

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES, 2024

\$153.920 billion in total base discretionary funding

The Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies bill for Fiscal Year 2024 provides a base discretionary total of \$153.920 billion, including \$18.675 billion in defense funding and \$135.245 billion in nondefense funding. The bill provides support for critical housing, infrastructure, and facilities for U.S. military forces and their families, as well as increased funding for veterans health care and benefits.

- Secures an additional \$2 billion above the President's request for defense funding.
- Includes provision protecting veterans' Second Amendment rights.
- Provides \$2 billion to improve and maintain housing for servicemembers and their families.
- Includes \$342 million for VA rural health initiatives.
- Provides \$715 million for VA opioid misuse prevention and treatment.

BILL HIGHLIGHTS

Military Construction: \$18.675 billion for Department of Defense military construction activities, an increase of \$2 billion over the President's Budget request. This amount funds more than 160 major construction projects at military bases and installations around the world to enhance resiliency and support warfighter readiness. Within this amount, the bill provides:

- **Housing:** \$2 billion to improve and maintain housing for servicemembers and their families.
- **Construction Requirements:** \$514 million to address critical and priority unfunded construction requirements for Active, Guard, and Reserve forces.
- **European Deterrence Initiative:** \$304 million for projects in support of the European Deterrence Initiative.
- **Pacific Deterrence Initiative:** \$1.8 billion for projects in support of the Pacific Deterrence Initiative.

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): \$134.8 billion for the VA, an increase of \$48 million over the FY 2023 enacted level.

- **VA Medical Care:** \$121 billion for VA medical care, an increase of \$2.3 billion above the FY 2023 enacted level, including \$16.2 billion for mental health; \$5.2 billion for telehealth services; \$3.1 billion for veterans homelessness programs; \$2.4 billion for the Caregivers Program; \$715 million for opioid misuse prevention and treatment; \$943 million for medical and prosthetic research; \$990 million for health care specifically for women veterans; and \$342 million for rural health initiatives.

- **VA IT Systems:** \$6.4 billion for information technology, an increase of \$619 million over the FY 2023 enacted level, to support the development, operations, and maintenance of systems.
- **VA Electronic Health Record:** \$1.3 billion for the veterans electronic health record, a decrease of \$425 million from the FY 2023 enacted level and \$529 million below the request, reflecting VA's revised requirements in light of the program reset and pause in new site deployments.
- **VA Mandatory Funding:** \$172.5 billion for mandatory veterans benefits, including veteran disability compensation programs, education benefits, and vocational rehabilitation and employment training.
- **Advanced Appropriations:** \$112.6 billion in FY 2025 advance discretionary funding for veterans health care and \$195.8 billion in FY 2025 advance mandatory funding for veterans benefits.