



FISCAL YEAR 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2025, TO JUNE 30, 2026



Cover photo: Flag Day ceremony at the Nebraska State Capitol as part of Nebraska's "America 250th" celebration. Read more about the flag's trip across the state in the photo caption on page 4.

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veterans.nebraska.gov



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THANK YOU, VETERANS FOR 250 YEARS OF FREEDOM!



Director's Message

NDVA remains unwavering in its commitment to serving our state's veterans and their families. In FY 2026, we saw amazing results from recently launched initiatives and continued growing our benefits and services while remaining fiscally conservative. Though there are dozens of positive data points and good news stories throughout this report, I want to take a moment to highlight three standout elements from the past fiscal year.

We've recently been able to expand our state veterans service officer (SVSO) footprint to include SVSOs in each veterans' home and several in our central office to focus on high-impact initiatives such as serving incarcerated veterans or reducing Medicaid utilization. By the end of FY 2026, the SVSOs in the homes helped members get over \$834,000 in retro-active payments and a cumulative increase of \$79,287 in disability payments *per month*. In one instance, the SVSO captured a \$474,000 retro-active payment to the facility, \$221,367 retro-active payment to the member, \$14,980 increase in monthly payments to the facility, \$5,447 increase in monthly payments to the member, and made the veteran's spouse, who still lived at home, eligible for the homestead exemption. This was a life-changing impact for the veteran and their family, and it's hard to express how proud I am of NDVA's ability to execute our mission this well.

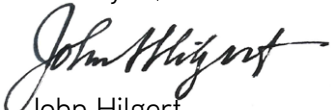


During this fiscal year, we saw the launch of a new benefit: a motor vehicle tax and fee exemption on one vehicle for veterans with a 0-100% service-connected disability from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. As you can imagine, tax-relief programs are extremely popular, and our front desk and SVSO teams were inundated with applications and questions. As of writing this letter, over 31,000 of the estimated 42,000 eligible veterans have been verified since January 2026 and can take advantage of these savings. This incredible feat was accomplished without additional staff or resources, and I am extremely proud of our team's dedication to championing this new benefit.

Beyond benefits like these, another way we serve our veterans is by honoring their service, and this year saw the launch of a new initiative to recognize Nebraska's living Korean War veterans. After announcing the program in April 2026, we hosted our own events and collaborated with CVSOs, veterans service organizations, and others to present specially minted coins to eligible veterans. As of writing this letter, nearly 500 of these veterans have been honored and reminded that their service is not forgotten.

You will find details on these initiatives and more throughout this report. FY 2026 was another incredible year for NDVA as we continued serving more veterans and families, providing new and exciting benefits, and recognizing our state's heroes in meaningful ways. I want to thank the entire NDVA team for everything they do day after day to maintain our mission and better serve all the heroes who call Nebraska "home".

Thank you,


John Hilgert
Director

P.S. On the opposite page are just a few of the activities our veterans' homes members enjoyed as we celebrated the 250th anniversary of the United States. These celebrations were a reminder of how much we owe those who served.

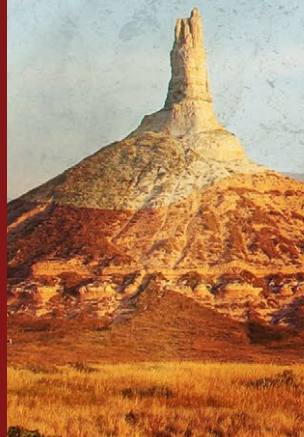
FY 2026 At a Glance



The Nebraska American Legion Riders escorted an American flag across the state, from Scottsbluff to Lincoln, where it was raised over the Nebraska State Capitol and flew until Independence Day. They made over a dozen stops on their way to Lincoln, which included NDVA's two state veterans cemeteries and three of the veterans' homes. NDVA was honored to provide support for this event and help the American Legion Riders celebrate 250 years of American freedom.



The Nebraska Resource Center won first place in the Offutt Air Force Base Exchange's Halloween suite decorating contest this year. It was a huge hit for all the past, present, and future service members who stopped in!



We continued the tradition of lighting the Nebraska State Capitol green on Veterans Day as part of "Greenlight a Vet".

Emergency funds distributed to
veterans and dependents through
the Nebraska Veterans Aid Fund

\$2,439,275

436,191

number of ratings received for
veterans with NDVA-represented
powers of attorney



NDVA joined Governor Pilleen and members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart for a proclamation signing ceremony to designate August 7 as Purple Heart Day in Nebraska.



Maj. Jennifer Crum was the keynote speaker for the fourth Nebraska Women Veterans Symposium. She is the B-2 and T-38A evaluator pilot for the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force in Missouri, and the first pilot to fly the B-2 Spirit stealth bomber while pregnant.



The Veterans Mission of Mercy Dental Clinic continued into its third year in FY 2026, bringing the combined total of care provided at these events to over \$1.6 million through almost 8,000 dental services in nearly 1,300 patient visits.



Although DoD's Vietnam War Commemoration officially sunsetted in 2025, NDVA has ensured we have the resources to continue honoring these veterans. We held our ninth ceremony in FY 2026, with many more planned.



NDVA was honored to help host a ceremony at the Governor's Residence on November 10, 2025, to celebrate the 250th birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps.



In early 2026, we launched a new program to recognize Nebraska's living Korean War veterans. Learn more about it on pages 22-23.

\$1,599,293,340

amount paid to Nebraska veterans and their families in VA claims and benefits

Agency Overview

MISSION

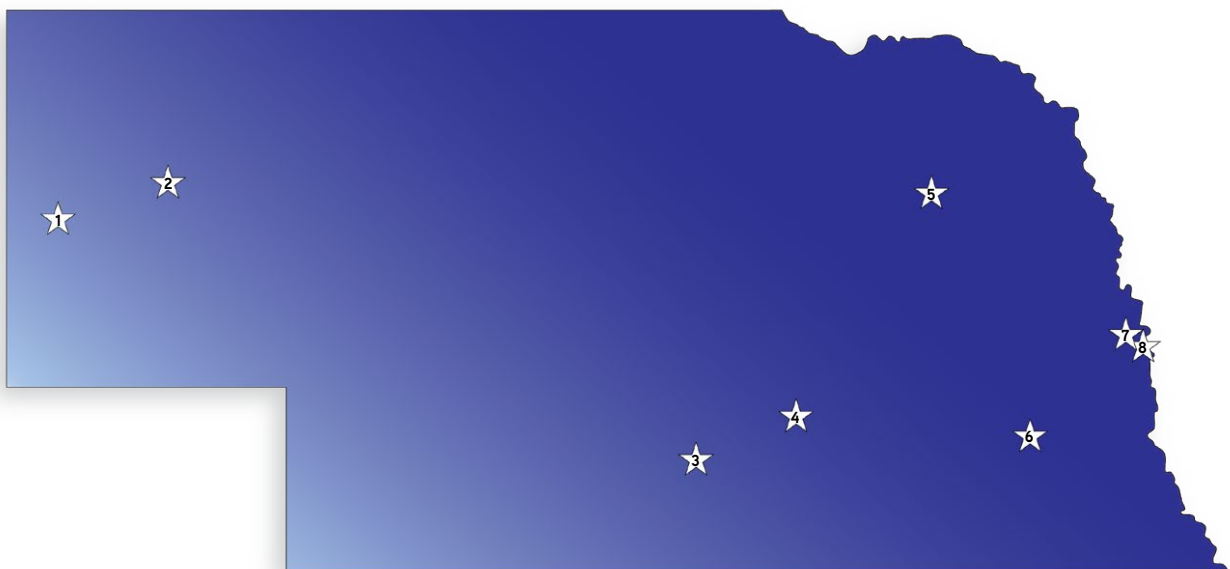
NDVA's mission is to honor Nebraska veterans and their families by providing excellent service, assistance, and care through:

- ★ **Veterans Services** to help veterans identify and access federal and state benefits including disability compensation, pension, and health care available through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), as well as the Nebraska Veterans Aid fund, tuition waivers, and other state services;
- ★ **Nebraska State Veterans' Homes** to ensure eligible veterans and family receive the highest quality assisted living and skilled nursing care at one of four nursing homes across Nebraska; and
- ★ **Nebraska State Veterans Cemeteries** to ensure eligible veterans and family receive an honorable final resting place maintained to the highest national standards.

