

# New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services

Legislative Finance Committee FY23 Budget Briefing

October 27, 2021

Sonya Smith, DVS Cabinet Secretary

# “Every day is Veterans’ Day”

Mission: To provide the highest quality care, service, and advocacy for veterans and their family members

Vision: To recognize and serve all generations of veterans and their family members and approach each day as Veterans’ Day



<https://www.nmdvs.org>

(505) 383-2400

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# Areas of Responsibility

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**Field Services:** Veteran advocates, assisting veterans and eligible family members with filing federal claims and applying for state benefits.

**State Benefits:** Manages state veterans' benefits, memorials, and state cemeteries.

**Healthcare:** Educates veterans about available health benefits and connects veterans to community resources; manages transportation and homeless initiatives.

**State Approving Agency (SAA):** Reviews, audits, and approves state educational institutions to receive GI Bill® education benefits funding.\*

**Veteran Business Outreach Center (VBOC):** Assists veterans, reserve component members, and their eligible spouses with business planning, funding, marketing, and all other assistance needed to start or grow a business.

*\*GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government website at <https://benefits.va.gov/qibill>.*



## Veteran Population:

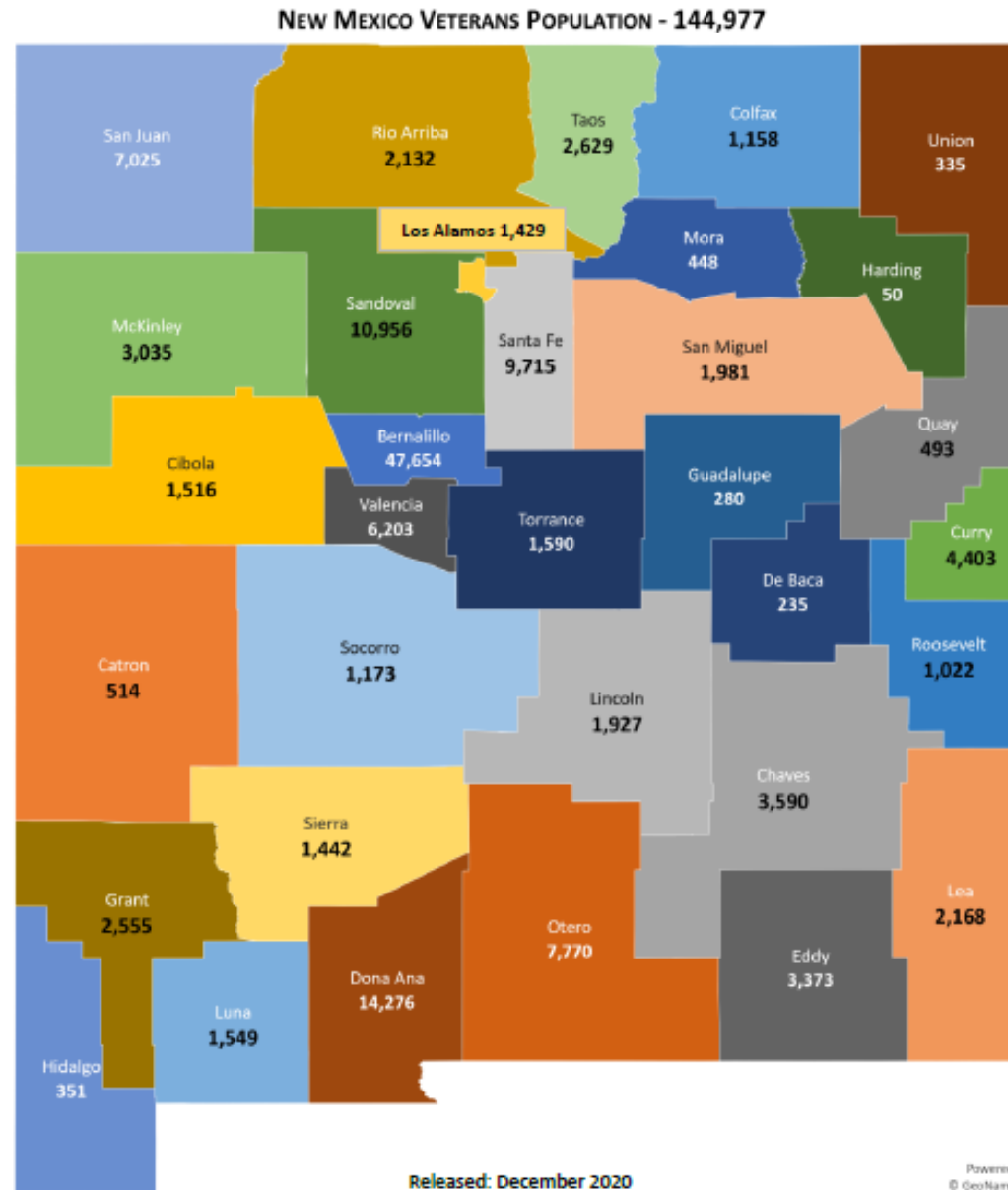
Total: approx. 145K

Nearly half (45%) live in ABQ Statistical Metro Area (Bernalillo, Sandoval, Valencia, and Torrance)

Most populous conflict period: Vietnam (40%)

Largest age bracket: 65-74 (27%)

