



Rhode Island Office of Veterans Services

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

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Director's Message



The Rhode Island Office of Veterans Services (RIVETS) proudly presents the 2025 Veterans Services Annual Report and Strategic Plan. It is an honor to serve Rhode Island's Veteran community and to lead a dedicated team committed to advocating for America's Heroes—whether at our Veteran Resource Center in Warwick, the Veterans Home in Bristol, or the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Exeter.

RIVETS exists to ensure every Veteran—active duty, National Guard, reservist, or retired—receives exceptional service and support. Our commitment to customer service and advocacy drives everything we do, with one clear promise: **no Veteran is left behind.**

In 2025, our team advanced meaningful initiatives that strengthened Rhode Island as a place where Veterans and their families can thrive. As we look ahead to 2026, we remain deeply committed to honoring service, supporting military families, and finding innovative ways to serve those who have sacrificed so much to our nation.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Yarn'.

Kasim Yarn | Director, RI Office of Veterans Services

Mission

The Rhode Island Office of Veterans Services serves as the lead agency to advocate on behalf of Veterans, active service members, guard, reserve and their families by ensuring access to care, benefits, and services that promote stability, dignity, honor, and quality of life across their lifespan.

Vision

Enhance the Veteran Experience. A Rhode Island where Veterans, active service members, guard, reserve and their families are supported at every stage of life, with seamless access to care, resources, opportunity, and dignified remembrance.



Values

Support: Advance the needs, interests, and well-being of Veterans, service members, and their families in everything we do.

Excellence: We hold ourselves accountable to high standards and continuously improve how we serve.

Respect: We treat every person with dignity, compassion, and professionalism.

Vigilance: We remain attentive, accountable, and responsible stewards of public trust and Veteran care.

Engagement: We show up, listen, and take action—working collaboratively to serve Veterans and the community, regardless of eligibility or circumstance.



Together, these values guide how we **SERVE** Rhode Island's Veterans—with vigilance, compassion, and honor.

RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery



The Office of Veterans Services operates and maintains the Rhode Island Veterans Memorial Cemetery (RIVMC) in Exeter. The cemetery is a dignified, solemn resting place for Veterans and their eligible spouses or dependents. Situated on 280 acres, our state's Veterans cemetery showcases our everlasting appreciation for those who served this country honorably.



Operations

Averaging almost 100 internments per month, the RIVMC continues to be one of the busiest state Veterans cemeteries in the nation. During Fiscal Year 2025, the cemetery conducted 1,113 committal services. The dedicated staff consists of 17 employees, including 15 full-time personnel and two seasonal workers.

RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery



Memorials and Monuments

The RIVMC offers military families the opportunity to honor their loved ones through the Memorial Wall and Memorial Walkway located in the center of the cemetery. Through this program, names are engraved, ensuring those who served are recognized, remembered, and respectfully memorialized.



In addition, many military units, organizations, and campaigns also have monuments throughout the cemetery to honor their respective Veterans. Monument design, placement, and installation is coordinated with the RIVMC leadership. In 2026, a new Invisible Wounds of War Monument is being

constructed to honor those struggling with PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), depression, and suicide.

Ceremonies & Accomplishments

RIVETS hosted an annual Memorial Day observance at the cemetery against the fitting backdrop of the Gold Star Family Memorial, where 400 members of the public participated in an outdoor ceremony honoring our departed Veterans.

RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery



Over 40,000 flags were placed within RIVMC, and 65,000 stick flags were distributed for placement on Veteran graves throughout Rhode Island.



RIVMC hosts several events that promote our state's unending gratitude to those Veterans who have honorably served our country, including a solemn ceremony on September 11, and a moving Wreaths Across America ceremony held in December of 2025. Approximately one thousand volunteers laid over 3,000 wreaths throughout the cemetery. RIVETS was proud to partner with Saluting Branches, a nonprofit organization dedicated to recognizing and honoring our Veterans. Saluting Branches volunteers assisted with the removal of five diseased or rotten trees and helped plant 15 trees in areas of the cemetery where shade coverage is needed.

