

# CLARK COUNTY

## VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND



## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT





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# Veterans Assistance Fund Overview

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The Clark County Veterans Assistance Fund (VAF) provides assistance to indigent veterans and their families. The use of the fund was developed in accordance with Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 73.08 and Clark County Ordinance Chapter 2.29 Veterans Relief.

Washington State law established the Veterans Assistance Fund as a source of property tax dollars to be utilized for the needs of indigent veterans and their families. A portion of property tax collected in Clark County is earmarked for the VAF.

The use of the VAF is the responsibility of Clark County through the Department of Community Services with input from the Veterans Resource Committee. The Clark County Board of Commissioners has statutory oversight for the use and expenditures of the fund.

The County, based on recommendation from the Veterans Resource Committee, selects contract agencies through the County's procurement process once every three years. The County is responsible for all contracts, invoices, monitoring and reporting for these funds.

In 2014, the Human Service Council provided Clark County veterans assistance through June 30, 2014. Starting July 1, 2014 the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center administered the fund and provided assistance through their office at 1305 Columbia Street in Vancouver.

Veterans must meet certain eligibility requirements to receive assistance through the Veterans Assistance Fund. Assistance is provided without discrimination and in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, rules, and ordinances.

In 2013, the Veterans Assistance Fund was used to provide the following emergency relief to qualified Veterans:

- Rent Assistance
- Heating and Utilities
- Food Assistance
- Transportation
- Prescription Coverage
- Burial Assistance
- Clothing, Tools and Licensing
- Auto Repair
- Dental Care
- Referral Services

# Veterans Advisory Board

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The establishment of a veterans advisory board is described in the RCW under 73.08.035. The law states that the board shall advise the county legislative authority on the needs of local indigent veterans, the resources available to local indigent veterans, and programs that could benefit the needs of local indigent veterans and their families.

The county legislative authority solicits representatives from local branches of nationally recognized veterans' service organizations and the veterans' community at large to serve on the board. A majority of the board members must come from nationally recognized veterans' service organizations and only veterans are eligible to serve as board members.

The committee meets monthly on the second Thursday of each month. Meetings are televised live on CVTV and also available to download online two days after the meeting date.

Appointed members of the Veterans Advisory Board for 2014 included:

## **POST**

40 et 8  
American Legion #14  
American Legion #168  
American Legion #176  
American Veterans #6  
DAV Chapter #4  
Korean War Vet Assoc #321  
Marine Corps League #826  
VFW #4278  
VFW #7824  
VFW #12028  
Vietnam Vets #512

## **PRIMARY**

Morris Giesler  
Dixie Hotaling  
Robert Nichols  
Michael Gibson  
Richard Alvarez  
Frank Hyatt  
Thomas Dombeck  
Lou Basté  
John Raynor  
Roy Billings  
Skip Benge  
Greg Whitson

## **SECONDARY**

Jerry Keen  
James Resleff  
Richard Langenbach  
Jonathan Frederick  
Benjamin Long  
Thomas Kula  
Robert Sumrill  
Ron Brandon  
Stephen Stetson  
Bruce Maas  
Joseph Fettig

## **Members at Large**

Kevin Lawson

## **Emergency Assistance Provided**

Both the Human Service Council and the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center provided six months of service in 2014. These agencies were contracted by the county to provide county service officers to assist veterans as needed. The County Service Officers interviewed veterans to determine their needs and assisted them with emergency relief through the Veterans Assistance Fund. There is a variety of emergency services available to veterans who meet the eligibility requirements. To be eligible for assistance, a veteran must:

- have an honorable discharge status or a general discharge under honorable conditions with a medical or physical discharge,
- have a household income less than 150% of the annual federal poverty limit, and
- be a current Clark County residency and have proof of Washington State residency for the previous 12 consecutive months.