VISION

As the state's chief advocate for veterans, the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs will serve as a trusted and reliable resource for Nebraska veterans and their families. NDVA will enhance operational efficiency by promoting consistent program delivery and fostering a culture of excellence, dignity, and respect.

NDVA LOCATIONS ACROSS THE STATE



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Western Nebraska Veterans' Home | 5. Norfolk Veterans' Home |
| 2. Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at Alliance | 6. NDVA Central Office & State Service Office |
| 3. Central Nebraska Veterans' Home | 7. Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home |
| 4. Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at Grand Island | 8. Nebraska Resource Center (at Offutt Air Force Base) |

CORE PRINCIPLES

Our agency’s core principles drive our work, providing a framework for how we engage with the veterans and family members we serve and how we collaborate with our partners.

- ★ **Excellence** – Strive to provide the highest quality service in everything we do.
- ★ **Integrity** – Act with high moral principle and adhere to the highest professional standards.
- ★ **Advocacy** – Be veteran-centric by advancing the best interests of veterans and their families.
- ★ **Accountability** – Be proactive and take responsibility for the continual improvement of our agency’s services.
- ★ **Collaboration** – Promote idea sharing, communication and teamwork with all resources (including other teammates, agencies, veterans organizations, county service officers, etc.) to ensure veterans receive accurate information and excellent service.
- ★ **Dignity and Respect** – Treat every single person who comes into contact with our organization with honor, understanding, and professionalism.

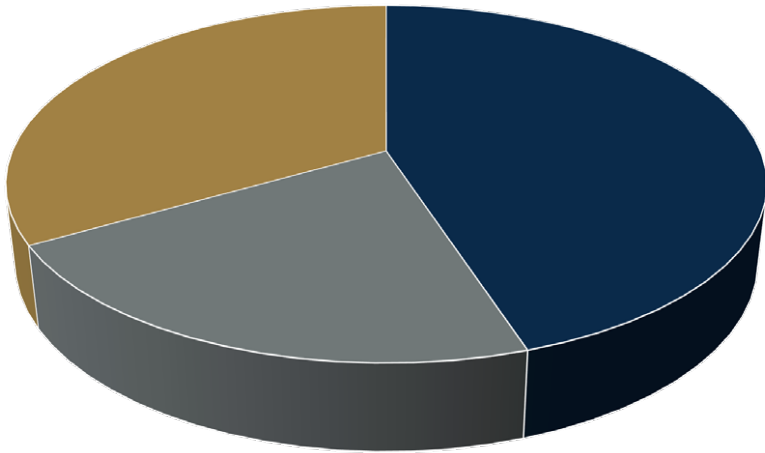


NDVA Director Hilgert presents World War II veteran Ralph Green with a recognition medal at his home. By the end of FY 2026, 176 of Nebraska’s living WWII veterans had received a medal.

BUDGET

NDVA’s operating budget is a mix of state general funds, state cash funds, and federal funds from the VA. These funds support agency programs such as the four state veterans’ homes, our State Service Office and its outreach activities, the Nebraska Veterans Cemetery System, and support staff such as human resources, finance, legal, and others. We have been able to increase our amount of federal funds thanks to the work being done by our SVSOs, particularly those in the homes who are ensuring our members get all the benefits to which they’re entitled.

Note: these totals do not include construction grants or grants created by the Nebraska Legislature that are administered by NDVA and have been or will be awarded to other entities.



General Funds	\$47,303,622
Cash Funds	\$22,869,266
Federal Funds	\$35,038,678
Total	\$105,211,566

CENTRAL OFFICE LINCOLN

NDVA's Central Office is located on the fourth floor of the Nebraska State Office Building in downtown Lincoln. It is home to the agency's leadership and administrative teams, including accounting, communications, clinical support, human resources, IT, and legal.

We now have four accredited veterans service officers in the Central Office to assist veterans and their families and manage special initiatives, including working with incarcerated veterans, National Guard members and veterans, and veterans on Medicaid or Medicare.

Our front desk team can help locate DD214s and other records and handles a number of programs including the Nebraska Veterans' Registry, Vets Get Pets, Waiver of Tuition, and Reservist Tuition Credit.



301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68509
(402) 471-2458 | ndva@nebraska.gov

NEBRASKA VETERANS' REGISTRY

Signing up to the Nebraska Veterans' Registry allows Nebraskans to get the "Veteran" designation on their driver's license. Not only does this make it easier to get veterans discounts at restaurants and retailers, but it allows veterans to order Military Honor Plates or campaign medal plates from the Nebraska DMV and helps verify eligibility for state benefits such as Vets Get Pets. New in FY 2026, it allows eligible disabled veterans to utilize the Disabled/Blind Veteran Motor Vehicle Tax & Fee Exemption. Veterans, including National Guard and Reserve veterans, can apply to the registry at **veterans.nebraska.gov/registry**.



FY 2026 Discharge Documents

Discharge Documents Received and Filed.....1,048
Total Discharge Documents on File.....751,488
Requests for Discharge Documents.....1,097

FY 2026 Veterans' Registry

Applications Received and Filed.....8,482
Total Veterans in the Registry.....206,605

FY 2026 Grave Registration Cards

Grave Registrations Received.....10
Total Grave Registrations on File.....98,574

STATE SERVICE OFFICE

LINCOLN

Navigating the veteran benefits and claims process can be challenging, but NDVA’s State Service Office can assist veterans and their families from start to finish at **no cost** to them.

Services include reviewing records to determine benefit eligibility for veterans, spouses, and dependents; assisting with the accurate completion of forms; transmitting completed claims to the proper state or federal officials; assisting and managing both initial appeals and appeals to the Board of Veterans Affairs; and advising applicants with claims before the VA. **In FY 2026, 3,771 different veterans worked with veterans service officers at our State Service Office.**



3800 Village Drive, Lincoln, NE 68516
(402) 420-4021 | ndva.sso@nebraska.gov

In addition to holding office hours, the SSO outreach team travels across the state to meet and serve veterans where they are. **In FY 2026, the outreach team hosted or attended 123 events around Nebraska.**

FY 2026 VETERAN CLAIMS, RATINGS, AND COMPENSATION

In FY 2026, nearly 1.8 million claims were submitted by NDVA-accredited powers of attorney, resulting in 436,191 ratings and 1,352,665 non-ratings. Ratings include claims submitted to the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) that require a rater decision (e.g. disability compensation, pension, etc.), while non-ratings are claims submitted to VBA resulting in status changes (apportionment, drill pay, dependency, etc.).

