



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

900 EAST MAIN STREET
RICHMOND, VA 23219

*Air Force Association
American Legion
AMVETS
Association of the United States Army
Disabled American Veterans
Fleet Reserve Association
Korean War Veterans Association
Legion of Valor of the U.S., Inc.
Marine Corps League
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Military Officers Association of America
Military Order of the World Wars
National Association for Uniformed Services
Navy Seabee Veterans of America
Non-Commissioned Officers Association
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Reserve Officers Association
Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Vietnam Veterans of America
Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
Virginia National Guard Association
Women Marines Association*

Adopted
July 16, 2014

Revised
December 18, 2014

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Position Paper 2015-06 Veterans Care Centers

1. **OBJECTIVE:** To ensure the continued commitment of the Commonwealth of Virginia to the construction of veterans care centers in Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia.
2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - a. Virginia's veterans care centers deliver skilled nursing, domiciliary, and Alzheimer's/dementia care, and short-term rehabilitation, to Virginia veterans. Virginia currently has 400 beds at veterans care centers in Richmond and Roanoke. A 40-bed addition to the Richmond center is under construction and is expected to open in 2015.
 - b. The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) funds up to 65% of veterans care centers construction projects. States must fund at least 35%.
 - c. The Virginia Department of Veteran Services (DVS) has submitted grant applications to the VA for the construction of new veterans care centers in Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia, each with up to 240 beds.
 - d. The current state funding commitment (35% of project costs) is based on estimates made in 2009, which anticipated construction beginning before 2015. The delay in receipt of federal funds, coupled with new federal design standards (small house concept), drive an increase in project costs.
 - e. For the Hampton Care Center, revised total project costs for a 2017 start date are estimated at \$93,201,375. The state share (35% of project costs) is estimated at \$32,620,481.
 - f. For the Northern Virginia Veterans Care Center, revised project costs for a 2018 start date are estimated at \$96,891,994. The state share (35% of project costs) is estimated at \$33,912,198.
 - g. In order for DVS to request a higher level of federal grant funding (which covers 65% of project costs), the state must first commit to the higher level of state funding (35% of project costs).
3. **DISCUSSION:** Continued state commitment (35% of construction costs) is required for the Commonwealth to be eligible for the receipt of federal grant funding for the Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia veterans care center projects. The state funding commitment should be sufficient to meet anticipated project costs for the next three fiscal years. The increased funding commitment should be included in the Appropriations Act, which will give DVS the authority to request higher federal grant funding levels.
4. **RECOMMENDATIONS:** That the Governor and General Assembly increase the state funding commitment for the Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia veterans care center construction projects, and, once the higher state commitment is approved, that DVS request increased federal grant funding for the two projects.