A copy of the Policies and Procedures that govern the funding amounts and services available along with an application for assistance is available through the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center or online at: <http://www.clark.wa.gov/veterans/>

In June 2014, the Veterans Advisory Board recommended increasing the amount of assistance available to Clark County veterans and the Board of County Commissioners approved this recommendation. (This accounts for the increase shown below in the second half of the year.) In 2014, \$406,867 from the Veterans Assistance Fund was used to provide assistance to veterans.

## Emergency Assistance Provided - continued

January		
	Amount	# of Services
Rent	10,094.20	17
Utility	864.94	7
Food	4,004.95	31
Transportation	552.00	16
Prescription	32.00	1
Burial	300.00	1
Work Related	45.00	1
Auto	1,198.86	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,091.95</b>	<b>77</b>

February		
	Amount	# of Services
Rent	5,425.99	9
Utility	191.69	2
Food	2,472.30	23
Transportation	24.00	2
Prescription	183.69	1
Burial	800.00	1
Work Related	200.00	1
Auto	-	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,297.67</b>	<b>39</b>

March		
	Amount	# of Services
Rent	7,511.50	11
Utility	456.29	2
Food	2,121.04	18
Transportation	166.40	5
Prescription	-	0
Burial	800.00	1
Work Related	183.89	1
Auto	-	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,239.12</b>	<b>38</b>

April		
	Amount	# of Services
Rent	9,887.80	14
Utility	2,096.34	9
Food	2,000.00	18
Transportation	41.00	5
Prescription	-	0
Burial	2,095.00	3
Work Related	199.56	1
Auto	-	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,319.70</b>	<b>50</b>

May		
	Amount	# of Services
Rent	6,601.00	10
Utility	5,070.64	15
Food	2,045.00	19
Transportation	82.30	6
Prescription	24.00	1
Burial	-	0
Work Related	1,082.24	5
Auto	363.51	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,268.69</b>	<b>57</b>

June		
	Amount	# of Services
Rent	\$5,202.50	9
Utility	\$5,389.24	15
Food	\$6,525.00	34
Transportation	\$227.90	8
Prescription	\$0.00	0
Burial	\$0.00	0
Work Related	\$925.91	2
Auto	\$0.00	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,270.55</b>	<b>68</b>

## **Emergency Assistance Provided – continued**

<b>July</b>		
	<b>Amount</b>	<b># of Services</b>
Rent	5,801.43	8
Utility	6,286.09	17
Food	11,120.00	56
Transportation	889.20	19
Prescription	-	0
Burial	-	0
Work Related	620.36	5
Auto	-	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,717.08</b>	<b>111</b>

<b>August</b>		
	<b>Amount</b>	<b># of Services</b>
Rent	\$7,787.78	16
Utility	\$11,027.21	23
Food	\$10,524.14	50
Transportation	\$1,222.00	17
Prescription	\$0.00	0
Burial	\$0.00	0
Work Related	\$89.00	1
Auto	\$2,342.72	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32,992.85</b>	<b>110</b>

<b>September</b>		
	<b>Amount</b>	<b># of Services</b>
Rent	10,043.71	15
Utility	5,695.13	17
Food	8,130.00	39
Transportation	1,019.80	17
Prescription	-	0
Burial	-	0
Work Related	2,436.10	6
Auto	2,672.07	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29,996.81</b>	<b>98</b>

<b>October</b>		
	<b>Amount</b>	<b># of Services</b>
Rent	9,666.32	16
Utility	5,323.72	15
Food	6,450.00	46
Transportation	707.25	19
Prescription	280.00	0
Burial	667.56	1
Work Related	3,822.35	14
Auto	3,762.97	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30,680.17</b>	<b>119</b>

<b>November</b>		
	<b>Amount</b>	<b># of Services</b>
Rent	11,967.32	18
Utility	4,290.04	16
Food	8,165.00	49
Transportation	493.25	14
Prescription	-	0
Burial	-	3
Work Related	1,274.40	10
Auto	7,818.53	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34,008.54</b>	<b>110</b>