Claims paid in FY 2026 resulted in just under \$1.6 billion in benefits dispersed to Nebraska veterans and their family members! This money comes from the federal government and goes to our veterans and into local communities.

Claims Filed*	1,788,856
Ratings Received	436,191
Non-Ratings Received	1,352,665
Benefits Paid	\$1,599,293,340

**for those represented by NDVA-accredited POAs.*
Data provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

NEBRASKA RESOURCE CENTER

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE

Since opening in late 2024, the Nebraska Resource Center has proven to be a tremendous asset for our military service members, veterans, and their families. In FY 2026, the NRC team had 2,217 unique interactions. The chart at the bottom right showcases what types of services people are seeking and questions they are asking. Some of the most incredible results have been that the service officers at NRC helped veterans and their families secure **\$1,048,599 in retro-active payments and an increase of \$271,371 in monthly disability payments** in FY 2026.

In continuing to grow and improve the services offered, we have also partnered with the Nebraska Department of Labor to house a Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) specialist at the NRC to enhance the employment services offered, including career assessment and counseling as well as assistance with resumes, cover letters, and interviewing skills.



106 Meyer Ave. Bldg 166, Offutt AFB, NE 68113
(531) 600-7137 | ndva.nrc@nebraska.gov

Nebraska Resource Center
Serving Military Members, Veterans, and their Families

Speak with one of our VA-accredited veteran service officers, here to assist you and your family at NO COST!

Employment services now available in partnership with Nebraska Department of Labor, including career assessment and counseling and assistance with résumés, cover letters, and interviewing skills.

Get help with transition assistance, housing, education, recreation and tourism, family services, and more!

FY 2026 NRC Engagements

Claims Filed.....	1,101
DMV Referrals.....	143
State Benefits.....	121
Pamphlets/Flyers.....	96
Game & Parks Apps.....	65
VHA.....	46
Education Information.....	40
Tourism Referrals.....	39
Employment Referrals.....	37
Financial Information.....	30
NDOL.....	26
ITF/VSO Submissions.....	24
Civic Information.....	20
Outreach.....	14
Nebraska Relocation.....	12
Housing Resources.....	4
Computer Kiosk Visits.....	3
Small Business Information.....	2
Mental Health.....	1

STATE VETERAN CEMETERY SYSTEM

Nebraska's two state veterans cemeteries offer casket or cremation burials with burial plots and a scattering garden for cremated remains. The Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at Grand Island (NVCGI) also offers columbarium niches. Other services include military funeral honors, memorial services, pre-needs counseling, and civic and volunteer opportunities for the community to get involved. All services are provided at no cost to veterans or their families, with funding coming from the sale of military honor plates.



Learn more at veterans.nebraska.gov/cemeteries.

NEBRASKA VETERANS CEMETERY AT GRAND ISLAND

NVCGI was dedicated on July 12, 2025, and had its first interment on September 5, 2025. It is located at the north end of the city on 27 acres and is conveniently located near the United Veterans Club, which provides the honor guard for memorial services.

NVCGI holds a unique history in the community. It was formerly the Soldiers & Sailors Cemetery that was established in 1888 as part of the Grand Island Veterans' Home. Civil War Veteran Leonard B. Thurlow was the first interment in the cemetery, which spanned 2.7 acres and provided a dignified resting place for members and spouses living at the home. The historic section remains a part of NVCGI to this day, and we are working with History Nebraska to have an historical marker placed there to showcase this rich history.

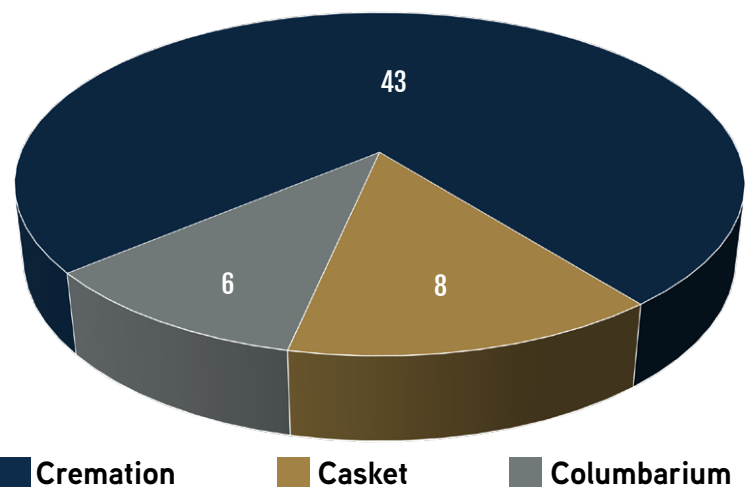
Since opening, NVCGI has held 57 interments for 48 veterans and nine family members. When combined with the historic cemetery, this brings the total number of veterans interred on the grounds to 1,173, along with 318 family members, for a total of 1,495 interments. While the majority of recent interments have been for cremains, as shown on the graph to the right, nearly 99% of the interments in the historic section were casket burials.

Learn more at veterans.nebraska.gov/nvcgi.



3270 West Capital Ave., Grand Island, NE 68803
(308) 661-1987 | veterans.nebraska.gov/nvcgi

NVCGI Interments (Excluding Historical)



NEBRASKA VETERANS CEMETERY AT ALLIANCE

NVCA was dedicated on August 13, 2010, and had its first interment on January 21, 2011. The cemetery sits on 20 acres southeast of the city and receives great support from the community. Local groups such as the Boy Scouts come to lay wreaths, color guards provide military honors, and a community foundation was established to fund and complete special projects like the wind block around the committal shelter.

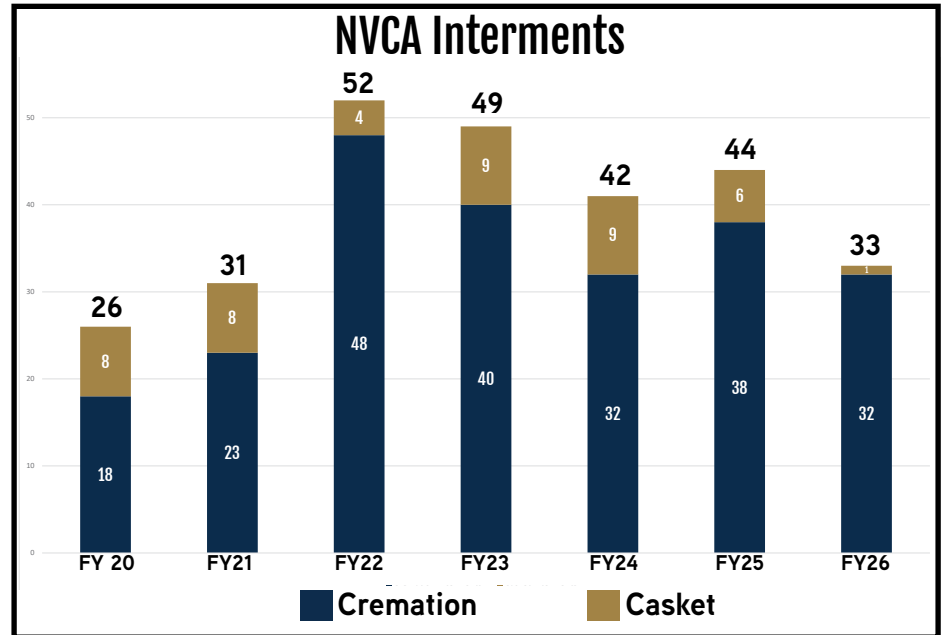
Since the cemetery opened, there have been 613 interments—444 veterans and 169 family members. Cremations are the most popular form of interment, making up just over 80% of the cemetery's interments since it opened.

