstations to link into and update their files with the VA, etc.
- Coordinate with the US Department of Veterans Affairs to bring in VA Work Study to assist with general administration of the VAC Office, assist with teaching clients on use of electronic media and updating files, and answer basic benefits questions (pending available space).