

Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Budget Highlights and Goals

Veterans Assistance Commission

FY2008 Highlights

- Veterans Service Officer (VSO) Cheryl Kirsch completed the second phase of her training and is well underway toward completing the final phase. She is now a part time VSO and takes care of our outreach program.
- Keith Duggan completed the first phase of his VSO training and is now assisting clients with VA claims and benefit information
- A full time drivers position was eliminated and replaced with 3 per diem drivers. This gave us more flexibility to provide service to North Chicago and other VA Hospitals.
- The VAC received a High Top Van with handicap access thanks to a grant from the Illinois Veterans Lottery
- The VAC received a handicap access minivan from AMVETS Post 269 thanks to a grant from the Illinois Veterans Lottery.
- The Virtual Veterans program was installed and the office is making the conversion from paper files to electronic files.
- Working with the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Social Security Administration, the VAC received just over \$1000 in reimbursements from SSI claims
- The VAC is working on establishing a relationship with NISRA. NISRA wishes to provide meaningful recreational activities for young veterans with TBI and amputation injuries.

FY2009 Goals

- Continue VSO Training with the goal of completing all training requirements for both VSO's by the end of the year
- Fully implement new software which will help office become near paperless
- Change form of current service to pick up points so more time can be spent at the North Chicago VA Medical Center. With more service being offered at North Chicago there is less need for transportation to Hines and Milwaukee.
- Greater than \$300,000 in new claims dollars developed by the VAC.
- Working with the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Social Security Administration, present \$25,000 in new SSI claims
- Establish a Veterans Wellness Program with partnerships to include the VFW, Centegra Health, and the VA.
- Continue to coordinate meaningful services and assistance to better serve the veterans and their families so they may quickly get back on the road to independence.