NVCA sits on land which used to be part of the Alliance Army Air Field. The air field existed from 1942 to 1945 and primarily trained aircrews of C-47 and C-53 transports and CG-4 gliders, along with airborne troops they would carry into battle. Many of the troops who trained on this land participated in the invasion of Normandy on D-Day, giving the grounds a unique tie-in to our nation's service members which it continues to serve.

Learn more at veterans.nebraska.gov/nvca.



2610 County Road 57, Alliance, NE 69301
(308) 763-2958 | veterans.nebraska.gov/nvca



NVCA Receives Stewardship Award from NCA



James Earp, director of the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) Veterans Cemetery Grants Program, visited Alliance to present NCA's Stewardship award to the cemetery team. The award recognizes superior cemetery performance based on the results of an NCA-led compliance review of VA grant-funded state, territory, and tribal veteran cemeteries. NVCA's compliance review was held in July 2025.

Pictured left is Earp presenting the award to NVCA Manager James Goodwin. Behind them are (from left to right) NVCA public servants Peyton Hornung, Danny Blow, Alisha Coffee, and Jacob Hernandez.

STATE VETERANS' HOMES

NDVA operates four veterans' homes that provide assisted living, skilled nursing, and memory care for eligible Nebraska veterans, spouses, surviving spouses, and Gold Star spouses and parents. Our homes offer a range of therapies, a variety of activities and outings, friendly communities of veterans and their families, and more. Members' contribution to their cost of care is determined by a sliding scale based on their income and/or assets.

Details on each home, as well as virtual tours of the facilities, can be found at veterans.nebraska.gov/homes.

FY 2026 Home Application Data	
Applications Received.....	448
Applications Carried Forward from Previous Year.....	7
Total Applications.....	455
Approved (does not include apps initially approved and canceled later)	424
Denied (includes four who were ineligible).....	11
Canceled by Applicant.....	14
Applications to Carry Forward to Next Year.....	6
Applicants on Waiting List as of June 30, 2026.....	307
Total Admissions during FY 2026.....	188



CENTRAL NEBRASKA VETERANS' HOME

4510 East 56th St, Kearney

Size: 330,000 sq ft | 225 beds

FY26 Expenses: \$27,183,273

CNVH opened on January 16, 2019. It is comprised of six neighborhoods, each with three homes, each serving 12-15 members. Every home has its own kitchen, dining area, living room, den with rotating library selection, private dining room, spa room, and patio with gazebo.

CNVH's campus amenities include private member rooms with their own bathrooms, a non-denominational chapel with various weekly services, medical clinic, craft room with multiple kilns, a state-of-the-art woodshop, the Fox Hole Canteen, a salon, a library with computers and wifi access, outdoor paths, and a lake with handicapped accessible fishing piers.

Pictured to the right are the front entrance of the facility and the Fox Hole Canteen. The propeller prop mounted above the fireplace was found during construction of the facility, which sits on the former Kearney Airfield.





EASTERN NEBRASKA VETERANS' HOME

12505 Harrison Tull Dr, Bellevue

Size: 145,000 sq ft | 144 beds

FY26 Expenses: \$22,311,525

ENVH opened on July 14, 2007. The facility is grouped into five wings: three 30-bed skilled nursing wings, a 24-bed assisted living wing, and a 30-bed skilled dementia care wing. Specialized services such as physical therapy and a wide range of recreational and religious services are offered to the residents.

ENVH is home to 15 acres of gardens, including rain gardens, a Purple Heart garden, and member gardens. Participants in the Nebraska Extension Master Gardeners Volunteer program dedicate their time to help keep these landscaped areas beautiful for our members and visitors to enjoy.

Pictured to the right are the front entrance of the facility and one of the facility's many beautiful garden areas, complete with a gazebo for staying in the shade while enjoying the view.

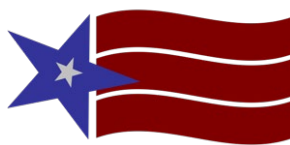


NORFOLK VETERANS' HOME

600 East Benjamin Ave, Norfolk

Size: 138,000 sq ft | 159 beds

FY26 Expenses: \$21,327,176



Norfolk Veterans Home

NVH opened on November 27, 2001. It features six separate living units, each designed to meet the specific needs of the members who reside there. In addition to a chapel, canteen, finance office, beauty/barber shop, library, clinic, restorative room and large recreational area, there are several conference rooms which can also be used for private dining.

The outdoor areas include Heroes Park, an eight-acre venue featuring a covered pavilion, walking paths, memorial benches, playground, basketball court, and beautifully landscaped grounds. Memorial Flag Plaza graces the front of the campus and includes an honorary memorial wall with tiles honoring veterans and current service members. Flags representing all branches of military service are flown in front of the plaza.

Pictured to the left are the front entrance of the facility and just one portion of the stunning Memorial Flag Plaza.



WESTERN NEBRASKA VETERANS' HOME

1102 West 42nd St, Scottsbluff

Size: 93,000 sq ft | 109 beds

FY26 Expenses: \$13,441,820

WNVH opened on March 19, 1975. It's located on 32 acres at the northern edge of Scottsbluff with over 93,000 square feet of private and communal space for up to 109 members.

Indoor areas include a state-of-the-art exercise room, canteen, public computer station, lounge with cable TV, spacious craft rooms, and the famous billiards room with claw foot pool table. Outside, a well-stocked fishing pond is surrounded by a lighted concrete walkway for easy accessibility, with a horseshoe pit and putting green nearby.

Pictured to the right are the main entrance and the billiards room, home of the facility's annual pool tournaments.



Anton Konkaba of WNVH Named ALU Resident of the Year

The Nebraska Health Care Association's Assisted Living Resident of the Year is awarded to a Nebraska ALU resident who contributes to the well-being of their fellow residents and the facility where they reside. WNVH was honored to be home to the 2026 recipient: Anton Konkaba.

Anton serves his fellow members at WNVH in many ways, such as: placing American flags outside his fellow members' rooms each morning and removing them at night, reading to members with visual impairments, crocheting blankets that are given away to members and winter hats and gloves that are donated to local children in need, taking care of gardens and other outdoor spaces, and much, much more.

Congratulations, Anton, and thank you for all you do for your fellow members and the community!