Improvements

Recent improvements at the RIVMC include new columbarium walls and grounds maintenance upgrades, including the purchase of a ride-on mower. RIVMC completed construction on Phase II of CW4 ahead of schedule. This \$3.8M project built six new columbarium walls providing 2,100 niches that will allow for up to eight years of inurnments. RIVMC worked with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on their Outer Burial Receptacle program and is now reimbursed for Veteran and spouse casket liners.

RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery



Partnerships & Future Initiatives

In 2025, the Office of Veterans Services and the RIVMC continued to build and maintain partnerships with several organizations throughout the state. These relationships not only promote the mission of providing Veterans a dignified resting place, but also strengthen the Veteran community through outreach, fellowship, and a sense of community.

The RIVMC Administrator participates as a member of the Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Commission and conducts outreach with the local Veterans service organizations, including the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The RIVMC is committed to maintaining a dignified and respectful resting place for those who served. Potential future initiatives include:

- Purchasing additional heavy equipment to replace aging vehicles, ensuring efficient groundskeeping and operational effectiveness.
- Expanding and upgrading the cemetery's irrigation system to enhance landscape health, sustainability, and appearance.
- Improving wayfinding signage throughout the cemetery to assist visitors in easily navigating the grounds and locating memorials and graves.

These investments will help uphold the cemetery's standards of excellence and honor for our Veterans and their families. In 2026, the RIVMC will participate in a National Cemetery Administration Review to ensure compliance with national cemetery operational standards and measures.



RI Veterans Home



The Rhode Island Veterans Home (RIVH) exemplifies the state's appreciation for all the men and women who honorably served in the United States military. Completely rebuilt in 2017, the facility offers housing and care for Rhode Island's wartime Veterans. It also honors a legacy that began in 1890 on the same 100-acre location. The facility's design is based on "neighborhoods," which are groupings of resident housing. This arrangement allows for optimal care and safety for residents, fostering a more intimate, comfortable sense of community and living environment.



Our Residents

The RIVH is dedicated to providing high-quality care and fostering a vibrant community for military Veterans. Innovative programs, such as a partnership with the University of Rhode Island which includes an on-site greenhouse, allow residents to engage in gardening initiatives that foster both creativity and knowledge.



RI Veterans Home

Residents also benefit from a diverse array of activities, including pet therapy, mentoring programs, and communal events such as movie nights and games. Each neighborhood is supported by dedicated activity staff who design programming tailored to the interests of residents. Residents at the RIVH participate in therapeutic recreation programs, entertainment, activities, and off-campus excursions. This year, residents enjoyed the Audubon series and visits from local farms providing education and entertainment with live access to birds of prey, farm animals, and reptiles.



The Veterans Home maintains connections with local performers to provide ongoing entertainment including big bands, orchestras, jazz bands, and dancers. Residents also took part in over 40 off-campus excursions this year. Partnerships



with local organizations, such as VFW posts and Elks clubs, have allowed residents to enjoy cookouts, clambakes, fishing trips, and holiday gatherings. RIVH continues the tradition of including Veterans' families for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner gatherings.

RI Veterans Home



Transportation Improvements



In 2025, the RIVH purchased two new transport buses and hired an additional driver. This transportation service supports more than 50 weekly offsite medical appointments at the Providence VA Medical Center and affiliated medical facilities, as well as enhances our ability to transport residents offsite for recreational activities hosted by local Veterans organizations.

Staffing and Census

RIVH continues to focus on staffing, community engagement, and enriching the lives of its Veteran residents. The staff of the RIVH work diligently to ensure the health and safety of Veteran residents, while maintaining their quality of life.

This year, the RIVH embarked on a significant initiative to recruit nursing and culinary professionals. In January, the RIVH hosted a highly successful statewide job fair. RIVETS built new partnerships with schools and colleges and attended numerous offsite job fairs throughout the year. More than 50 new staff members were hired in 2025, marking the largest single-year hiring increase in recent history. These gains underscore the state's renewed commitment to strengthening care, expanding capacity, and supporting the Veterans who call the Rhode Island Veterans Home their home.