Women veterans: 10%



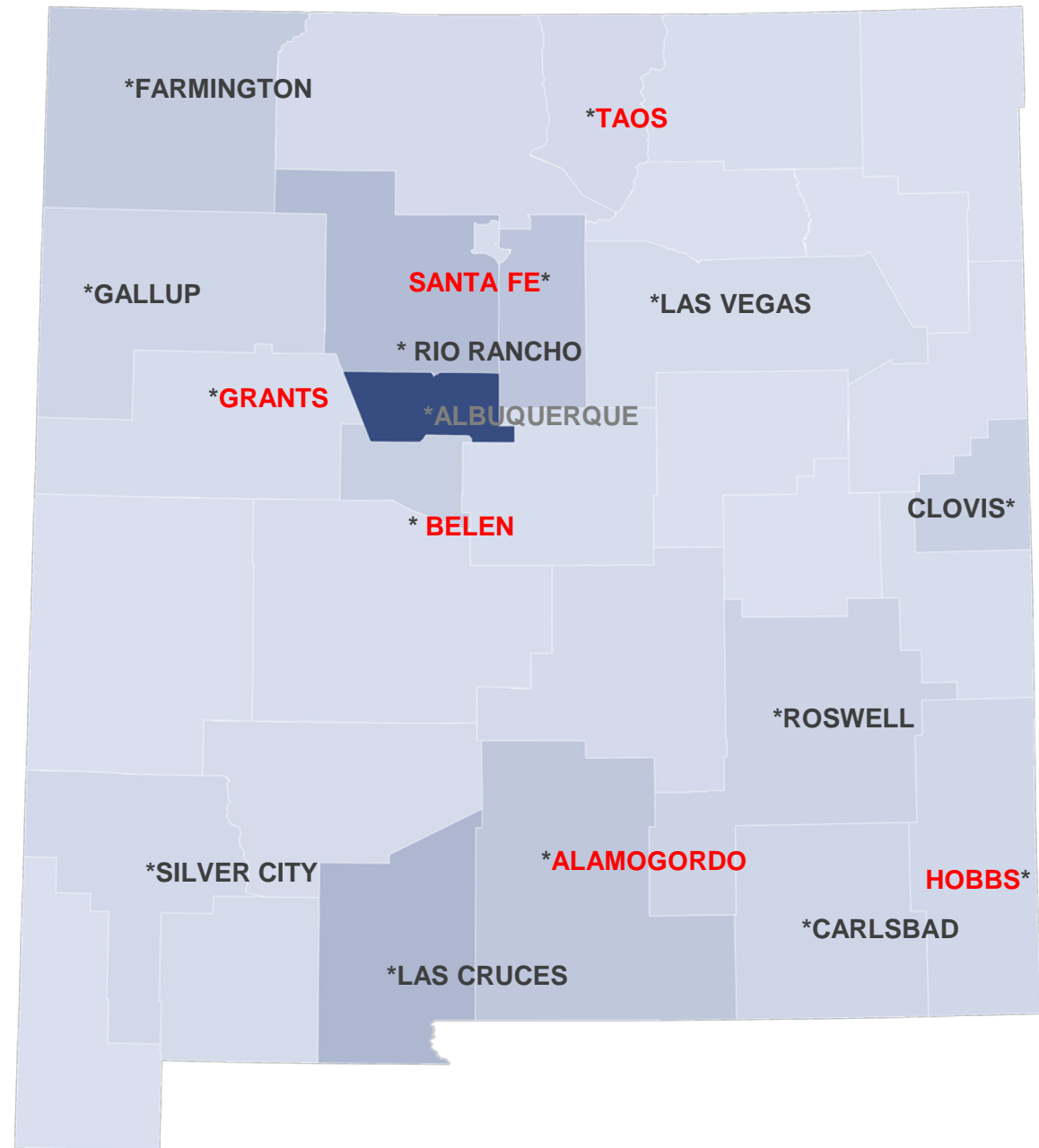
Source: US Census



## NMDVS Field Offices:

Albuquerque (2)	Las Cruces
Alamogordo*	Las Vegas
Carlsbad	Rio Rancho
Clovis	Roswell
Farmington	Santa Fe*
Gallup (2)	Silver City
Grants*	Belen* (Planned)
Hobbs*	Taos* (Planned)

Field Services vacancy rate: 6/26







# FY21 Metrics & Accomplishments

# FY 2021 Performance Metrics

## Field Services

	FY20/QTR 1*	FY21/QTR 1	FY22 (1st QTR)
No. of Claims Filed	2100/537	1300/291	491
Overall Office Activity	23000/1993	35000/8435	9800

## State Benefits

State Benefit Applications	FY20/QTR 1	FY21/QTR 1	FY22 (QTR 1)
Tax Exemption	2901/527	2900/402	462
Disable Tax Exemption	1033/300	979/179	228
License Plates	1225/402	489/89	207
Park Passes	692/216	472/112	45
Game & Fish	458/149	382/92	103
State Scholarships	54/25	72/26	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>6309/1619</b>	<b>5222/900</b>	<b>1070</b>

## VBOC

	FY20/QTR 1	FY21/QTR 1	FY22 (QTR 1)
No. of Business Contracts	51/11	35/6	13
Amt. of Federal Awards	3.9M/600K	2.4M/135K	1.3M

## SAA

	FY19	FY20	FY21
No. of Programs Approved	105	100	94
Amt. of Fed. Ed. Funding	73M	66M	66M (Estimate)



# FY21 Accomplishments

**COVID Response:** Collaborated with DOH and VAMC on vaccine outreach and messaging.

**Highly Rural Transportation Grant (HRTG):** NMDVS received its first HRTG in FY21 for 9 counties – Cibola, Colfax, Guadalupe, Harding, Mora, Quay, San Miguel, Socorro, and Union. Completed rides – 144 rides, most of which in the last quarter.\*

**Women Veteran Program:** Hired program coordinator. Successful Women Veterans' Day.

**Angel Fire opening:** Angel Fire opened in summer 2020. Total number of internments to date – 62.







# Current Initiatives

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## **HRTG Renewed and Expanded:**

Nine counties were originally selected for last FY's pilot: Cibola, Colfax, Guadalupe, Harding, Mora, Quay, San Miguel, Socorro, and Union. FY22 Grant now covers all 15 counties designated highly rural areas, adding Catron, De Baca, Hidalgo, Lincoln, Sierra, and Torrance.