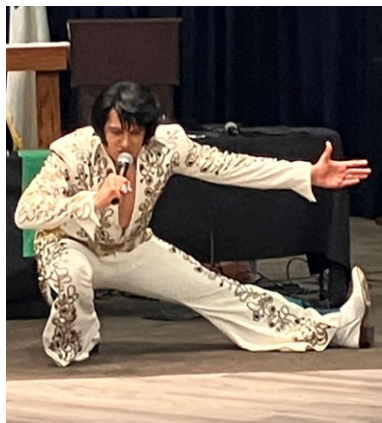


Outings and Activities Keep Homes' Members Busy

All four of our veterans' homes are blessed with amazing local support. Volunteers and guests frequently visit the homes to visit with members or provide entertainment, and staff take members on fun outings in the community. The activity calendars for each of the homes are packed with things to do all year long.

Pictured here are just a few snapshots of the homes' activities, outings, visitors, and more from FY 2026. From left to right starting at the top: CNVH members face off in their own volleyball match in between watching Cornhusker women's volleyball games, a pup from Comfort Paws is shocked to see NVH keeps birds in the building (in the aviary), ENVH members chill with Stormy at an Omaha Storm Chasers baseball game, members from WNVH pose for a photo at the Riverside Discovery Center, the King of Rock and Roll causes mass hysteria when he swings into NVH, members from ENVH visit the Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Papillion, WNVH hosts a Husker tailgate party for members to enjoy the football game, and a member at CNVH enjoys one of many patriotic parades that passed through the facility grounds last year.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers, guests, musicians, animals, and others who spend time with and support our members!



Programs

NEBRASKA VETERANS AID FUND

Nebraska Veterans Aid (NVA) was established in 1921 and has served countless veterans and family members over the past century. The purpose of the fund is not simply to provide financial assistance, but to help veterans and families get through a temporary crisis and regain stability.

NVA can help veterans and their spouses or dependents with temporary financial relief in the event of a variety of emergencies. These funds can be used for food, fuel, shelter, transportation, daycare, funeral expenses, medical needs, surgical items, and more.

As shown in the graph on the next page, NVA disbursement amounts have been increasing year over year as NDVA works to ensure our state's veterans and their families have the financial support they need.

In FY 2026, almost \$2.5 million was distributed to veterans and their families, with the average distribution totaling over \$3,400.

Learn more about the NVA fund and how to apply at [**veterans.nebraska.gov/nva**](https://veterans.nebraska.gov/nva).



Facing a financial emergency?
Nebraska Veterans Aid could help.

Use NVA for

- Food
- Rent/Mortgage
- Utilities
- Eye Glasses
- Hearing Aids
- Dental Bills
- Medical Bills
- Transportation
- Daycare
- Funeral Expenses

For more information, contact your County Veteran Service Officer or visit veterans.nebraska.gov/nva

 **VETERANS.NEBRASKA.GOV**
402-471-2458 NDVA@NEBRASKA.GOV @NEVETSAFFAIRS

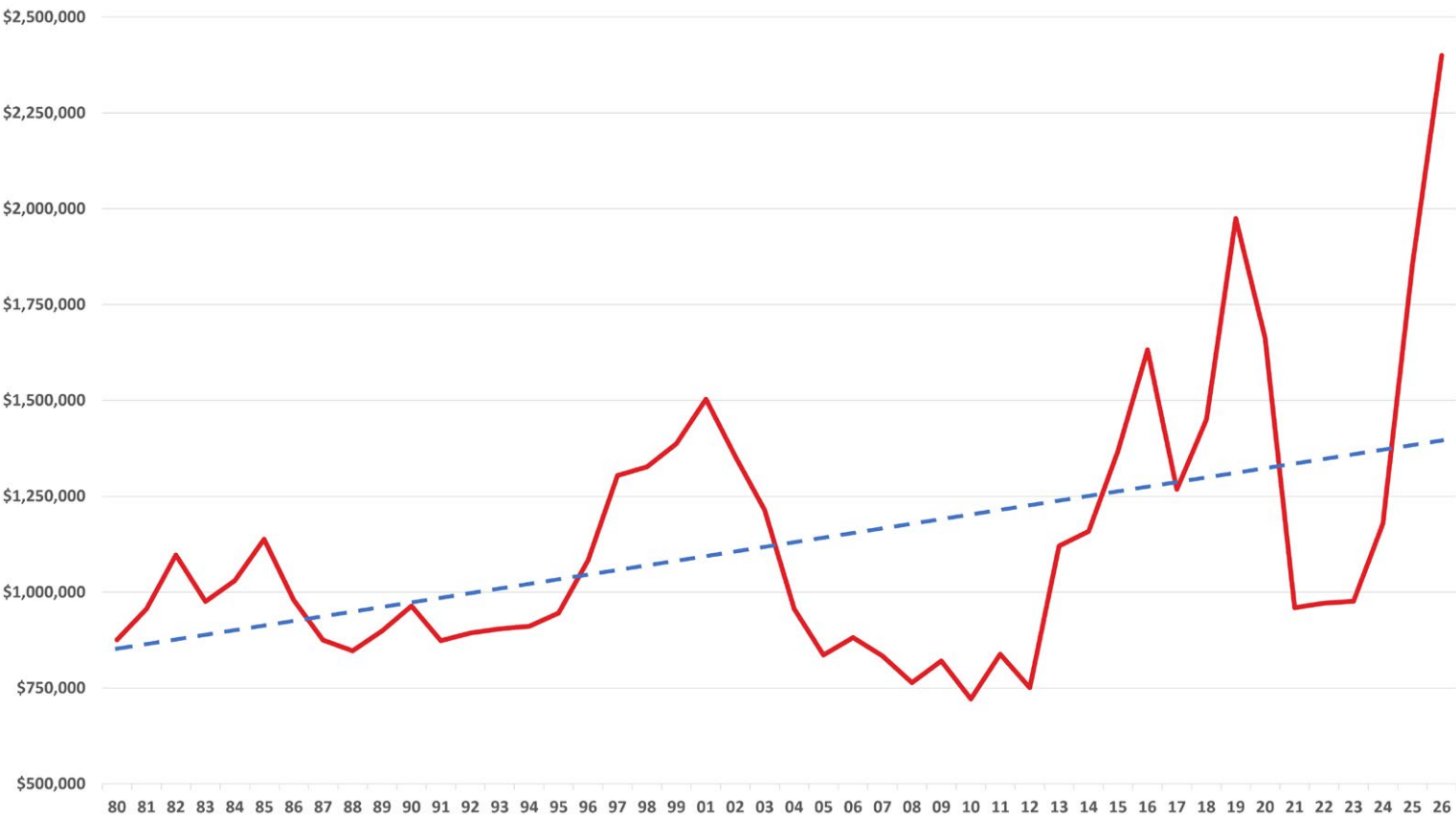
NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Sacrifice.
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

FY 2026 NVA Application Data

Applications Received.....	828
Applications Carried Forward from FY 2025.....	22
Total Applications.....	850
Approved.....	709
Denied.....	81
Canceled by Applicant.....	35
Reconsiderations Reversed (Approved).....	1
Reconsiderations Upheld (Denied).....	3
Pre-authorized Applications to Carry Forward to FY 2027.....	25

