

# FUNDING FOR THE PEOPLE



## Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

The 2022 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill provides \$284.6 billion, an increase of \$32.7 billion – more than 13 percent – above 2021. Of this amount, discretionary funding for programs such as Veterans’ health care and military construction totals \$127.6 billion, an increase of \$14.4 billion above 2021. The legislation:

- Supports our Veterans with investments in health care, including targeted investments that advance women's health, mental health, and homelessness assistance
- Rebuilds our infrastructure with strong investments to construct critical facilities on military installations including family housing and child development centers, and build, repair, and retrofit Veterans Affairs facilities
- Protects our national security with investments to respond to the challenges posed by Russian and Chinese aggression
- Confronts the climate crisis with increased climate change and resiliency funding to help military installations adapt to rising sea levels and worsening natural disasters
- Responds to natural disasters by providing funding for recovery and rebuilding of damaged installations
- Remediate harmful substances and chemicals leaked into the land and water sources

### Bill Summary:

**Military Construction** – The bill provides a total of \$14.9 billion for military construction – \$6.8 billion above the 2021 enacted level and \$5 billion above the President’s budget request. Of this amount, the bill includes:

- \$224 million for **Child Development Centers**, of which \$33 million is for planning and design for future facilities, and in total is \$204 million above the FY 2022 budget request. The funds will support increased capacity and better facilities for the 1.2 million children of active duty servicemembers worldwide.
- \$1.4 billion for **Family Housing**, an increase of \$87 million above the 2021 enacted level and the same as the budget request. Within this amount, Family

Housing Support and Management is funded at \$116.2 million to address issues such as mold, vermin, and lead in military family housing.

- \$928.9 million for construction or alteration of **Guard and Reserve** facilities in states and territories, an increase of \$332.8 million above the 2021 enacted level and \$259 million above the FY 2022 budget request.
- \$215.9 million for the **NATO Security Investment Program**, an increase of \$42.8 million above the 2021 enacted level and \$10 million above the FY 2022 budget request, for infrastructure necessary for wartime, crisis, and peace support and deterrence operations, and training requirements. The funds will support responses to the challenges posed by Russian aggression as well as the risks and threats emanating from the Middle East and North Africa.
- \$529.6 million for **Base Realignment and Closure**, an increase of \$49.2 million above the 2021 enacted level and \$245 million above the FY 2022 budget request. Within this amount, cleanup of Perfluorooctane Sulfonate and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOS/PFOA) contamination is funded at \$150 million.
- \$4.3 billion for all eligible, authorized **Unfunded Requirement (UFR) projects**.
- \$150 million for **Natural Disaster Recovery Construction**, to be distributed between the Air Force and Navy & Marine Corps.
- \$20 million for the **Army National Guard transformation plan** project planning and design towards future facilities.
- \$1.1 billion for **Barracks for Unaccompanied Soldiers** at various locations, \$787 million above the FY 2022 budget request.
- \$120 million for **Climate Change and Resiliency projects**, which is \$106 million above the FY 2021 enacted level, and \$120 million above the FY 2022 budget request.
- \$625 million for **Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Plan (SIOP)** projects, which is \$465 million above the FY 2021 enacted level, and \$219 million above the FY 2022 budget request.
- \$125 million for planning and design, unspecified minor construction, and authorized major construction projects to address priority **Defense laboratory requirements**.
- \$58.6 million for **INDOPACOM** planning and design to advance future projects.

**Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)** – The bill provides a total of \$112.2 billion in discretionary appropriations for VA, an increase of \$7.8 billion above the 2021 enacted level and \$755 million below the President’s budget request. These resources will serve to expand access to services for Veterans and will boost oversight and accountability across the department. Of this amount, the bill includes:

- \$97.5 billion for **Veterans Medical Care**, an increase of \$7.5 billion above the 2021 enacted level and equal to the President’s budget request. This will provide care for 7.1 million patients expected to be treated by VA in FY 2022. This amount includes:
  - \$13.2 billion for **Mental Healthcare**, an increase of \$2.9 billion above the 2021 enacted level and equal to the President’s budget request, including \$598 million for suicide prevention outreach. This will support the nearly 2 million Veterans who receive mental health services in a VA specialty mental health setting, as well as support suicide prevention services like the Veterans Crisis Line, which saw an increase in demand by over 59 percent in the last year.
  - \$840.4 million for **Gender-specific Care and Programmatic Efforts for Women**, an increase of \$111 million above the comparable 2021 enacted level and \$30 million above the President’s budget request. Women are the fastest growing cohort within the Veteran community, with nearly 561,000 women Veterans using VA health services.
  - \$2.2 billion for **Homeless Assistance Programs**, an increase of \$246 million above the 2021 enacted level and equal to the President’s budget request. This funding will enhance VA’s ability to reach homeless Veterans, which is particularly crucial as the most recent homelessness survey showed that on a given night in January 2021, an estimated 19,750 Veterans were experiencing homelessness.
  - \$621 million for **Opioid Abuse Prevention**, an increase of \$149 million above the 2021 enacted level and equal to the President’s budget request. This funding will allow for more targeted funding of pain management and opioid safety programs primarily at the facility level.
  - \$327.5 million for **Rural Health Initiatives**, an increase of \$27.5 million above the 2021 enacted level and \$20 million above the President’s budget request. This will build upon VA’s success in having served 2.9 million Veterans at 600 rural serving sites.
  - \$84 million for **Whole Health Initiatives**, an increase of \$10 million above the 2021 enacted level and \$10 million above the President’s budget request. This will enable VA to build upon the success of this program that focuses on Veterans’ overall health and well-being, which has already reached 346,629 Veterans, or 7.41 percent of active VA users.
- Additionally, the bill includes \$111.3 billion in advance fiscal year 2023 funding for **Veterans’ medical care** – equal to the President’s budget request. This funding will provide for medical services, medical community care, medical support and compliance, and medical facilities, and ensure that our Veterans have continued, full access to their medical care needs.

- \$882 million for **Medical and Prosthetic Research**, an increase of \$67 million above the 2021 enacted level and equal to the President’s budget request. This funding will allow VA to fund approximately 2,563 total projects, support more than 1,700 researchers, and partner with more than 200 medical schools and other academic institutions.
- \$2.5 billion to continue implementation of the **VA Electronic Health Record Modernization** initiative, \$127 million below the 2021 enacted level and \$163 million below the President’s budget request. These funds will allow VA to support continued deployment of the new electronic health record (EHR) system at VA medical centers and allow for intensive staff training, critical to the success of the effort. The bill also continues robust oversight of this program, including by the Government Accountability Office, to ensure that the EHR system is implemented in a timely and efficient manner.
- \$2.2 billion for **VA Construction**, an increase of \$458 million above the 2021 enacted level and equal to the President’s budget request. Within this amount, \$1.6 billion is for Major Construction and \$553 million is for Minor Construction. This increase will support VA’s highest priority projects and correct critical seismic and safety deficiencies and address other performance gaps at VA facilities to ensure that Veterans can access care in modern facilities that are safe, secure, sustainable, and accessible.
- \$3.5 billion for operating expenses of the **Veterans Benefits Administration**, an increase of \$274 million above the 2021 enacted level and \$31 million above the President’s budget request, to ensure the prompt processing of disability claims and efforts to continue reducing the disability claims backlog. These funds will allow VA to complete an estimated 1.7 million disability compensation claims in 2022 and support service-connected compensation payments to an estimated 5.5 million Veterans, 500,000 survivors and dependents. In addition, pension payments will be funded for more than 350,000 Veterans and survivors. The bill also continues rigorous reporting requirements to track each regional office’s performance on claims processing and appeals backlogs.
  - The funding provided above the budget request will help VA address claims for benefits due to newly identified service-connected health conditions related to toxic exposures.
  - Additionally, the bill includes \$161 billion in advance mandatory funding for VA benefit programs.

**Related Agencies** – The bill provides a total of \$434.2 million in discretionary appropriations for related agencies, an increase of \$155.9 million above the 2021 enacted level and \$4.4 million above the President’s budget request. Of this amount,

the bill includes:

- \$228 million for **Arlington National Cemetery**, including \$141 million to continue the urgently needed Southern Expansion project that will create 80,000 additional burial spaces. This is an increase of \$146.2 million above the 2021 enacted level and equal to the President's budget request.
- \$87.5 million for the **American Battle Monuments Commission**, \$3.4 million above the fiscal year 2021 enacted level and \$2.7 million more than the President's budget request. This will support continued maintenance of the graves of 124,000 American war dead in overseas cemeteries, as well as visitor and education services for the more than 3 million visitors expected to visit these sites in FY 2022.
- \$77 million for the **Armed Forces Retirement Home**, \$1.7 million above the 2021 enacted level and \$1.7 million above the President's budget request. This will support the needs of the over 800 residents at the two retirement home campuses and invest in critical life and safety infrastructure improvements.