<b>December</b>		
	<b>Amount</b>	<b># of Services</b>
Rent	5,090.29	9
Utility	806.22	8
Food	8,425.00	46
Transportation	469.25	13
Prescription	411.99	3
Burial	667.56	1
Work Related	1,599.62	6
Auto	5,163.87	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,633.80</b>	<b>94</b>

**In 2014, a total of \$277,892 was provided for 1,042 services to 745 veterans in need.**

## Services Provided – CCVAC

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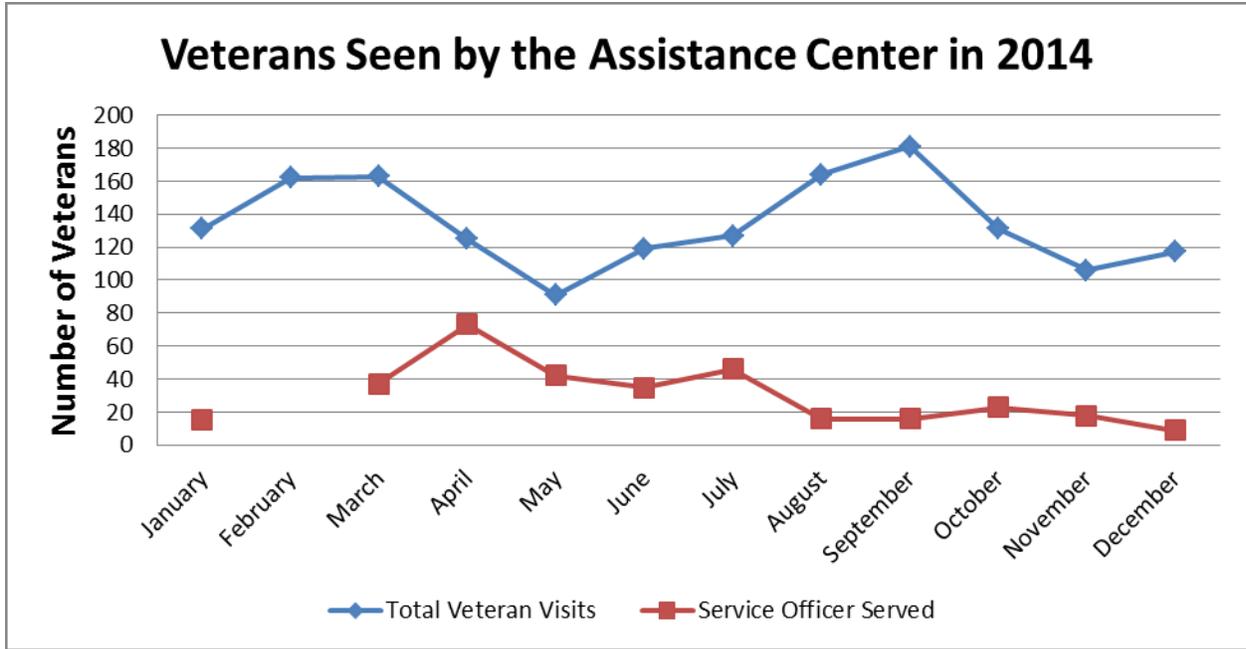
Since the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center (CCVAC) opened in May 2011 they have served thousands of veterans in our community. The Center is open from 9 AM to 4 PM, five days a week and is staffed entirely by volunteers. The Veterans Assistance Fund pays rent for the Center on Columbia Street.

Volunteers help veterans transitioning back into the community with employment, physical and mental health issues, homelessness, family issues, Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits and other referrals. Service Officers from DAV Chapter 4 and the American Legion volunteer to assist veterans in completing required forms for filing claims through the federal VA. The Veterans Assistance Center is also responsible for coordinating the annual Veterans Stand Down (see page 10).