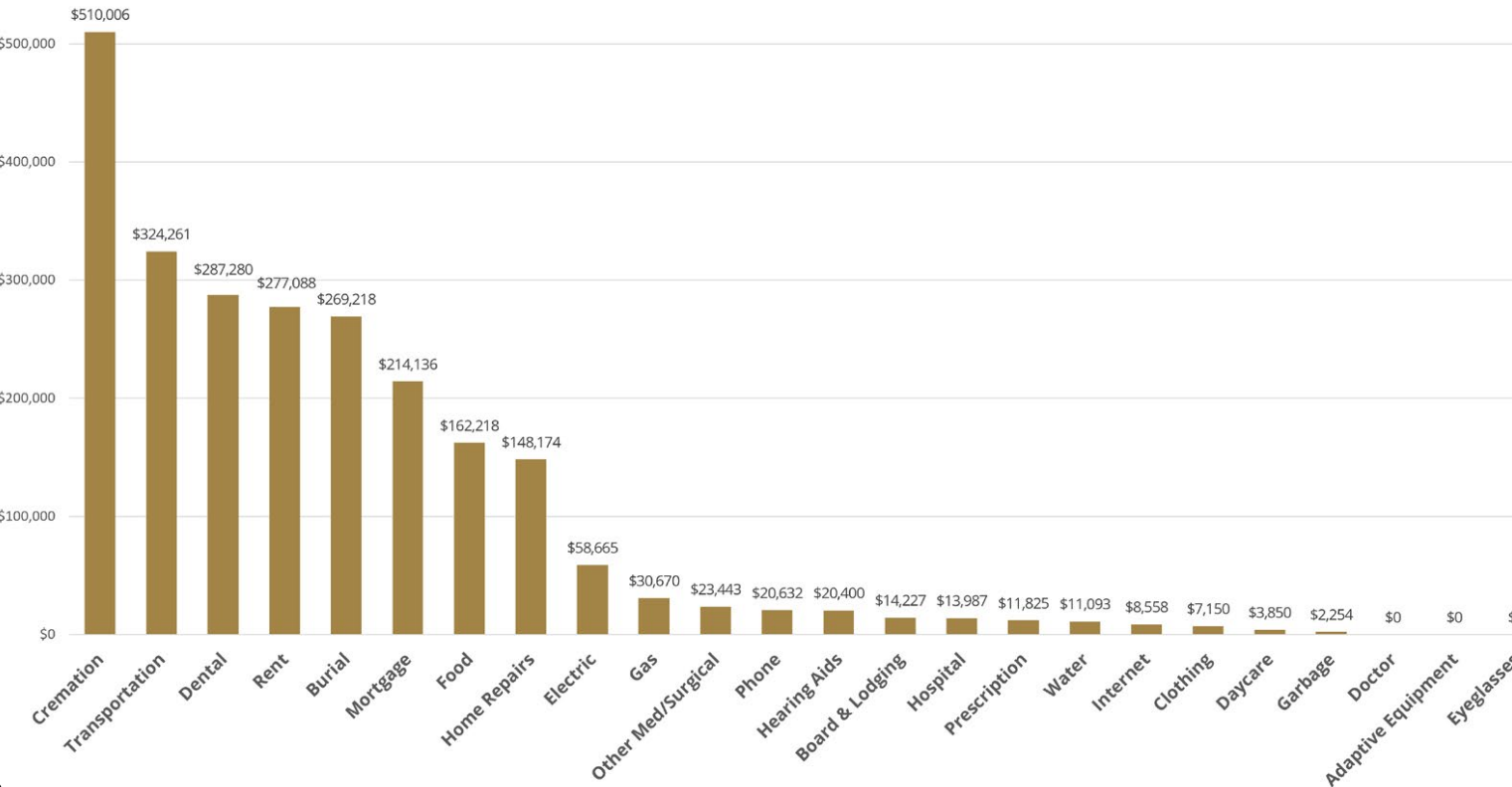
NVA Disbursements by Year

Below is NVA spending over the past several decades. Since its creation, **nearly \$65 million in emergency financial assistance** has been provided to Nebraska veterans and/or their family members in times of need.



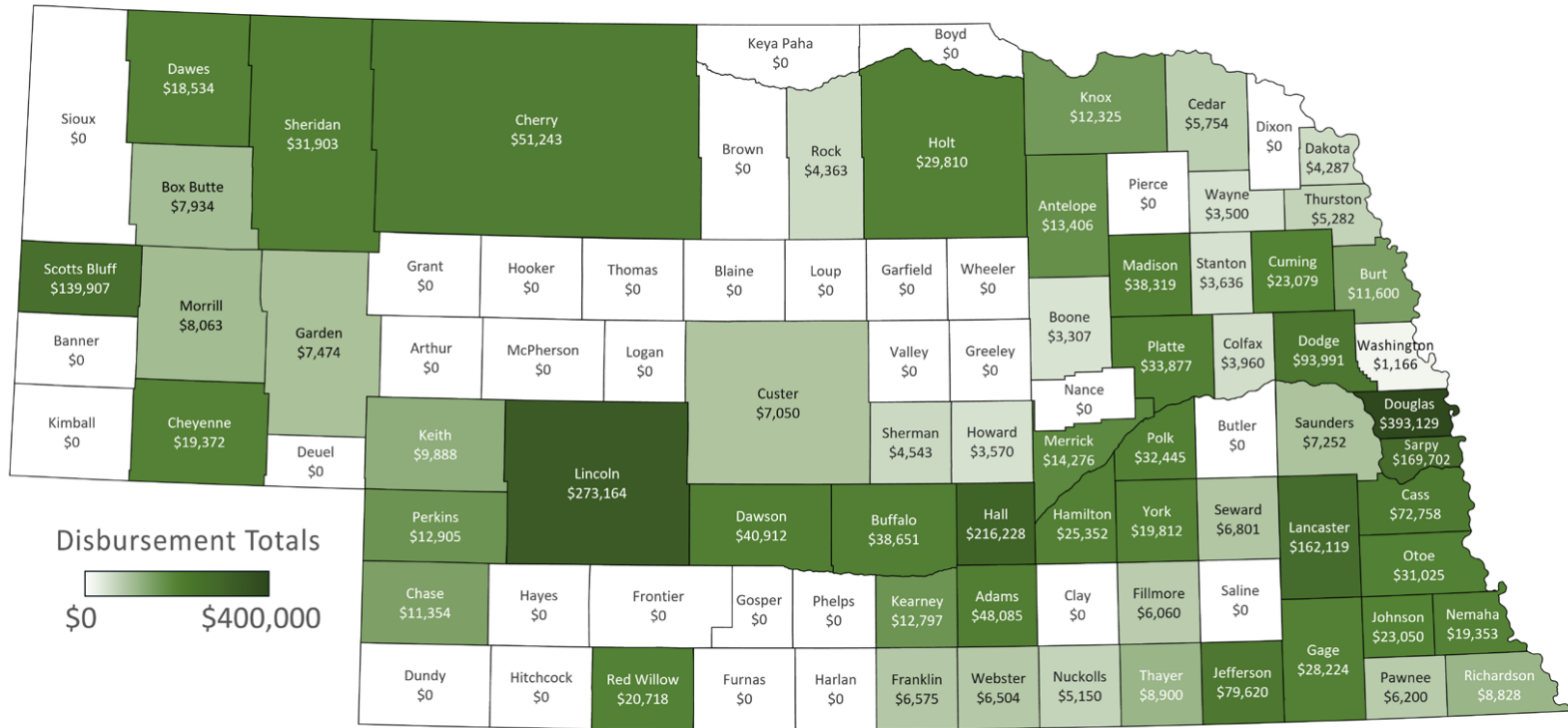
FY 2026 NVA Disbursements by Category

NVA funds can be used for a variety of expenses from medical bills to burial expenses to rent and utilities. Below, you can see what types of expenses NVA funds were used to cover throughout FY 2026.



