

# Ohio Veterans' Home Agency

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- OVH received funding of \$104,892,372 for the biennium
- OVH's FY 2006 GRF appropriations increase by 4.41% over FY 2005 GRF expenditures

## OVERVIEW

### Duties and Responsibilities

One of the state's first human services programs, the Ohio Veterans' Home Agency (OVH) is a nineteenth century creation that continues to meet a need in the twenty-first century. In 1886, the General Assembly, faced with a burgeoning population of aging Civil War veterans and inadequate local infrastructure to care for them, established the Ohio Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, located on a 100-acre campus in Sandusky. The *need* for an additional state veterans' home was identified in Am. Sub. H.B. 770 of the 122nd General Assembly. This second facility is located in Georgetown and has been opened since November 2003.

Currently, about 100 similar veterans' homes operate in 47 other states. OVH has the fifth largest resident population nationwide. The Ohio Veterans' Home Agency is dedicated to "serving those who served" by providing a safe, healthful, and home-like living environment for elderly, chronically ill, and disabled veterans. Since its opening in 1888, tens of thousands of veterans have received care. To be eligible for admission, a veteran must have served during wartime, been honorably discharged, and have been a resident of Ohio for five consecutive years prior to admission.

The Ohio Veterans' Home Agency is funded through a mix of federal and state dollars and resident fees. Each resident is assessed a monthly fee for living at the Home. The fee is based on the level of care provided and the resident's ability to pay. Eighty percent of revenues from these assessments are placed in State Special Revenue (SSR) Fund 4E2 to be used for operating costs and 20% of revenues from these assessments are placed in SSR Fund 604 to be used for equipment and capital projects. The Ohio Veterans' Home Agency also receives funds from the state General Revenue Fund (GRF) and a per diem grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for residents meeting VA income eligibility requirements.

The campus in Sandusky has the 293-bed Veterans Hall Domiciliary, which provides independence and freedom comparable to community living for residents able to care for themselves. A second level of care, currently referred to as "dom-plus," offers an intermediate level of care for 42 residents. These "dom plus" residents are located within Veterans Hall. There is also the Secrest-Giffin Nursing Home, which has 427 beds and provides standard nursing care and Alzheimer's/dementia care for residents. The Georgetown facility is a 35-acre campus with 168 skilled nursing home beds. Eighty-four beds at Georgetown are dedicated to providing standard nursing care and the other eighty-four specialize in Alzheimer's/dementia care.

**Agency in Brief**

<b>Agency In Brief</b>					
<b>Number of Employees*</b>	<b>Total Appropriations-All Funds</b>		<b>GRF Appropriations</b>		<b>Appropriation Bill(s)</b>
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	
940*	\$51.99 million	\$52.90 million	\$27.03 million	\$27.43 million	Am. Sub. H.B. 66

\*Employee count obtained from the Ohio Veterans' Home Agency.

**Summary of FY 2006 – 2007 Budget Issues**

Am. Sub. H.B. 66 of the 126th General Assembly allows moneys in appropriation item 430-603, Rental and Service Revenue (GSF Fund 484), to be used for the purchase of medication services. Currently, the funds used to purchase items such as food products and to maintain areas of the Veterans' Home that are rented or leased.

**ANALYSIS OF THE ENACTED BUDGET****Program Series 1****Patient Services**

**Purpose:** To provide long-term care for elderly, chronically ill, and disabled veterans in a home-like environment that will allow them to achieve their highest level of functional ability.

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund the Patient Services, as well as the enacted funding levels.

<b>Fund</b>	<b>ALI</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>FY 2006</b>	<b>FY 2007</b>
<b>General Revenue Fund</b>				
GRF	430-100	Personal Services	\$20,559,914	\$20,960,031
GRF	430-200	Maintenance	\$6,375,000	\$6,375,000
<b>General Revenue Fund Subtotal</b>			<b>\$26,934,914</b>	<b>\$27,335,031</b>
<b>State Special Revenue Fund</b>				
4E2	430-602	Veterans Home Operating	\$8,322,731	\$8,530,800
604	430-604	Veterans Home Improvement	\$770,096	\$770,096
<b>State Special Revenue Fund Subtotal</b>			<b>\$9,092,827</b>	<b>\$9,300,896</b>
<b>General Services Fund</b>				
484	430-603	Rental and Service Revenue	\$882,737	\$882,737
<b>General Services Fund Subtotal</b>			<b>\$882,737</b>	<b>\$882,737</b>
<b>Federal Special Revenue</b>				
3L2	430-601	Federal VA Per Diem Grant	\$14,990,510	\$15,290,320
<b>Federal Special Revenue Subtotal</b>			<b>\$14,990,510</b>	<b>\$15,290,320</b>
<b>Total Funding: Patient Services</b>			<b>\$51,900,988</b>	<b>\$52,808,984</b>

This analysis focuses on the following specific programs within the program series:

- **Program 1.01: Nursing Homes**
- **Program 1.02: Domiciliary**

### **Program 1.01: Nursing Homes**

**Program Description:** The Ohio Veterans' Home Agency (OVH) provides long-term care for elderly, chronically ill, and disabled veterans in a homelike environment that will allow them to achieve their highest level of functional ability. In fact, OVH is the only agency in Ohio dedicated to providing long-term care solely to wartime veterans. Grants from the federal Veterans' Administration (VA) assist in the costs of long-term care for veterans and are limited to state Veterans' Home facilities. Since its founding in 1888, OVH has cared for tens of thousands of honorably discharged veterans from the Civil War, Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, the Vietnam Conflict, and the Gulf War. OVH has the fifth largest resident census of the 100 plus state veterans homes nationwide. The campus in Sandusky provides 427 beds and the Georgetown campus provides 168 beds to long-term care.

OVH must comply with Ohio Department of Health regulations and guidelines, and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Standards for State Veterans Homes. OVH nursing homes are inspected by both of these entities on an annual basis.

The services provided by OVH include: assessment, medication administration, and monitoring, restorative nursing, and assistance with activities of daily living, which promote quality of life. The goal of the Nursing Home program is to (1) promote an environment that continually maximizes the resident's abilities, and (2) encourage resident participation to the extent the resident is capable.

**Implication of the Enacted Budget:** The enacted funding level will provide for the necessary staffing to fill the 427 Nursing Home beds in Sandusky and 168 Nursing Home beds in Georgetown. The current census in Georgetown is 114. Ohio committed to fill Georgetown to its 168-bed capacity not later than 18 months after opening (May 2005) as a condition of accepting a federal grant for 65% of the construction funding for the facility. OVH is currently working with the federal VA and does not expect a penalty as a result of this. The OVH expects to fill Georgetown to its capacity by June 2006.

### **Program 1.02: Domiciliary**

**Program Description:** The Domiciliary provides for wartime veterans who are able to care for themselves, but have been disabled or affected by disease to such a degree that the veteran is incapacitated from earning a living. The veterans are not in need of hospitalization or nursing care services. Domiciliary care provides a safe, homelike environment to restore the residents to their highest level of physical, mental, and social well being through special rehabilitative programs. The Sandusky facility has the 293-bed Veterans Hall Domiciliary complex. Within Veterans Hall, there is a 42-bed Dom Plus wing, which provides a higher level of care. The Georgetown facility does not provide domiciliary services.

The Domiciliary Program must comply with the Ohio Department of Health regulations and guidelines and with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Standards for State Veterans Homes.

**Implication of the Enacted Budget:** The enacted budget for this program will allow OVH to continue at current levels of operation for domiciliary services. As a result, this should support 223 of the 293 beds in the Domiciliary.

## Program Series 2

## Veterans Hall of Fame

**Purpose:** To provide support for the Veterans Hall of Fame, which recognizes post-military achievements of veterans.

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund the Veterans Hall of Fame, as well as the enacted funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2006	FY 2007
<b>General Revenue Fund</b>				
GRF	430-100	Personal Services	\$70,000	\$70,000
GRF	430-200	Maintenance	\$21,200	\$21,200
<b>General Revenue Fund Subtotal</b>			<b>\$91,200</b>	<b>\$91,200</b>
<b>Total Funding: Veterans Hall of Fame</b>			<b>\$91,200</b>	<b>\$91,200</b>

This analysis focuses on the following specific programs within the program series.

### Veterans Hall of Fame

**Program Description:** The Veterans Hall of Fame was established in 1992. The program recognizes significant contributions veterans have made to their communities, state, and nation after serving in the military honorably. There is a Hall of Fame ceremony held annually in November. Prior to 2003, a ceremony was also held in May. The May ceremony was eliminated as a cost-cutting measure.

The Veterans' Hall of Fame program has been funded by the Ohio Veterans' Home Agency and operated by the Governor's Office of Veterans' Affairs since 2000. At the time that OVH submitted its budget request, the program was still under the OVH. Substitute S.B. 277 of the 125th General Assembly became effective on April 29, 2005. This bill created in statute the Hall of Fame and made the Governor's Office of Veterans' Affairs the administrative agent of the program. The bill also created in statute the Veterans Hall of Fame Executive Committee (13 members) and stated that the members shall be reimbursed for necessary and actual expenses. Previously, the Committee existed with 12 members; however, they were not reimbursed for expenses.

**Implication of the Enacted Budget:** OVH received funding of \$91,200 in each fiscal year. The Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs has stated that they need an additional \$25,920 to maintain current service levels, allow for increased costs, and provide for necessary and actual reimbursements to Executive Committee members. In the Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs, there is a \$25,000 earmark for the Veterans Hall of Fame program in FY 2006. This funding will come out of GRF appropriation item 040-408, Office of Veterans Affairs. This funding and the \$25,000 earmark will allow OVH to maintain current service levels in FY 2006. However, it is possible that there could be a reduction in services for the program in FY 2007.