



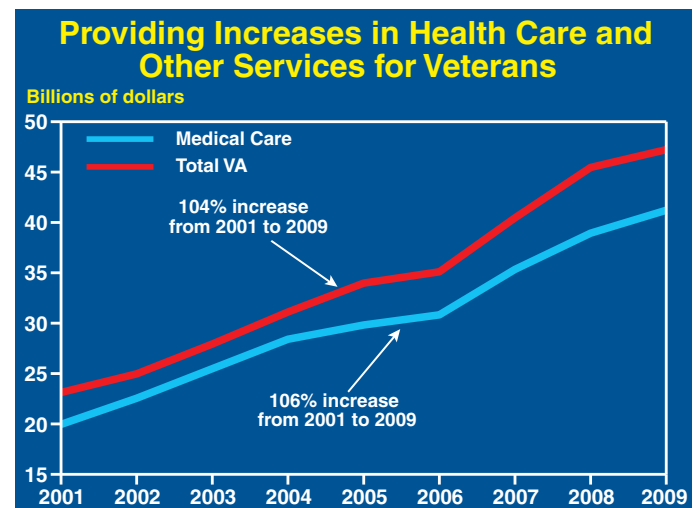
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The President's 2009 Budget will:

- Provide veterans with the high-quality health care they deserve;
- Speed veterans' receipt of benefits; and
- Ease the transition for veterans as they leave active military service.

Providing Veterans with the High-Quality Health Care They Deserve

- *Continues to provide record levels of funding for medical care.* \$41.2 billion (including collections) for medical care—more than double the amount when President Bush took office. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides nationally recognized care to over five million veterans at more than 800 locations nationwide.
- *Provides the best possible care for our wounded warriors.* Address the unique needs of returning combat service-members with multiple injuries at four state-of-the-art polytrauma centers, 17 regionally-based facilities, and numerous specialists throughout the system. VA will also begin design and construction of a new polytrauma center this year.
- *Expands mental health and substance abuse services.* \$3.9 billion for full continuum of care for veterans with substance abuse disorders and mental health issues, including post-traumatic stress disorder.
- *Focuses resources on core-mission veterans.* Refocus resources on treating veterans with disabilities resulting from military service, lower incomes, and special needs or who are returning combat veterans, by proposing income-based enrollment fees and higher pharmaceutical copayments for all other veterans.
- *Increases access to long-term care.* Expand non-institutional long-term care that enables veterans to live and be cared for near, or in the comfort and familiar settings of, their homes surrounded by their families.



Speeding Veterans' Receipt of Benefits

- *Cuts the disability claims backlog.* Bring the average length of time to process a veteran's disability claim from a peak of 230 days in 2001 to 145 days in 2009.
- *Supports priority processing for returning combat veterans.* Accelerate processing of disability compensation claims for servicemembers returning from active duty service in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Easing the Transition for Veterans as They Leave Active Military Service

- *Continues implementing the recommendations of the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors.*
 - VA and the Department of Defense are implementing recommendations that do not require legislation, such as employing Federal Recovery Coordinators to assist seriously injured servicemembers, improving recruitment and retention of mental health experts, and moving toward a single medical examination to establish eligibility for disability compensation from both Departments.
 - The Administration continues to seek enactment of the remaining Commission recommendations, including modernizing the disability compensation systems, broadening treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury, and strengthening support for families.
- *Supports benefits delivery upon discharge from military service.* Provide America's newest veterans with the benefits and services they have earned and bring about a seamless transition from military to civilian status, including allowing separating servicemembers to apply for benefits 180 days prior to their discharge to further speed benefits delivery.
- *Improves collaboration with the Department of Defense.* Implement ways to transfer records between the two agencies; share critical medical information electronically; process disability and other claims understandably and quickly; and in every way possible, support the transition from active duty to civilian life.
- *Expands treatment for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).* Perform screenings for all recent combat veterans, increase training for all VA health care professionals, and conduct an outside review of VA's TBI services.

Since 2001, the Department of Veterans Affairs has:

- Increased the resources available for veterans' medical care by 106 percent.
- Provided medical care to more than 300,000 returning Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom servicemembers.
- Improved medical care and benefits delivery for our Nation's wounded warriors.
- Funded over \$5.5 billion to continue restructuring the medical care infrastructure to improve veterans' access to quality primary and specialty health care services.
- Ensured more veterans have a burial option in a national or State veterans cemetery within 75 miles of their homes.
- Expanded the range of benefits available to veterans and improved the timeliness of benefits delivery.
- Smoothed the transition from active duty to civilian status.

Department of Veterans Affairs

(In millions of dollars)

	2007 Actual	Estimate	
		2008	2009
Spending			
Discretionary Budget Authority:			
Medical Care	32,201	33,979	38,737
<i>Medical Collections (non-add)</i>	2,227	2,341	2,467
<i>Total Medical Care including collections (non-add)</i>	34,428	36,320	41,203
Medical and Prosthetics Research	414	408	442
Information Technology	1,213	1,986	2,442
Construction	715	1,144	1,028
Veterans Benefits Administration	1,166	1,175	1,372
General Administration	337	315	328
Housing and Other Credit	153	156	158
National Cemetery Administration	160	166	181
Office of Inspector General	71	73	77
All other	-70	25	—
Total, Discretionary budget authority	36,360	39,427	44,764
Total, Discretionary budget authority (including medical collections)	38,587	41,768	47,231
<i>Memorandum:</i>			
<i>Budget authority from enacted supplementals</i>	1,788	—	—
<i>Budget authority from emergency funds</i>	—	3,692	—
Total, Discretionary outlays	35,152	41,744	44,242
Mandatory Outlays:			
Legislative proposal, Medical Care receipts	—	—	-379
Benefits Programs:			
Disability Compensation and Pensions	34,600	41,360	43,940
Education Benefits	2,430	2,640	2,747
Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment	570	613	657
Housing (credit)	29	801	-13
Insurance	50	41	42
Other receipts and transactions	-6	-555	581
Total, Mandatory outlays	37,673	44,901	47,575
Total, Outlays	72,825	86,645	91,817

Department of Veterans Affairs—Continued
(In millions of dollars)

	2007 Actual	Estimate	
		2008	2009
Credit activity			
Direct Loan Disbursements:			
Vendee and Acquired Loans	120	337	332
All other programs	12	21	20
Total, Direct loan disbursements	132	358	342
Guaranteed Loan Disbursements:			
Veterans Home Loans	24,186	34,761	35,817