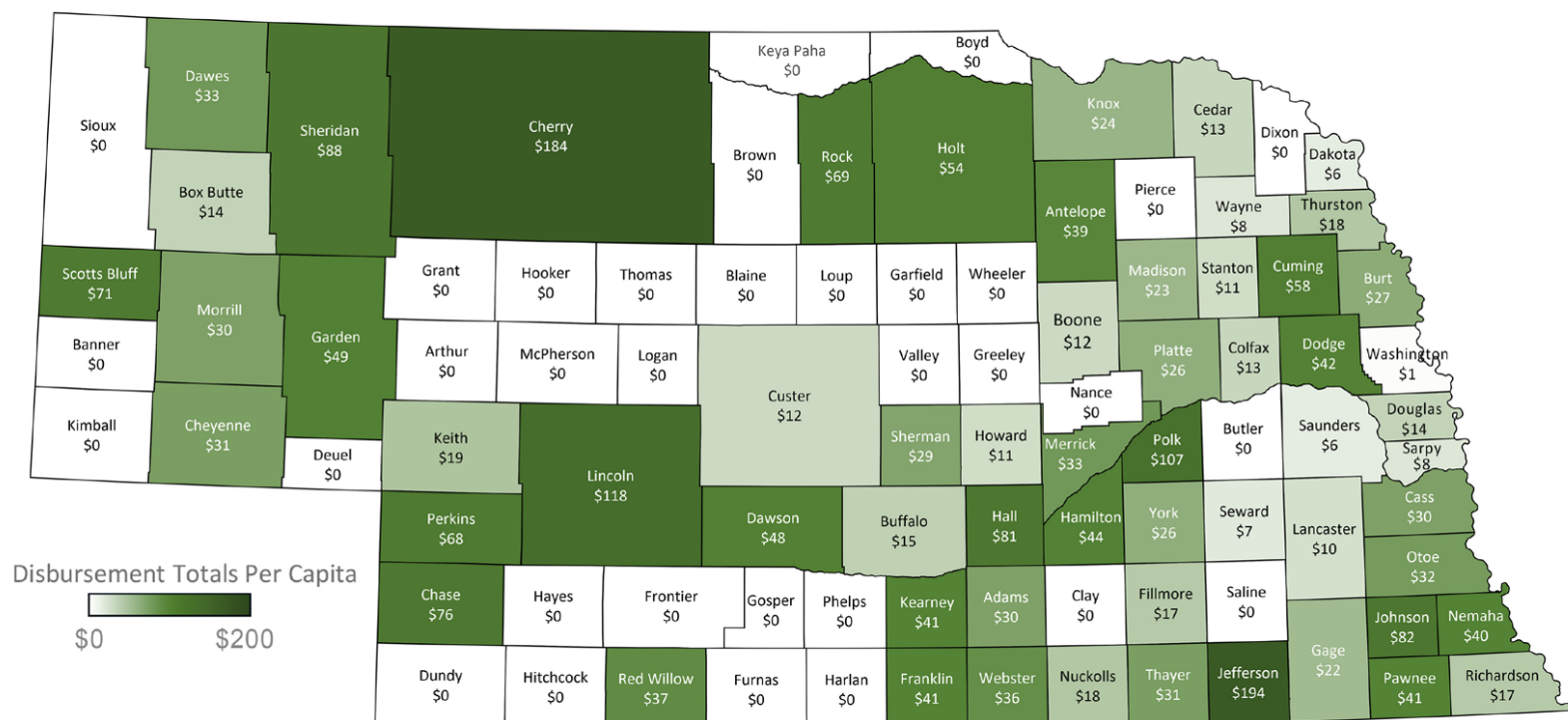
FY 2026 NVA Disbursements by County

This chart shows the amount of NVA funds received by veterans in each Nebraska county during FY 2026. We have worked to grow the number of counties utilizing these emergency funds through education and promotion. In FY 2026, 60 counties utilized NVA, up from 54 counties in FY 2025, which was up from 46 counties in FY 2024.



FY 2026 NVA Disbursements Per Capita

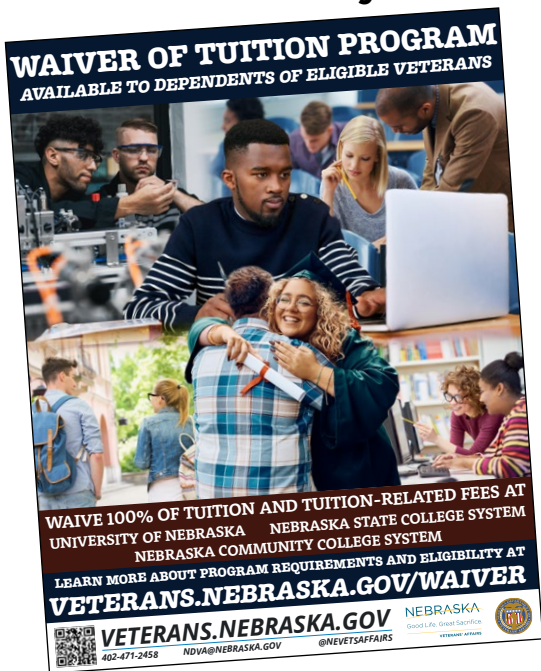
This chart has been adjusted to show NVA funds distributed to each county divided by the estimated veteran population of the county to more accurately reflect the distribution of NVA funds per capita.



WAIVER OF TUITION

The Waiver of Tuition is a state program available to dependents of eligible veterans to help them further their education at Nebraska colleges. It may be used to waive 100% of a student's tuition charges and tuition-related fees to University of Nebraska campuses, Nebraska state colleges, and Nebraska community colleges.

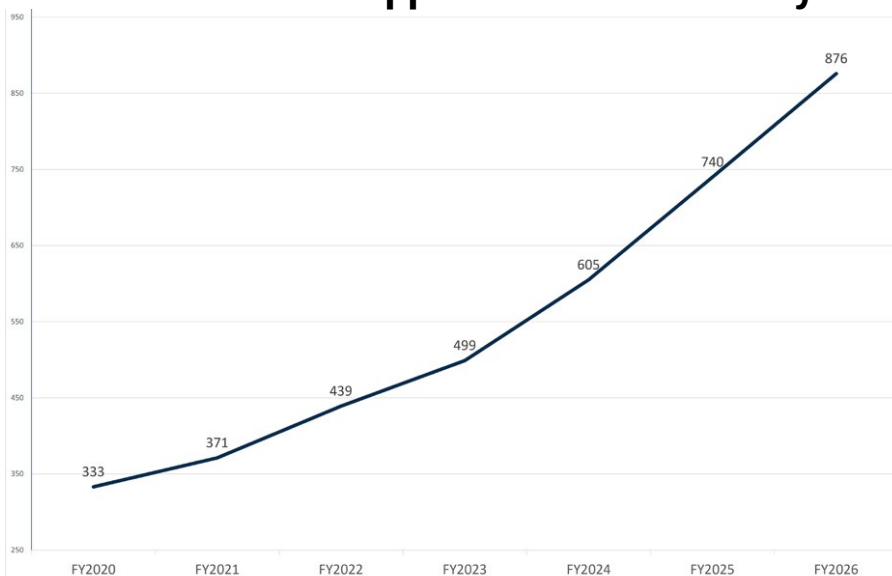
Information on the program is available at veterans.nebraska.gov/waiver.



