

New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services

Legislative Finance Committee FY22 Briefing

November 16, 2020

Sonya Smith, DVS Cabinet Secretary Designate

“Serving Those Who Served”

Mission: To provide the highest quality care, service, and advocacy for the men and women—and their eligible family members—who have served as members of the United States Armed Forces.

Vision: To be the premier agency that anticipates and meets the changing needs of New Mexico’s veterans and their families.





Areas of Responsibility

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 and counsels veterans about available health benefits and connects veterans to community resources.

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>.*

Key Leadership

Cabinet Secretary-Designate, Sonya Smith

Deputy Secretary, Bryan Osterhage

Field Services Director, Larry Campos

State Benefits Director, Ed Mendez

Healthcare Director, Jemia Warner

SAA Bureau Chief, Marilyn Dkyman

VBOC Director, Richard Coffel

CFO and acting ASD Director, Monica Maestas



Veteran Population

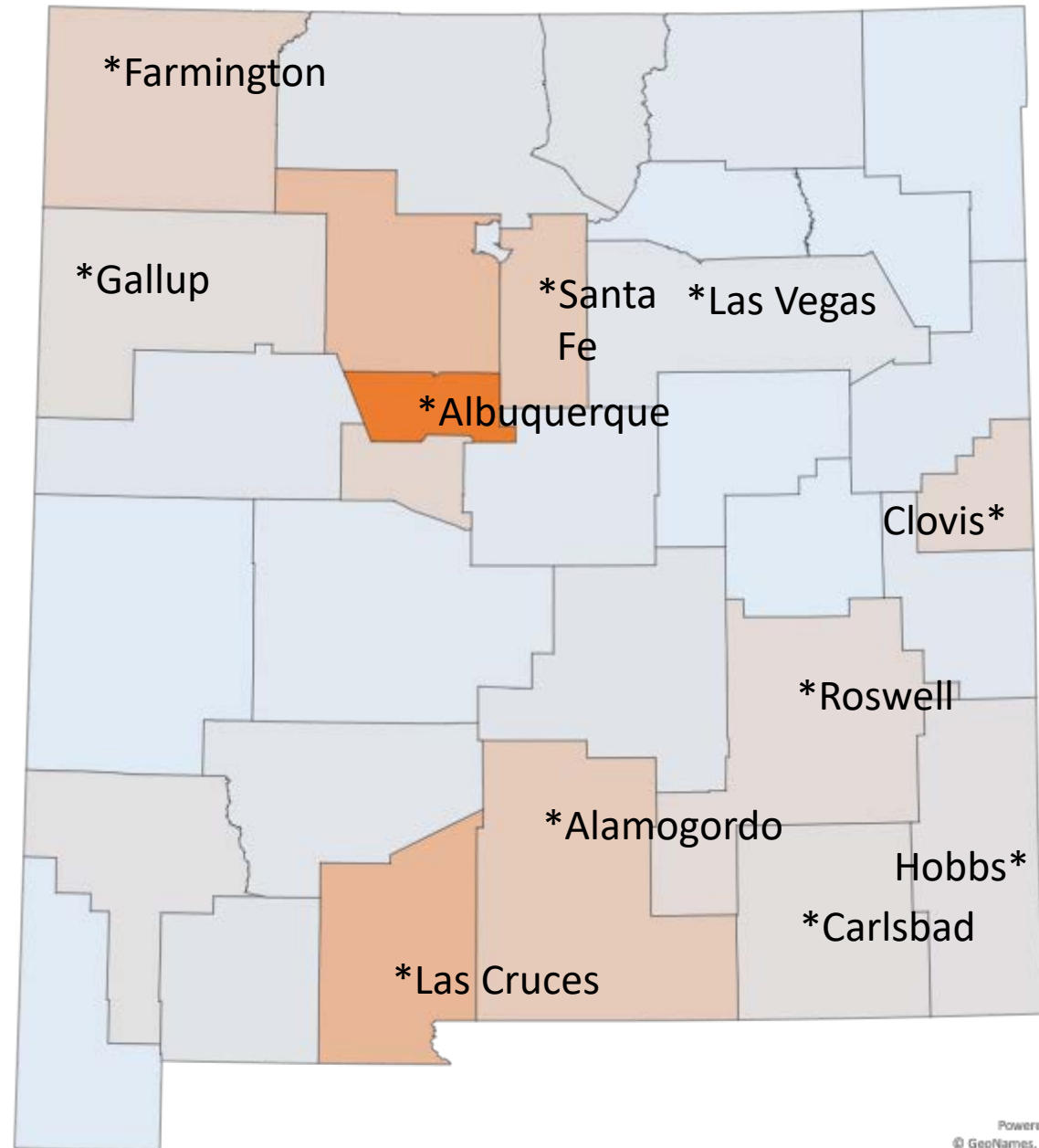
154,172 veterans

53,269 veterans over 65 (34%)

21,621 veterans over 80 (14%)

16,710 women veterans (11 %)

78,341 veterans in the
Albuquerque Metro Area (51%)





FY20 Accomplishments



Federal Economic Impact	
VSO Services	\$12,000,000
SAA	\$73,000,000
VBOC	\$3,800,000
Cemetery Projects	\$2,500,000
Total Federal Dollars	\$91,300,000

FY20 Accomplishments

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> 25,000 veterans served

7,760 state benefit applications processed

8,719 federal claims filed

- **Federal claims generated nearly \$7,000,000 in federal dollars in FY19; FY20 estimates exceed \$12,000,000**

2,660 educational programs approved*

- **> \$73,000,000 received in federal funding into the state economy in FY19;* FY20 estimates are comparable**

51 federal contract awards for state businesses

- **> \$3,800,000 received in federal contract awards**

Angel Fire construction completed

- **> \$3,125,000 in federal funding; \$>2,500,000 spent in FY20**



FY20 Accomplishments

Seamless continuation of services during COVID

Tribal Collaboratives

Veteran Recognition

Host – Southwest Veterans Business Conference

New Mexico Infrastructure Finance Conference Best Practice Award

Abraham Lincoln Pillars of Excellence Award





FY21 Initiatives

FY21 Initiatives

Access to Care

- Highly Rural Transportation Grant

Expanding Service Coverage

- Creating external partnerships to help provide services in underserved areas

Premiere Customer Service

- Enhancing feedback collection and communication and establishing/maintaining new modes of connecting to veterans

Continued FY20 Initiatives

- Women's veteran issues, homelessness, behavioral health





FY22 Budget Snapshot

DVS Central (P726)	FY21 Operating Budget	FY22 Budget Request
General Fund	5,227.0	4,965.6
Federal Funds	595.0	595.0
Other	150.0	150.0
Total	5,972.0	5,710.6
FTEs	67	67



Questions/Comments?
Our Veterans Thank You!

The New Mexico
Department of
Veterans Services

www.nmdvs.org

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