RI Veterans Home

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Family Council

The partnership and support from Rhode Island Veterans Home families has always been essential to ensuring the quality of life for residents. Family members continue to provide support and are key partners in our work to serve Veterans. RIVH provides an inclusive environment, fostering mutual recognition, respect, and a sense of belonging and acceptance for family members. This work could not be accomplished without the support of our Family Council— a dedicated group of individuals, led by Deborah Fowler. The RIVH Family Council meets monthly to discuss concerns, propose solutions, and share valuable information, reinforcing their role as advocates for resident welfare. The Family Council continues to be an important advocacy voice for the residents.



Unite Rhode Island



Since 2017, RIVETS has leveraged the Unite Us platform to provide vital services to Veterans and military families. Based out of the Resource Center at 560 Jefferson Blvd. in Warwick, Veteran Service Officers utilize Unite Us to partner with various Veteran-serving organizations across the state of Rhode Island. Through the Unite Us referral platform, RIVETS has established a network of trusted, governmental, non-profit, healthcare, and community partners. The Unite Us platform enhances the ability to address community needs, prioritize assistance requests, and connect Veterans and military families with partner providers statewide.

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics

In 2025, RIVETS further strengthened its partnerships with community providers through the integration of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) into the platform. Veteran Liaisons embedded within CCBHCs can now seamlessly connect Veterans and military families to RIVETS or the Coordination Center for triage, while also enabling RIVETS to efficiently refer individuals to CCBHCs, ensuring timely and coordinated support statewide.



Unite Rhode Island



By the Numbers

In 2025, RIVETS Veteran Service Officers received 2,494 service requests submitted by 1,369 clients, providing insights into the needs of Rhode Island's 52,000-strong Veteran community.