Month	VAC Visits	Service Officer Visits	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Value*
January	131	15	626	\$ 14,192.60
February	162	N/A	512	\$ 11,617.28
March	163	37	546	\$ 12,388.74
April	125	73	560	\$ 12,706.40
May	91	42	589	\$ 13,364.41
June	119	35	655	\$ 14,861.95
July	127	46	645	\$ 14,635.05
August	164	16	587	\$ 13,319.03
September	181	16	379	\$ 8,588.17
October	131	23	442	\$ 10,028.98
November	106	18	404	\$ 9,166.76
December	117	9	532	\$ 12,071.08
	<b>1,617</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>6,476</b>	<b>\$ 146,940.44</b>

\*Based on the independent sector value of volunteer labor for Washington State, \$22.69/hour.

# Services Provided – CCVAC – continued



## Services Provided – Free Clinic Dental

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Clark County contracts with the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington to provide two seven-hour clinics per month for low-income veterans. Veterans receive urgent dental care only, as recommended by the Clinic, and cannot be provided specialty care and/or cosmetic dental procedures. Services include exams, x-rays, fillings, restorations and extractions as needed.

Patients are referred through the County Service Officer and must meet the eligibility requirements for the Veterans Assistance Fund. With the passage of the Affordable Care Act, veterans earning up to 138% of poverty are now eligible for dental care through Medicaid. Since dental care is a high priority need and not easily addressed through the VA system, the Veterans Advisory Board recommended allowing veterans earning up to 200% of poverty access to dental care. Other types of assistance through the fund can only be provided to veterans earning less than 150% of poverty.

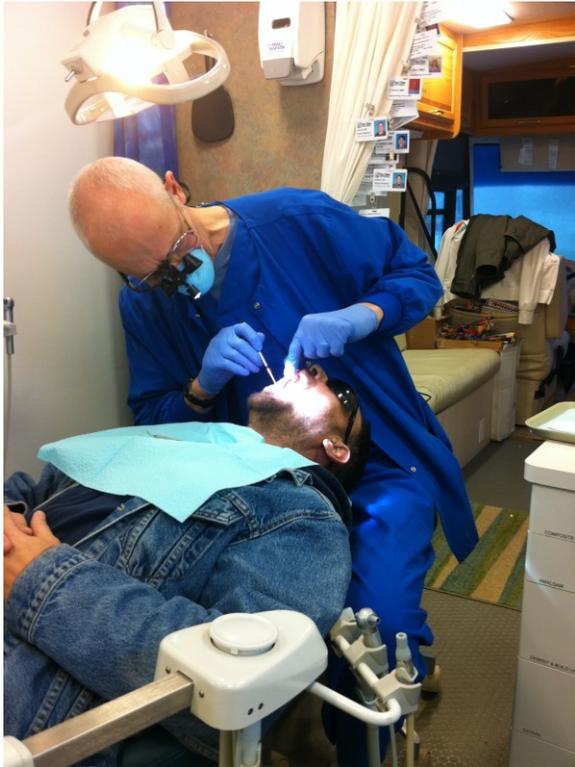
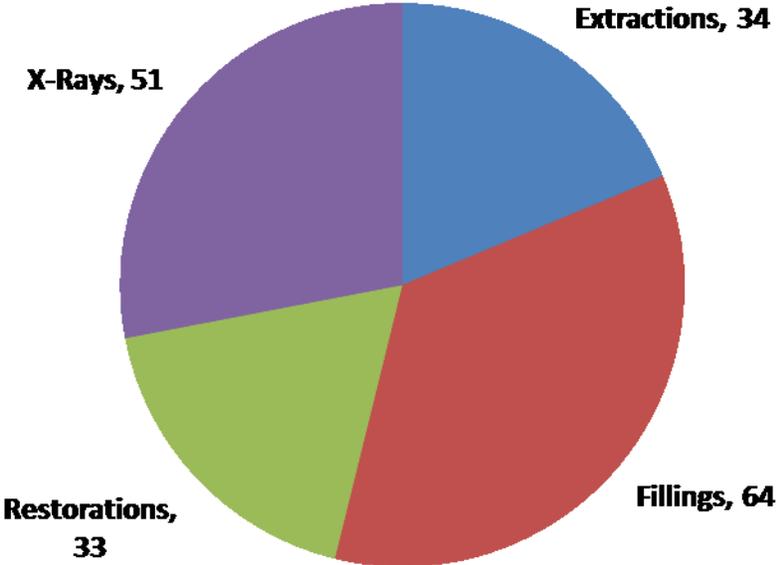
	<b>Veterans Served</b>	<b>Billed Amount</b>	<b>Value of Service</b>
January	7	942.54	2,515.00
February	10	1,550.56	2,353.00
March	7	758.01	1,982.00
April	8	934.98	2,002.00
May	8	1,136.38	1,540.00
June	7	994.40	1,187.00
July	9	897.49	2,456.00
August	0*	843.00	5,039.00
September	6	1,354.00	785.00
October	5	933.19	1,160.00
November	5	1,367.56	2,446.00
December	6	866.73	1,970.00
	<b>78</b>	<b>12,578.84</b>	<b>25,435.00</b>