FY 2026 Waiver Application Data

Applications Received.....	875
Carried Forward from Last Year.....	93
Total Applications.....	969
Approved.....	786
Denied.....	22
Canceled by Applicant.....	55
Carried Forward to Next Year.....	105

Waiver of Tuition Applications Received by Year

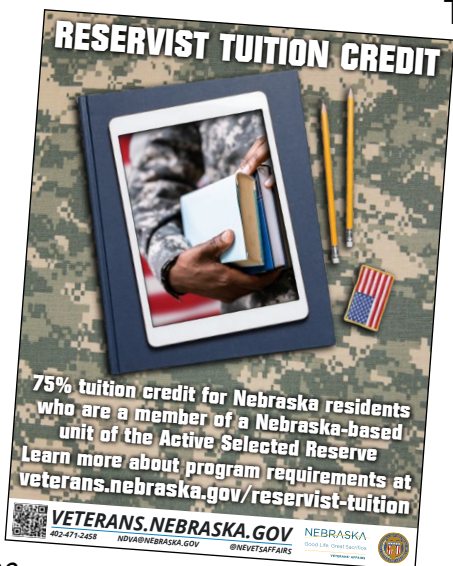


RESERVIST TUITION CREDIT

NDVA also offers a tuition credit to assist Nebraska's reservists in advancing their education at colleges in the state. Nebraska residents who are members of a Nebraska-based unit of the Active Selected Reserve may be eligible for a 75% tuition credit (or 50% if pursuing a graduate or professional degree).

This tuition credit may be granted to up to 200 applicants each calendar year who are attending University of Nebraska campuses, Nebraska state colleges, or Nebraska community colleges.

More information on the Reservist Tuition Credit program is available at veterans.nebraska.gov/reservist-tuition.



FY 2026 Tuition Credit Application Data

Applications Received.....	29
Approved.....	29
Denied.....	0
Re-certifications Approved.....	0

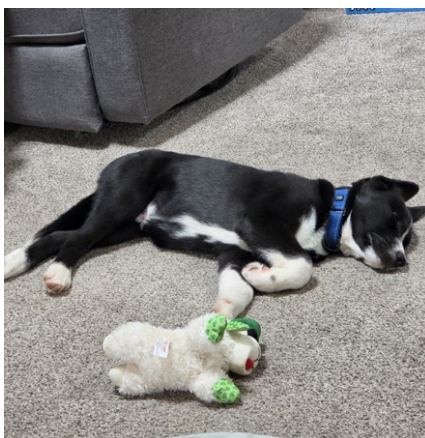
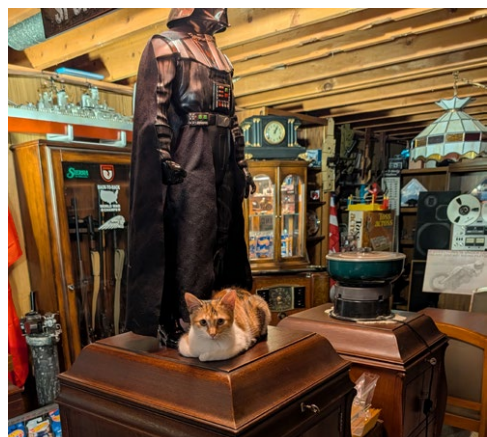
VETS GET PETS

Nebraska veterans can have up to \$350 in rescue pet adoption fees covered through Vets Get Pets when they adopt from a shelter or rescue licensed by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. In FY 2026, we helped 92 veterans bring a new companion animal home. This brings our six-year total since the program launched to 311 vets getting pets!

Funding for the program comes from the sale of the Vets Get Pets license plates, which are available to all Nebraska drivers. Get your plates today or learn more about the program at veterans.nebraska.gov/vetsgetpets.



FY 2026 Vets Get Pets Applications	
Applications Received.....	107
Carried Forward from Last Year.....	9
Approved.....	92
Denied.....	14
Canceled by Applicant.....	8
Pending/Carried Forward.....	2



WELCOME HOME PROGRAM

Our Welcome Home program includes a Welcome Home packet sent to each Nebraska service member when they discharge from service and a Welcome Home Dinner hosted by the governor for these new veterans and their families.

The Welcome Home packet contains a wealth of information on federal benefits and services, state benefits like Nebraska Veterans Aid and Vets Get Pets, resources on employment opportunities and career advancement, and much more. These go out monthly as we receive discharge information for Nebraska service members. **In FY 2026, we sent out 1,036 Welcome Home packets.**

Every service member who has discharged over the past 12 months, as well as their families, is invited to the Welcome Home Dinner. Exhibitors from the VA, state of Nebraska agencies, veterans service organizations, and other veterans support groups and non-profits attend to share resources, promote benefits and services, and showcase employment opportunities with attendees. In addition to food and games for the families, the governor presents each veteran with a special Welcome Home challenge coin to thank them for their service and welcome them back to Nebraska.



Recognizing Nebraska's Living Korean War Veterans

On April 27, 2026 Governor Jim Pillen and NDVA Director John Hilgert announced a state initiative to recognize Nebraska's living Korean War veterans with a specially minted challenge coin.

The challenge coin is available to living veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces between June 27, 1950, and January 31, 1955; are legal residents of Nebraska or can demonstrate Nebraska residency at the time they entered the service; and discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. The VA estimates that of the 55,000 Nebraskans who served in the Korean War, around 2,400 are still living in the state.

The coin comes in a blue velvet presentation case and features the 48-star U.S. flag from the period and the flag of South Korea above the words "Korean War Veteran". Along the outside of the coin it says, "Honoring those who answered the call to defend a country they never knew" and on the back is the NDVA seal.



"Part of NDVA's mission is to recognize and honor Nebraska's veterans and their families," said NDVA Director John Hilgert during the announcement event. "We want to connect with our state's Korean War veterans to thank them for their service, let them know Nebraskans appreciate what they did, and at the same time ensure they're receiving all the benefits they've rightly earned."

As of the printing of this report, nearly 500 Korean War veterans have received a recognition coin in ceremonies around the state, including events at all four of our veterans' homes. The state's largest event was held at Memorial Stadium for Korean War Veterans Armistice Day where 82 veterans were honored. The ceremony featured music by the Nebraska Korean Association Choir, dressed in traditional Korean folk costumes, and remarks from Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Chicago Sangwoo Hong. You can see photos from just a few of these incredible events on the opposite page.



There were over 500 attendees at our Korean War Veterans Armistice Day ceremony at Memorial Stadium, NDVA's biggest recognition ceremony as part of this initiative.

NDVA is continuing to seek out Nebraska's living Korean War veterans to recognize them, and we're partnering with CVSOs, veterans service organizations, local officials, and others to ensure veterans everywhere in the state are able to be presented with this coin. More details on the initiative can be found on our website at veterans.nebraska.gov/korea.

NEBRASKA

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VETERANS' AFFAIRS