SERVICE REQUESTS



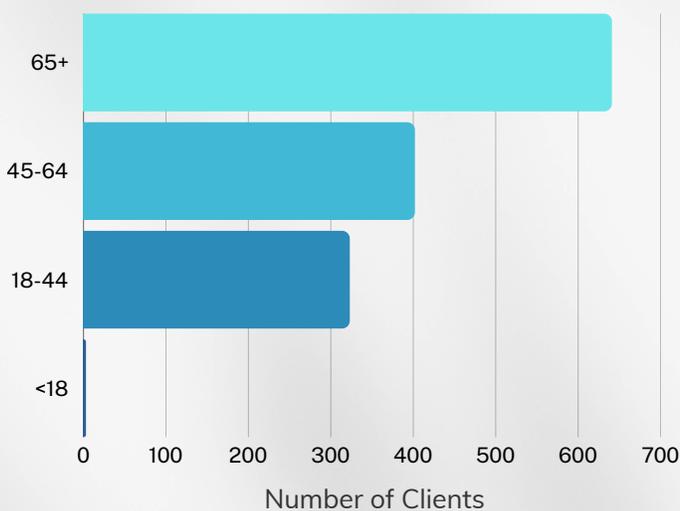
2,494

CLIENTS SERVED



1,369

AGE



GENDER BREAKDOWN



82%

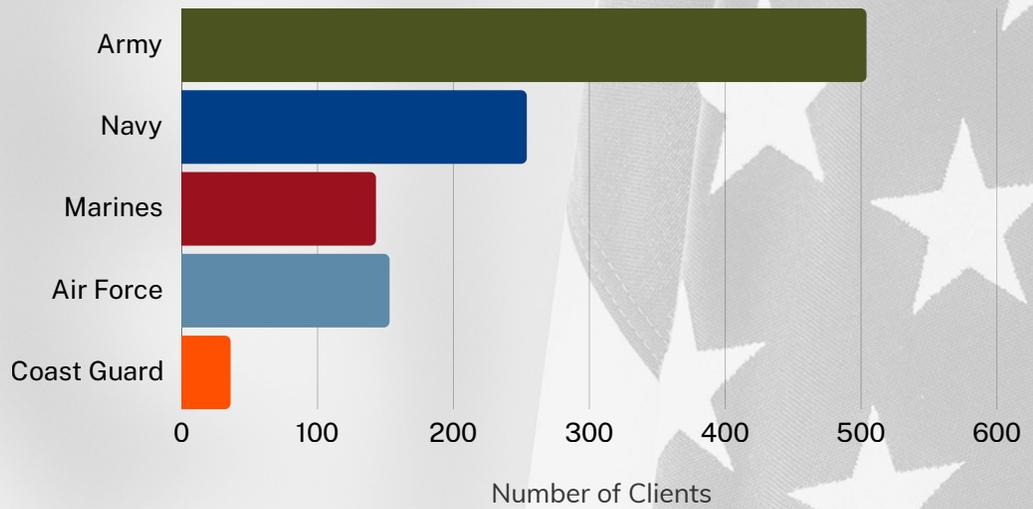
18%

Unite Rhode Island

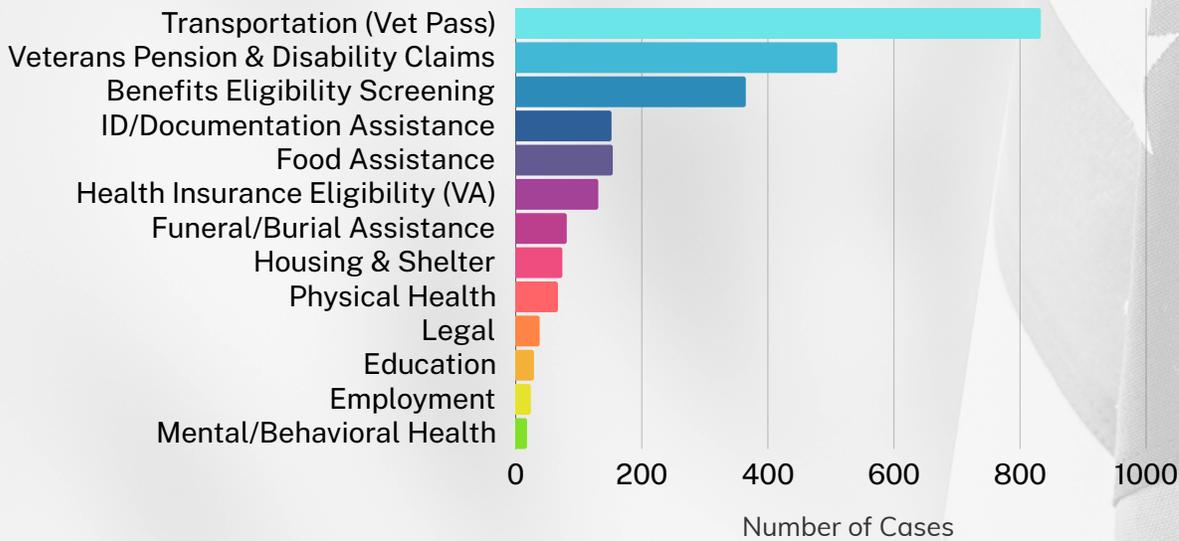


Branches

Distribution of Veterans service requests by military branch.