The Veterans Assistance Fund paid only 50% percent of the value for the services provided.

\*During the month of August, dental services were provided to multiple veterans at the Veterans Stand Down held at the Armed Forces Reserve Center.

# Services Provided - Free Clinic Dental - continued

## 2014 Dental Services



## Services Provided – Annual Veterans Stand Down

The annual Stand Down event was held on August 13, 2014 at the Armed Forces Reserve Center. Immediate assistance included hot meals, showers, haircuts, clothes and hygiene items, health and dental services. This year, the Veterans Assistance Fund supported the Stand Down with a total of \$2,118. Clothes, backpacks, boots and other necessities for veterans were distributed throughout the year and at the Stand Down.

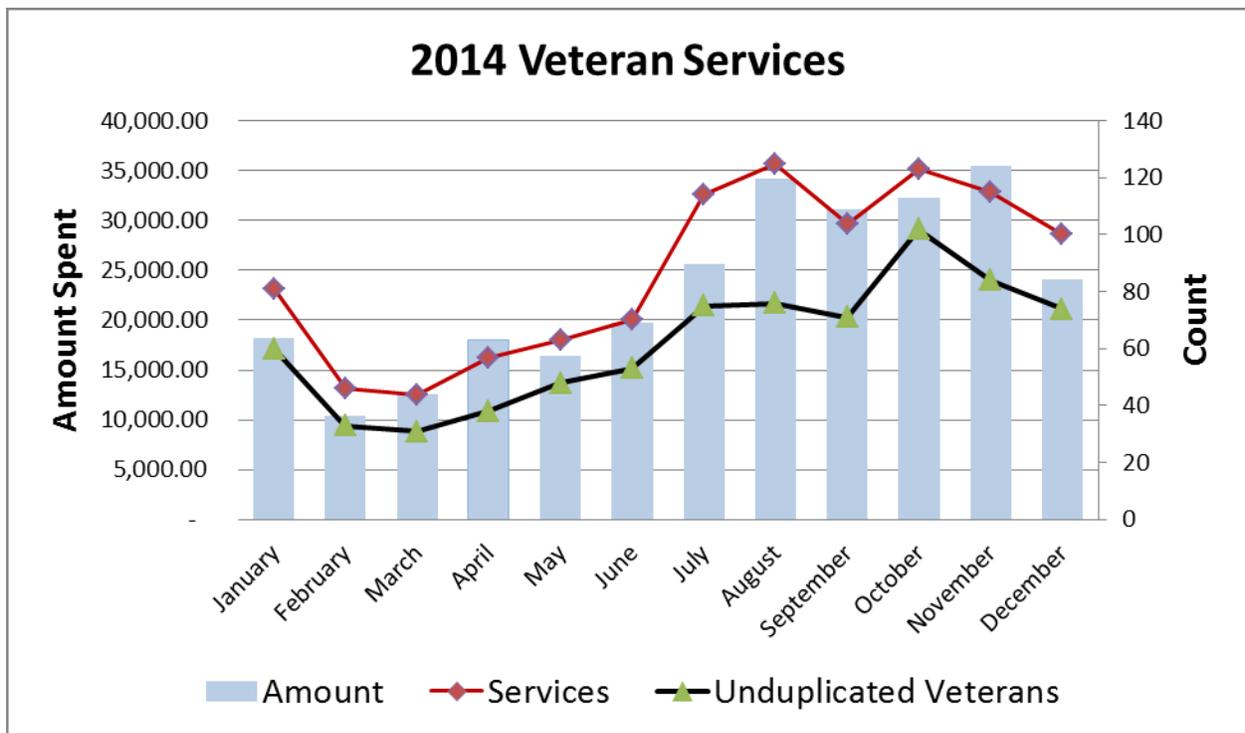
The stand down was coordinated by the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center. The one-day event saw a total of 143 veterans, who were helped by 50 volunteers and 45 service providers.



