



Wisconsin Counties Association
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
& Exhibit Hall **2023**

10:30 –11:30 AM

Get to Know Your CVSO—Every County Has One

Speakers: Rock Larson, Past President, County Veteran Service Officer Association of Wisconsin;

Greg Quinn, 2nd Vice President, County Veteran Service Officer Association of Wisconsin

Moderator: Kurt Gibbs, County Board Chair, Marathon County

**GET TO KNOW YOUR
CVSO/TVSO**
Each County and Tribe has one



Why do we have them

- In 2022 the Federal VA spent \$4.11 Billion in Wisconsin
 - Your CVSO's/TVSO's are the gatekeepers
- Wisconsin State Statutes 45.80 requires counties to have one
- Veteran's benefits/programs frees up other limited local resources



Overview:

- **The Money-VA Federal GDX and Veteran Demographics**
- **CVSO's / TVSO's**
- **CVSO Association of Wisconsin**
- **Q and A**



Money-The Federal GDX and Veteran Demographics for FY2022

- The Federal VA estimates there are 331,650 Veterans in Wisconsin
- That \$4.11 Billion is broken down as follows:
 - Total \$4,119,082,000
 - Compensation & Pension \$1,820,344,000 going directly into Veteran's/survivor's accounts in your local banks.
 - Construction (VA buildings) \$8,300,000
 - General Operating expenses \$70,880,000
 - Education & VR&E \$103,083,000
 - Insurance and Indemnities \$18,780,000
 - Medical Care \$2,097,694,000. 121,102 unique patients or 37% of WI Veterans

The Federal GDx and Veteran Demographics for FY2002-2022

Year	Veterans	Total C&P	Medical	Patients	
2022	331,650	\$4,11B	\$1.82B	\$2.09B	121,102
2017	363,898	\$2.86B	\$1.2B	\$1.46B	123,422
2012	419,461	\$2.03B	\$861M	\$942M	116,497
2007	446,415	\$1.28B	\$571M	\$595M	Unknown
2002	494,962	\$900M	\$405M	\$399M	83,835

20 Year change

(33%) 357% 347% 424% 44.5%

Even though the Veteran pop. is smaller the benefits have increased an average 17% per year.

Some Key Demographics

- “VA’s 2018 population model estimates for 2021 indicate there are 5.9 million American Veterans who served during the Vietnam Era, and 7.8 Million who served during the Gulf War 78% of Veterans in 2021 served during wartime.”
Pew Research Center [“The Changing Face of America’s Veteran Population”](#) April 5, 2021 by Katherine Shaeffer.
- “41% of Post 9/11 active-duty Veterans have disability ratings, compared to 25% of other era’s.”
[2019 Annual Survey of Veterans Employment and Status](#), Dept of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics
- “Post 9/11 Veterans More Likely than Non-Veterans to be Employed and they earn more”

[The Employment, Earnings, and Occupations of Post-9/11 Veterans](#)

November 10, 2020, US Census Bureau Report Number ACS-46, Clayton Gumber and Jonathan Vespa



CVSO/TVSO's

- CVSOs are mandated by Wisconsin State statute 45.80 and is either elected or appointed based on the counties' type of administration
- Qualifications- Wisconsin resident who served on active duty under honorable conditions in the U.S. armed forces (see 45.01(12)(a)-(d) and 45.02(2))
- For the most part the CVSO is an unfunded mandate. A small annual grant is available to Counties and to Native American Tribes to improve services to Veterans
- TVSO's provide similar services under their Nation or Tribal directives

CVSO/TVSO's

Duties as directed in Wisconsin State Statute 45.80(5):

- **Advise persons living in the service officer's county who served in the U.S. armed forces regarding any benefits to which they may be entitled or any complaint or problem arising out of such service and render to them and their dependents all possible assistance**
- **Make such reports to the county board as the county board requires**
- **Cooperate with federal and state agencies that serve or grant aids or benefits to former military personnel and their dependents**
- **Furnish information about Veterans burial places within the county as required by s. 45.62 (2)**
- **Perform the duties prescribed by law, including those duties listed above separately and distinctly from any other county department**

CVSO/TVSO's

Permitted activities as outlined in Wisconsin State Statute 45.80(6):

- Inform persons living in the service officer's county who are members of the national guard or of a reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces or dependents of those persons regarding potential benefits to which they may be or may become entitled and regarding all necessary military points of contact and general deployment information for activated and deployed members of the national guard or reserve units of the U.S. armed forces**
- Cooperate with federal and state agencies that serve or grant aids or benefits to members of the national guard or reserve units of the U.S. armed forces and their dependents**

CVSO/TVSO's

- Accessibility – Local face to face resource.
- Advocacy - We are outside of the influence of Regulatory Agencies = OUR FOCUS IS THE VETERAN (we are not the VA)
- We are a touchpoint for veterans through every phase of their life cycle – from Discharge through Death
- Relationship - Veterans Trust and Talk to Veterans
- Networking
- Specialized Training and Experience

On any given day in the CVSO office.

- VA disability claims & appeals.
- Homeless
- Suicidal and other mental health issues
- Unemployment
- Education
- Poverty
- Incompetency
- Rent or energy assistance
- LGBTQ issues
- VA medical enrollment
- VA medical billing
- Income verification
- VA Debts and waivers
- Military Sexual Trauma
- Life Insurance
- Burial/Death Benefits
- Private/military/VA medical records review
- WI Property Tax Credit and DNR, DOT programs

On any given day in the CVSO office interacts (networks) with:

- Veterans, dependents, and survivors
- County, State and Federal elected and administrative officials
- Veterans Service organizations (state and local)
- Social workers/case managers, discharge planners/Doctors
- Hospice, nursing homes, assisted living
- Income maintenance Medicaid/energy/HUD/HUDVASH
- Non-profit organizations
- Funeral homes, cemetery, monument companies
- Hospitals & emergency rooms
- Attorneys
- Police/sheriff, courts, jail, prison and parole
- Coroner

Role of CVSO Association

The CVSO Association's main focus is the professional development and education of its members.

Through the County Veterans Service Officers, the Association is committed to Wisconsin counties to provide a vital and efficient system of services and advocacy to Veterans, their dependents, and survivors.

The CVSO Association promotes legislation and policy at both the state and federal levels that is supportive of Veterans' rights and issues that are in harmony with our national obligation to veterans of the United States armed forces. The association provides a medium for the exchange of ideas and information, training, and support to facilitate the delivery of services.

It is the intent of this organization that every Veteran residing in Wisconsin receives the benefits and services to which they are entitled by law and moral obligation.

Questions?

