



STATE OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, LARRY SHELLITO



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Sen. Bruce Anderson, Chair  
Veterans and Military Affairs Committee

Rep. Bob Dettmer, Chair  
Veterans Affairs Division

Sen. Jerry Newton, Minority Lead  
Veterans and Military Affairs Committee

Rep. Paul Rosenthal, Minority Lead  
Veterans Affairs Division

From: Larry Shellito, Commissioner  
Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Shellito", is written over the printed name of the Commissioner.

Date: January 31, 2017

RE: FY16 "Support Our Troops" Account Activity for MDVA

Per Minnesota Statute 190.19, Subdivision 3; the adjutant general and commissioner of veterans affairs must report by February 1 each year to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over military and veterans' affairs on the number, amounts, and use of grants made by each agency from the Minnesota "Support Our Troops" account in the previous year.

The attached report includes the number, amounts, and use of grants and expenditures made by MDVA from the Minnesota "Support Our Troops" account in Fiscal Year 2016.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact me.

Thank you.

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## **Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs**

### **Support Our Troops Grants/Expenditures for FY16**

**\$225,786 – Veterans Service Organizations** – Grants to the American Legion, VFW, Vietnam Veterans of America, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Disabled American Veterans. Funds are used to support the assistance provided to veterans and their families by Congressionally Chartered Veterans Service Organizations. These grants supplement grant funding provided pursuant to Minnesota Laws 2015, Chapter 77, Article 1, Section 37, Subdivision 2.

**\$35,100 – Becker County Veterans Court** – Grant to support the Clay/Becker Veterans Treatment Court which is a specialized criminal court involving veterans charged with felony or gross misdemeanor non-violent criminal offense(s). Assists by diverting eligible veteran-defendants with substance dependency and/or mental illness.

**\$6,300 – DEED Career Fair** – Funding for an interagency agreement with DEED to support their annual Veterans Career Fair in conjunction with Hire a Veteran Month in July.

**\$175,000 – Housing Finance Agency** – Partially funded an interagency agreement with MHFA for the purpose of creating the position of Special Advisor for Ending Veteran Homelessness. The position assisted the State Director to Prevent and End Homelessness in addressing the issue of veteran homelessness in Minnesota.

**\$74,016 – NW Technical College** – Expenditure to support the department's contract with NW Technical College, which provides staff and support services for LinkVet (1-888-LinkVet or <https://linkvet.custhelp.com>) veterans resource and referral system.

**\$50,000 – Lutheran Social Services** – Funding to assist with staff salary and LSS intensive counseling for homeless Hearth Connection Veteran Clients – to move individuals out of the GPD (Grants Per Diem) into independent living with counseling/support services.

**\$12,740 – Veteran Rapid Response** – Funding for logistical support (facility, equipment rental, meals, etc.) for a special effort to provide rapid response services to veterans identified during the annual HUD Point-In-Time Count.

**\$20,000 – Wilder Homeless Survey** – Funding to support the Wilder Foundation's annual Minnesota Homeless Survey as part of our obligations to the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness. Ensures a special report on Homeless Veterans for agency use.

**\$4,181 – Statewide Systems Costs** – Expenditure to support statewide systems costs for SWIFT, SEMA4 and other systems managed by MMB.

**\$603,123 = FY16 Total SOT MDVA Grants/Expenditures**