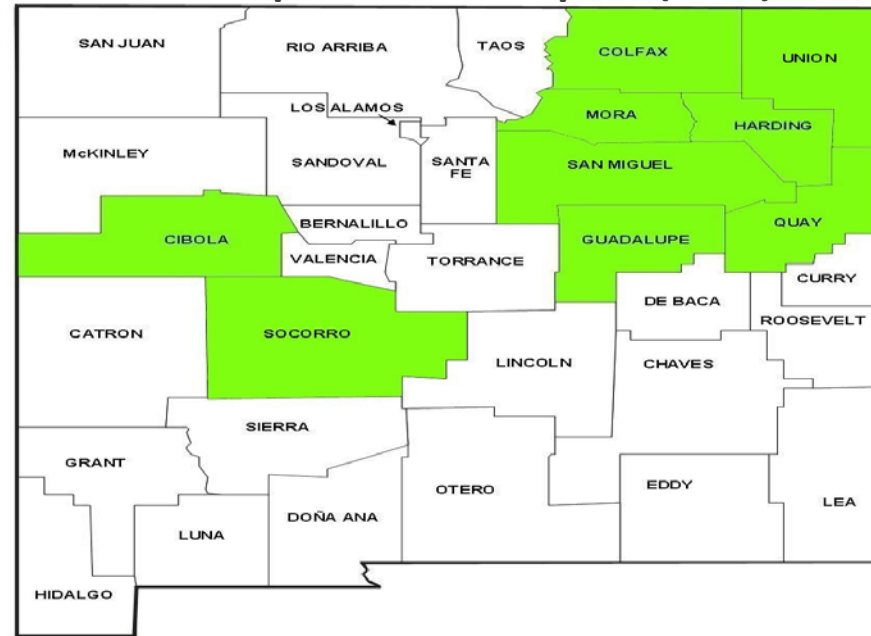
Rides for the original nine counties continue; the agency is currently establishing contracts for the additional six counties.



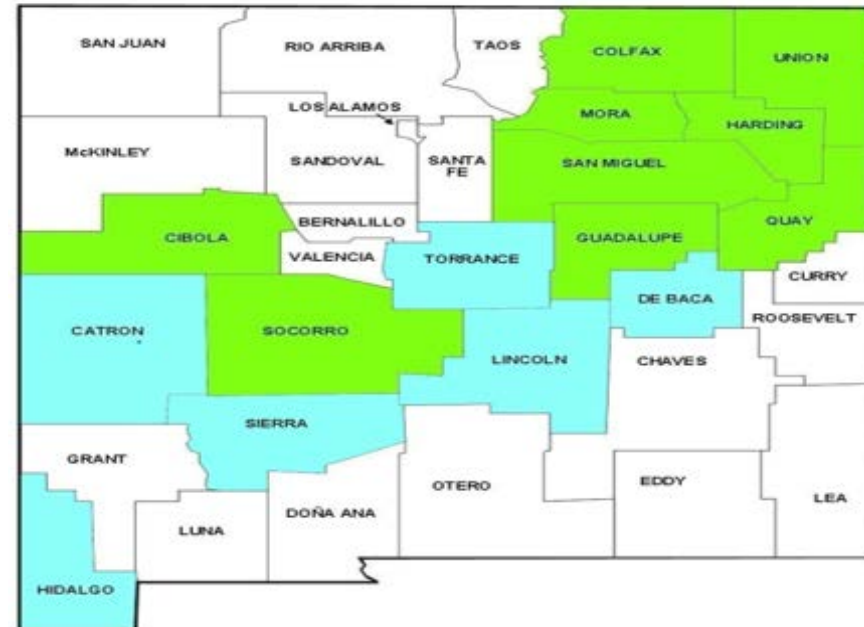




## HRTG Operational Footprint (FY21)



## HRTG Operational Footprint (FY22)



# Current Initiatives (Cont'd)

## Education Awareness:

- Media campaign
- Leveraging state and non-profit partners

## Expanding Services:

- DWS Partnership
- Permanently deployed outreach specialists
- Remote access program

Carlsbad veteran cemetery application preparation







(© Kathy Willens/AP Images)



# FY23 Budget Request



# FY23 BUDGET REQUEST

	FY22 Operating Budget	FY23 Agency Request		
SOURCES		Base	Expansion	Total
GF	5,165.60	6,071.3	546.2	6,617.5
Other	76.00			-
Federal	697.00	714.7		714.7
Other	209.40	200.0		200.0
	6,148.00	6,986.0		7,532.2
USES				
Personnel	4,682.80	5,038.9	536.2	5,575.1
Contractual	453.60	559.8		559.8
Other	1,011.60	1,387.3	10.0	1,397.3
	6,148.00	6,986.0	546.2	7,532.2
FTE				
Permanent	63.0	63.0	10.00	73.0
Term	4.0	4.0		4.0
	67.0	67.0	10.00	77.0



The New Mexico  
Department of  
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Questions/Comments?  
Our Veterans Thank You!