

Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Budget Program Description

Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC)

Department Mission Statement:

The Veterans Assistance Commission is the central committee for veterans assistance in McHenry County. The Commission is dedicated to ensuring that no Honorably Discharged living veteran, or surviving spouse of a veteran, suffers from undue financial hardship. The Commission is also dedicated to the principal that all living veterans receive the healthcare to which they are entitled and that deceased veterans are buried with honor and dignity. The goal of the VAC of McHenry County is to work closely with clients and other agencies to provide and coordinate services and assistance which will help eligible veterans and/or their families overcome obstacles and become more independent.

Program Description (By OCA Code)	Customers Served	Mandated Service	Funding Source
<p><u>OCA: 220005 Veterans Assistance Commission</u> - is a local government unit funded by the County Government of McHenry County. The Commission consists of 23 delegates and 23 alternates from the veterans service organizations located in McHenry County. The salaried staff consists of a Superintendent, a Veteran Service Officer or Trainee, a Dispatcher / Clerk, 2 full time Drivers, and 1 per diem Driver. Functions are broken down into two primary categories, with the second category further broken down into five sub-categories.</p> <p><i>Mandatory Function:</i> The mandatory function of the Commission is to provide financial assistance to needy veterans, the needy surviving spouse of a veteran, and the minor children of a veteran not in the veteran's custody. The Commission meets on the third Wednesday of the Month at VFW Post 5040, 240 Throop St., Woodstock. Commission officers consists of a Chairman, 2 Vice Chairmen, a Treasurer, Judge Advocate, Sergeant at Arms, and 5 Executive Committee members elected by the Commission. Officers also include a Secretary appointed by the Superintendent; a Parliamentarian, a Chaplain, and a delegate and an alternate to the Illinois Association of County VAC's appointed by the Chairman; and a representative from County Government appointed by the County Board Chairman.</p> <p><i>Discretionary Functions:</i> Discretionary functions that have been approved by the Commission include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation: Operation of three motor vehicles for transporting veterans to various USDVA and USDOD medical facilities in the area. The majority of veterans transported are senior citizens or disabled. • Claims: Assist veterans and their family members in the filing of claims for various programs authorized by the United States Government and maintained by the US Department of Veterans Affairs. These programs include Disability Compensation, Pension, Dependents Indemnity Compensation, Headstones, and College programs. This program does not utilize county funds. • Indigent Veterans Burial: The Superintendent administers the Indigent Veterans Burial program for the County Government. This program does not utilize any VAC funds. • Draft Registration: Assist young men in registering with the Selective Service Administration. This program does not utilize county funds. <p>Dental and Medical Assistance Program – Restorative dental program for low income uninsured veterans. Medical assistance is generally for eyeglasses</p>	<p>All honorably discharged veterans of the US Armed Forces and their families</p>	<p>330 ILCS 45 (Military Veterans Assistance Act)</p> <p>Guide of Services Provided Rules and Eligibility Standard Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County</p>	General Fund
		<p>Rules and Schedules for the VAC Bus and Vans</p>	General Fund
		<p>38 United States Code of Federal Regulations</p>	Not Applicable
		<p>55 ILCS 5 Verbal Agreement w/SSA</p>	General Fund
		<p>U.S. Selective Service System</p>	Not Applicable
		<p>Guidelines based on agreements with State, and medical centers</p>	Grants
<p><u>OCA: 220010 Veterans Assistance Bus Fund</u>-a fund maintained by the County Treasurer to provide for replacement vehicles for the Commission. The funds that make up this fund are NOT appropriated moneys, but rather moneys donated to the Commission by veterans, business owners, and other interested parties</p>		<p>By agreement with County</p>	Not Applicable