# Funding and Demand for Services

After reducing services to veterans in June 2013, the Veterans Advisory Board recommended increasing the amount of assistance available to veterans in June 2014. This accounts for the growth in services provided and amount spent shown in the second half of the year. Because of the increased services and funding provided, the Veterans Assistance Fund balance diminished and the county commissioners agreed to allocate additional funds for veterans in 2015.

In the last quarter of 2014, Bob Stevens with the County Budget Office met with the Veterans Advisory Board and informed the group that the commissioners intended to raise the tax levy for the Veterans Assistance Fund to the statutory minimum, or one and one-eighth cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. Since 2000, the amount collected by the county was less than this minimum because of a fund balance that exceeded the expected yield of the minimum levy. Because of this change, the fund is expected to yield approximately \$430,000 in 2015.



# Revenue and Expense Report

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## Veteran's Assistance Fund – Fund 1019

	<u>Total</u>
<b>Fund Balance as of January 1, 2014</b>	<b>\$443,270.99</b>
<b>Revenue:</b>	
Tax Revenues	363,007.55
Timber Revenue	3,701.33
Miscellaneous Revenue	3,905.41
Prior Period Adjustment	(1,342.37)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$369,271.92</b>
<b>Expense:</b>	
Salaries:	
Program Staff	24,368.30
Finance	5,538.38
Contracts	3,884.28
Operating Expenses	25,857.97*
<b>Contracted Services:</b>	
Human Service Council	137,475.07
SW Washington Free Clinic Dental	12,579.04
Veterans Assistance Center Lease	24,440.00
Veterans Stand Down	2,578.00
Veterans Assistance Center Contract	229,795.61
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$466,516.65</b>
<b>Fund Balance as of December 31, 2014</b>	<b>\$344,683.89</b>

\*Operating expenses include: Supplies, travel and indirect expenses for VAF programs.

# Contact Information

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## Board of County Councilors

Tom Mielke, District 1  
David Madore, Chair, District 2  
Jeanne E. Stewart, District 3

Mark McCauley, County Manager  
P.O. Box 5000  
Vancouver, WA 98666-5000  
[boardcom@clark.wa.gov](mailto:boardcom@clark.wa.gov)  
360-397-2232

[www.clark.wa.gov](http://www.clark.wa.gov)

## Clark County Staff

Pete Munroe, Program Manager  
Clark County Community Services  
P.O. Box 5000  
Vancouver, WA 98666-5000  
[Pete.munroe@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Pete.munroe@clark.wa.gov)  
360-397-2130, ext. 7801

Samantha Whitley, Program Coordinator  
Clark County Community Services  
P.O. Box 5000  
Vancouver, WA 98666-5000  
[Samantha.whitley@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Samantha.whitley@clark.wa.gov)  
360-397-2130, ext. 7842

[www.clark.wa.gov/veterans](http://www.clark.wa.gov/veterans)

## Clark County Veterans Assistance Center

Judy Russel, Administrator  
1305 Columbia Street  
Vancouver, WA 98660  
[vetfund@ccvac.net](mailto:vetfund@ccvac.net)  
360-693-7030

[www.ccvac.net](http://www.ccvac.net)