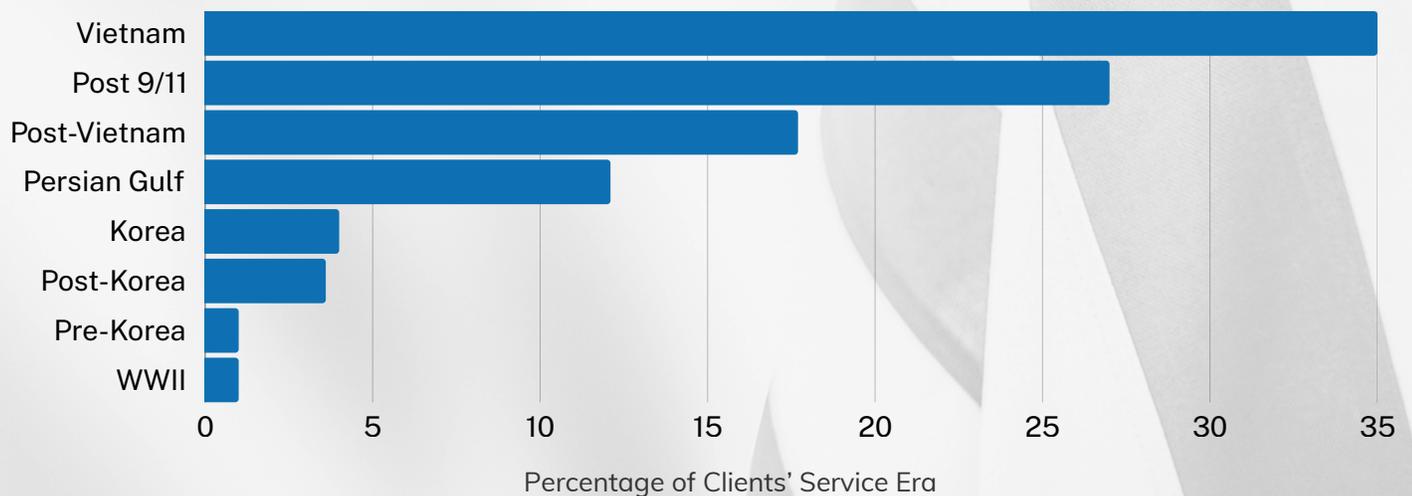


Services Breakdown



Top Needs:
Transportation
Disability Claims
Benefits

Era of Service



Veterans Service Grant

The Veterans Service Grant program is an initiative aimed at enhancing the support and resources available to Veterans in Rhode Island. By fostering partnerships with non-profit organizations and institutions of higher education, RIVETS seeks to create a collaborative network that can effectively address the diverse needs of the Veteran community.



Scan the QR code above to access partner pages.



Veterans Service Grant



Our Partners

RIVETS is proud to partner with the following organizations which are recipients of the 2025 Veterans Service Grant:

Beachwood Integrative Equine Therapy: Beachwood Center for Wellbeing provides Integrative Equine Therapy (IET), a specialized form of equine therapy for people with anxiety, trauma, PTSD, recovery, and chronic pain. Unlike other equine programs, clients do not ride horses or take care of them; instead, Veterans work with a horse and a professional Equine Counselor through activities to center emotions in an impartial environment. The protocol is designed to be curative, not palliative care.

Button Hole Golf: Button Hole hosts Veterans Golf & Teaching Clinics twice per month during golf season (May through early October). These sessions feature instruction by qualified teachers on the practice range, followed by play on the course. Equipment is supplied at no charge, if needed.



Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI): The CCRI Veterans Services Office utilizes the Veterans Service Grant as an Emergency Relief Fund for student Veterans requiring emergency funding support to facilitate academic persistence. The Emergency Relief Fund provides the necessary support that will ensure that struggling self-identified student Veterans remain on their academic path and achieve program completion.

Veterans Service Grant

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The Elisha Project: The Elisha Project directs a sustainable, statewide network of military-focused grocery stores and support services that ensure Veterans, reservists, and active duty personnel have consistent access to food, furniture, supplies, and dignity-centered service regardless of location or government funding status.



Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island (MOWRI): Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island provides the Home Delivered Meal Program to Veterans and spouses of Veterans. MOWRI helps enable homebound Rhode Island residents, at risk of food insecurity, to remain living independently through the daily delivery of meals, well-being checks, and social visits.

Ocean State 118: Military Women Across the Nation: Ocean State 118 established a Women Veterans Relief Fund to support the financial challenges that women Veterans face thereby contributing to the stability of the awardees. Funding from the Veterans Service Grant is used to provide gift cards for groceries and gas (home and auto) to qualified applicants facing financial hardship.

Operation Stand Down Rhode Island (OSDRI): OSDRI utilizes Veterans Service Grant funding to provide temporary financial assistance to Veterans whose housing stability/security has been negatively impacted causing them to either become homeless or become at risk of homelessness.

