

Sauk County, Wisconsin  
**2017 Annual Report**  
**Sauk County Veterans Service Office**  
 Prepared February 2018

**2017 Mission:** In recognition of the special sacrifices that veterans and their families have made, the Sauk County Veterans Service Office is dedicated to providing the highest quality service to Sauk County Veterans and their family members by utilizing all available resources including federal, state, county and civic. We strive to keep veterans and their family members informed of all pertinent information through the use of all available technologies and actively work for the protection of veterans benefits.

**Departmental Program Summary:**

**Assistance:** Assist veterans and their families in making application for State & Federal Benefits, including education, loans, compensation, pension, burial & health care. Disperse funds from Veterans Relief Fund.

**Informational Services:** Produce a newsletter, Twitter, Facebook, E-Mail & Web Page to keep veterans informed of new and changing benefits, attend events and meetings as appropriate to promote this office and veterans benefits.

**2017 Goals Review**

**Goal# 1: Develop a plan to identify Sauk County Businesses that support Veterans through discounts and hiring preferences then and serve as a conduit to provide information and employment assistance to Veterans**

OBJECTIVE	WAS THIS OBJECTIVE REACHED IN 2017?
	Yes or No (If no, please provide comment)
When a Veteran comes to us seeking assistance with finding work, we will have a list of area employers that have indicated to us they	<b>Yes</b>

**Goal# 1: Develop a plan to identify Sauk County Businesses that support Veterans through discounts and hiring preferences then and serve as a conduit to provide information and employment assistance to Veterans**

OBJECTIVE	WAS THIS OBJECTIVE REACHED IN 2017?
	Yes or No (If no, please provide comment)
prefer to hire veterans. To inform Veterans of area businesses that appreciate their service and sacrifice.	Acquired a list of Manufacturers from SCDC

**Goal # 2: Develop and implement a system to reach out to Disabled Veterans whom have not initiated contact with the County Veterans Service Office in the last 5 years to inform them of benefit changes and eligibility requirements. Such changes may include increases in disability rating or new conditions and new ancillary benefits.**

OBJECTIVE	WAS THIS OBJECTIVE REACHED IN 2017?
	Yes or No (If no, please provide comment )
Utilizing the Veteran Information Management System (VIMS) and VetraSpec, the Veterans Service Office staff will identify the disabled veterans that have not been in contact with the Veterans Service Office in the last 5 years.	<hr/> <p>Yes Contacted 48 Veterans and had 17 Consults</p>

**Goal #3: Develop a program to increase awareness of the Sauk County Veterans Office through press releases, public service announcements and use of social media.**

OBJECTIVE	WAS THIS OBJECTIVE REACHED IN 2017?
	Yes or No (If no, please provide comment)
Contact newspapers and other traditional media outlets and set up regular time and space for articles and announcements. Establish a relationship with a social media consultant to assist with the most effective use of that tool of communication.	<p>Yes Went from 158 to 317 followers on Facebook</p>

## **Changes / Accomplishments:**

In 2017, the Sauk County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) continued to serve ever increasing numbers of veterans and their families. The case complexity, difficulty and time intensity continue to increase. The CVSO Office continues to manage a high number of veterans with mental health issues. Additionally, the appeals process continues to be extremely lengthy; it is typical for a veteran to have an appeal take 18 months or longer.

During 2017, between the CVSO and Assistant CVSO, we visited 18 different veteran service organizations to update the members on VA benefits and changes. Additionally we did two presentations for Healthy in Aging Group, PTSD presentation in Plain for First Responders, presentation for Home and Community Education (HCE), and Assistance and Information Association of Wisconsin. Eight outreach events at MATC, hosted five Sauk County Veterans Council meetings and attended Baraboo Homeless Outreach.

In 2017 we processed 38 requests for financial assistance through the Veterans Relief program.

Additionally we generated over 4,000 new forms and increase from slightly over 3,000 in 2016.

	<b><i>2015 ACTUAL</i></b>	<b><i>2016 ACTUAL</i></b>	<b><i>2017 ACTUAL</i></b>
Federal Applications for Veterans Benefits processed	2,940	3,145	4,144
State Applications for Veterans Benefits	104	193	240
Number of Veterans transported by ADRC	320	130	74
Veterans Relief Applications Processed	\$9,085	\$11,708	\$4,994.59
Approved	42	66	38
Denied	4	8	6
Veterans Service Office County WebPage views	9,529	12,198	8,820
Veterans Service Office County Facebooks Likes	121	158	317
Veterans Service Office County Twitter Followers	32	40	48
# of Veteran Contacts (Phone, Mail, FAX, Email, Walk-Ins)	19,330	22,622	27,597
County Park Passes given to veterans	N/A	15	206
Number of AddLife Today! News Magazines Emailed to Veterans	3,409	4,055	DNA

## OUTCOME AND EFFICIENCY MEASURES

DESCRIPTION	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 ACTUAL
Monetary Impact to Sauk County			
<u>Federal Monetary Impact</u>			
Compensation & Pension	\$ 12,463,000	\$ 13,279,000	\$ 14,841,000
Insurance & Indemnities	\$ 380,000	\$ 511,000	\$ 447,000
Education	\$ 968,000	\$ 937,000	\$ 1,324,000
Veterans Affairs Medical Care	\$ 14,501,000	\$ 16,641,940	\$ 15,984,000
Home Loans	\$ 17,731,578	\$ 19,765,884	\$ 20,376,912
<u>State Monetary Impact</u>			
Veterans Home	\$ 723,336	\$ 762,572	\$ 861,232
Education	\$ 13,295,000	\$15,544,649	DNA
WI Property Tax Credit **	NA	\$ 265,031	DNA

Monetary Impact is published by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs in June each year for the prior year. 2017 Monetary Impact will be available in June, 2018

\*\* WI Property Tax Credit Info is put out every two years

State Monetary Impact Information is current