

Agency Option Submission

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Signed (Agency Head)	Title	Date
	Commissioner	10/24/2014

Fund	Agency Priority	Adjustment Title	FY 2016 Amount	FY 2017 Amount
11000 - General Fund				
	1	Re-define of Patient Worker Program	(500,000)	(500,000)
		Reduction of the nursing overtime	(95,000)	(100,700)
		Savings from Electronic Health Records (EHR) system	(350,000)	(350,000)
	Total		(945,000)	(950,700)
Total			(945,000)	(950,700)

Department of Veterans' Affairs

11000 - General Fund

Adjustment Type:

Reduction

Agency Title:

Re-define of Patient Worker Program

Agency Description:

The Physical Plant, Building Services, and Food Services Departments use many veteran workers within the "Veterans Worker Program" to supplement resource staffing gaps - not having a full complement of classified state workers. In the proposed expansion option, DVA has identified the need to reduce/eliminate this practice and moving towards replacing veteran workers with classified employees. If the expansion option is approved, the Agency anticipates that the following cost savings/reduction can be achieved - going forward, the "Patient Worker Program" will be modified to focus primarily on a vocational rehabilitation model - acquiring transferrable employment skill that can be applied to a trade and long term employment - with reintegration back to the community. Anticipated savings from the reorganization is estimated at \$500,000.

Agency Priority:

1

System ID:

3530

SID	Account	Program	Agency 2016	Agency 2017
Financials				
10010 - Personal Services	00700 - Other Personal Services	14000 - Office of the Commissioner	(500,000)	(500,000)
	Total-10010 - Personal Services		(500,000)	(500,000)
Total Financials			(500,000)	(500,000)

Department of Veterans Affairs

11000 - General Fund

Adjustment Type:

Reduction

Agency Title:

Savings from Electronic Health Records (EHR) system

Agency Description:

Utilizing technology to replace the current antiquated and redundant patient care system - in a paper driven environment, will reduce the duplication of manual labor/data entry, loss of records, and the lack of ability to generate meaningful reports - an enterprise wide streamlined integrated process will create accountability with transparency. The Agency estimates there will be \$350,000 potential cost savings/reductions that can be achieved from the implementation of a new Electronic Health Record System.

Agency Priority:

1

System ID:

3531

SID	Account	Program	Agency 2016	Agency 2017
Financials				
10020 - Other Expenses	51970 - Temporary Services	41006 - Veterans' Health Care Services	(100,000)	(100,000)
	54040 - Drugs & Pharmaceuticals	41006 - Veterans' Health Care Services	(250,000)	(250,000)
	Total-10020 - Other Expenses		(350,000)	(350,000)
Total Financials			(350,000)	(350,000)

Department of Veterans' Affairs

11000 - General Fund

Adjustment Type:

Reduction

Agency Title:

Reduction of the nursing overtime

Agency Description:

With the proposed re-organization/re-alignment of all medical support services -with proper staffing levels and the additional ancillary service resources that were requested in the expansion options - the Nursing department will not have to assign Nurses' Aides to escort patients to their medical appointments - allowing the nursing staff to devote more time to direct patient care utilizing a more efficient service model provided by the new EHR and the elimination of paper charting. The Agency anticipated and estimated \$95,000 and \$100,700 savings/reductions can be achieved from the overtime in FY16 & FY17 respectively.

Agency Priority:

System ID:

SID	Account	Program	Agency 2016	Agency 2017
Financials				
10010 - Personal Services	00110 - Salary & Wages - Permanent Full Time	41006 - Veterans' Health Care Services	(95,000)	(100,700)
	Total-10010 - Personal Services		(95,000)	(100,700)
Total Financials			(95,000)	(100,700)



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

287 West Street

Rocky Hill, Connecticut 06067

October 23, 2014

Mr. Paul Potamianos
Executive Budget Officer
Office of Policy and Management
450 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Subject: DVA Reduction Options FY16&FY17

Through the implementation of a new Electronic Health Record System (EHR), the Agency is anticipating the need to re-organize and re-align the way we deliver patient care and ancillary medical support services to veterans at the Rocky Hill facility and potentially 250,000 veterans in the State of Connecticut. The EHR will be a business change that when implemented will integrate all aspects of our current services - allowing for a more efficient, streamlined, delineated, and coordinated resource tool -with veterans data/information entered at a point in time with built in validation to ensure compliance on all state and federal regulation. The Agency also has reviewed each department's staffing levels to identify staffing deficiency/shortfall and current business processes that can and should be updated/improved. The current staffing deficiencies were addressed with our recent expansion options submitted to OPM for consideration on October 23, 2014. Therefore, the anticipated and estimated cost savings/reductions that the Agency is working to achieve are contingent upon the re-organization and in conjunction with the expansion options that was submitted for approval.

- (1) The Physical Plant, Building Services, and Food Services Departments use many veteran workers within the "Veterans Worker Program" to supplement resource staffing gaps - not having a full complement of classified state workers. In the proposed expansion option, DVA has identified the need to reduce/eliminate this practice and moving towards replacing veteran workers with classified employees. If the expansion option is approved, the Agency anticipates that the following cost savings/reduction can be achieved - going forward, the "Patient Worker Program" will be modified to focus primarily on a vocational rehabilitation model - acquiring transferrable employment skill that can be applied to a trade and long term employment - with reintegration back to the community. Anticipated savings from the reorganization is estimated below:

Fund/Sid	Description	Account	Estimated Savings FY16	Estimated Savings FY17
11000/10010	Patient Worker Savings	54750	\$500,000	\$500,000

- (2) Utilizing technology to replace the current antiquated and redundant patient care system - in a paper driven environment, will reduce the duplication of manual labor/data entry,

loss of records, and the lack of ability to generate meaningful reports - an enterprise wide streamlined integrated process will create accountability with transparency. The Agency estimates that the following are the potential cost savings/reductions that can be achieved from the implementation of a new Electronic Health Record System.

Fund/Sid	Description	Account	Estimated Savings FY16	Estimated Savings FY17
11000/10020	VA Drug reimbursement	54040	\$250,000	\$250,000
11000/10020	Temporary Service	51970	\$100,000	\$100,000

(3) Reduction of the nursing overtime cost –

With the proposed re-organization/re-alignment of all medical support services -with proper staffing levels and the additional ancillary service resources that were requested in the expansion options - the Nursing department will not have to assign Nurses' Aides to escort patients to their medical appointments – allowing the nursing staff to devote more time to direct patient care utilizing a more efficient service model provided by the new HER and the elimination of paper charting. See anticipated and estimated savings on the overtime below.

Fund/Sid	Description	Account	Estimated Savings FY16	Estimated Savings FY17
11000/10010	Overtime	50170	\$95,000	\$100,700

For the past ten (10) years, DVA has demonstrated its fiscal due diligence and has met all of the reduction challenges within a balance agency budget. The above are anticipated and estimated cost savings/reductions that the Agency believes can be delivered with the appropriate resources properly aligned within an organizational structure that has its full complement of staffing resources. With the anticipated successful implementation of the Electronic Health Record System, the medical and ancillary support services reorganization, and the pending approval of the expansion options, the Agency believes there are more efficiencies and additional cost savings that can be achieved in future years.

Sincerely,


Joseph T. Perkins
Commissioner

cc: Magdalena Lekarczyk, OPM Budget Analysis
Michael Clark, DVA Fiscal Administrative Manager