

**Ohio needs additional State Veterans Home (SVH) capacity** for Veterans requiring skilled nursing care and domiciliary residence in Ohio. Out of the 172 SVHs nationally, Ohio only has 2 homes; one each located in the most Northern and Southern counties; the **Sandusky Home** is in Erie County & the **Georgetown Home** is in Brown County. Our Wartime Veterans deserve a Veteran centric home to age in place.

**Ohio is the 7th largest Veteran State with almost 700,000 Veterans, 300,000 are 65 and over - There are no SVHs within significant Veteran populations: For example, Central Ohio is 2 hours from either current SVH and Cleveland is over an hour from the Sandusky SVH. Our Veterans will not travel one to two hours to spend their final years in a unfamiliar town miles from family and friends.**

The Ohio 2023-2024 operating budget included \$65M to modernize our two current homes but is waiting on federal funds

**State Veterans Homes provide many advantages to Veteran care, health and morale.** It starts with the camaraderie that Veterans felt when they were still serving their nation, an endeavor that for many included significant time away from family, exposure to harsh environments and injury or loss of fellow service-members and friends. Housed together in SVHs provides a collective knowledge of what many of them experienced in their lives, a shared understanding of how the VA operates to include benefits they may be eligible for, and reinforcement that their service made a difference in our great nation. Our 2 current homes receive significant resources, support and volunteers who lead morale activities from local Veteran Service Organizations—Veterans helping and loving Veterans—these are community homes allowing all citizens & Veterans to give back to their fellow Veterans.

**State Veteran Homes nuts and bolts:** SVHs are state owned and operated by the Ohio Department of Veterans Services (ODVS); the ODVS director is on the Governor's cabinet. The SVH program is a federal-state partnership whereby the VA (VHA) provides assistance: grants to construct, per diem payments per Veteran for care, and funding to support states for hiring and retaining nurses. SVHs are state licensed.

SVH construction would be funded 35% from the state and 65% from the federal government; however, the 35% state portion must be in an approved budget before a state can get on the priority list for the additional 65% federal funding - a competitive process. Estimated new home construction cost is \$130M.

**SVH Cost to a Veteran** who has \$1,500 monthly income would be approximately \$1,350 monthly for skilled nursing or even memory care. Cost for domiciliary care is approximately \$687 1/3 private care cost

**Veteran Eligibility in Ohio** includes: Ohio citizen, active-duty service and service during a war period or conflict, some type of Honorable discharge, some type disability or incapable of earning a living...

**Ohio is not used to being behind, we rank near the bottom in # of SVH nursing beds vs. state Veteran population nationwide.** We have 28% of the nursing beds the VA estimates Ohio is eligible; and therefore should have. Michigan has built 2 new homes in the last 5 years and has a 3rd near the top of the list

**WE need to get on the VA priority list in the near future to see construction of a new home in ten years. This means the state portion of construction costs must be in an approved state budget!**