

Ohio Needs Additional State Veterans Homes

Visit our website at: <https://www.ohamvets.org/stateveteranshome>

ABOUT THIS CRITICAL ISSUE

Ohio is home to nearly 700,000 Veterans, including 300,000 who are age 65 or older. Yet the state operates only two State Veterans Homes (SVHs)— located in Erie County (Sandusky) and Brown County (Georgetown). These homes sit at the northernmost and southernmost borders of Ohio, leaving major Veteran population centers underserved. Central Ohio residents are two hours from either home, and Cleveland is over one hour from Sandusky. For many, relocating far from family and community for long-term care is not feasible.



Scan the QR Code

Visit our webpage, this is a developing site but we hope to use this platform to support the expansion of State Veterans Home accessibility.

WHY NEW SVHS ARE NEEDED

State Veteran Homes (SVHs) offer Veteran-centric care, camaraderie, shared experience, and strong community support from local VSOs, boosting moral and overall health. Ohio ranks near the bottom nationally in the number of SVH nursing beds compared to its Veteran population, currently having only 28% of the beds the VA says the state qualifies for. Veterans deserve the opportunity to age in place near family and community.

HOW SVH CONSTRUCTION IS FUNDED

State Veteran Homes (SVHs) are operated by the Ohio Department of Veterans Services (ODVS) as part of a federal-state partnership.

- 65% federal funding
- 35% state funding (must be approved in Ohio's state budget before Ohio's new SVH can join the federal priority list)
- Estimated cost for a new home: \$140 million for a 128-bed facility
- Ohio cannot compete for federal construction grants until the state commits its 35% share under current federal guidelines.
- *There are efforts underway to have the state fund the full construction cost upfront and seek reimbursement for the 65% federal share. This would allow Ohio to begin construction sooner while avoiding higher costs 10 years from now.*

KNOWING THE FACTS



Ohio Has Only 2 State Veterans Homes out of the 177 veteran homes nationwide



Ohio Ranks in the Bottom Half Nationally in State Veteran Homes Bed Capacity



New Homes Require State Action First. Ohio must commit 35% of construction funding in an approved state budget before it can even join the federal priority list to compete for remaining federal funding.

APPROXIMATE COST TO THE VETERAN

For a Veteran with \$1,500/month income:

- Skilled Nursing/Memory Care: ~ \$1,350/month
- Domiciliary Care: ~ \$687/month
- (About one-third of private care costs.)

THE URGENCY

Ohio is far behind other states—Michigan has built two new homes in the last five years and has a third SVH currently under construction. To secure federal funding and begin construction within the next decade, Ohio must include its 35% share in an approved state budget as soon as possible.