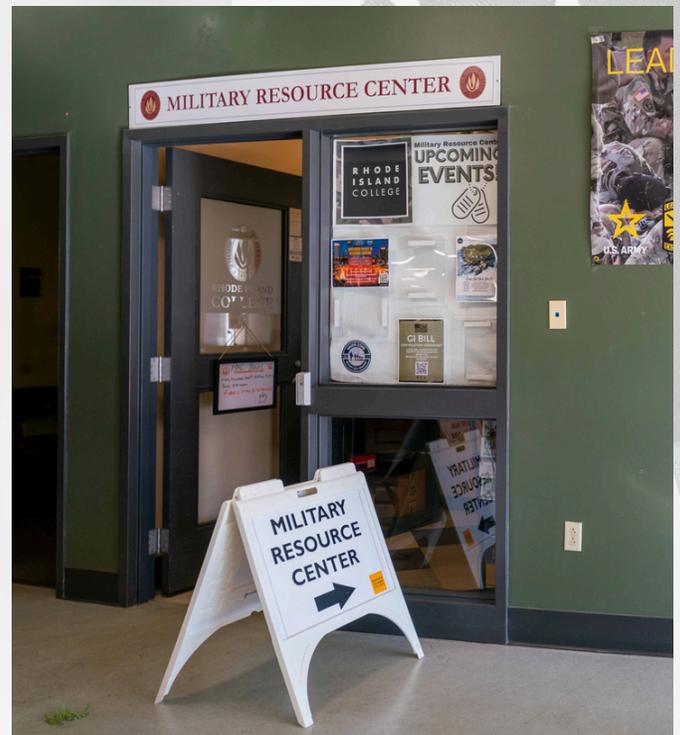


Veterans Service Grant



Providence Clemente Veterans Initiative (PCVI): The PCVI facilitates free arts/humanities-based courses to RI Veterans for the purpose of fostering greater self-understanding, purpose, meaning and community in their post-service lives. PCVI provides opportunities for participants to reflect creatively and share their experiences with family, community members, and other Veterans.

Rhode Island College: The Military Resource Center at Rhode Island College (MRC/RIC) serves as a resource hub for all military-affiliated students (active duty, National Guard, retired, Veteran, and family members) who wish to attend or are attending RIC. The MRC/RIC offers a Veterans Relief Fund at Rhode Island College that supports some of the financial challenges that student Veterans face.



The Rhode Island Veterans Treatment Court (RIVTC): The RIVTC utilizes grant funding to provide transportation for justice-involved Veterans who lack consistent access to reliable transportation. Access to transportation services supports participation in treatment, court supervision, and basic life needs for Veterans participating in the RIVTC Program.

Veterans Service Grant

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Service Members Assistance Fund: The Service Members Assistance Fund is a resource for military personnel and their families, addressing situations that may impact their well-being and operational readiness. By providing financial assistance in times of emergency, the fund aims to alleviate stresses that could detract from a service member's ability to remain deployable and focused on their mission.

SHRI Service Corps: SHRI Service Corps serves active members of the military, Veterans, and military-connected family members through the Shri Military Project. The objective of the Shri Military Project is to promote secure, judgment-free, and carefully designed environments for Rhode Island active duty and Veterans to participate in a regular yoga practice and receive its healing benefits.

University of Rhode Island (URI): The Center for Military and Veteran Education (MAVE) supports and empowers Veteran and military-connected students through inclusive, well-being-focused services, while the URI Student Veteran Relief Fund uses Veteran Service Grant funding to reduce financial hardship and help student Veterans complete their education.



Veterans Inc.: Veterans Inc. provides financial assistance to Veterans and active duty service members for essential needs—such as court fees, work licenses, car payments, utilities, and security deposits—helping reduce financial strain and promote long-term stability and self-sufficiency.

Mental Health & Wellness



RIVETS is proud to collaborate with federal, state, and local agencies—as well as private partners—to expand access to high-quality mental health and crisis-intervention services across Rhode Island. More than a year after launching statewide, Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)—state-certified outpatient clinics—continue to serve as essential access points for comprehensive behavioral health care for all Rhode Islanders, regardless of age, diagnosis, or insurance status.



Rhode Island requires each CCBHC to include a Veteran Liaison trained in military

culture and equipped to support Veterans, active duty service members, and their families. These liaisons help bridge the gap between military experience and civilian care, ensuring that those who serve receive informed competent support

Mental Health & Wellness

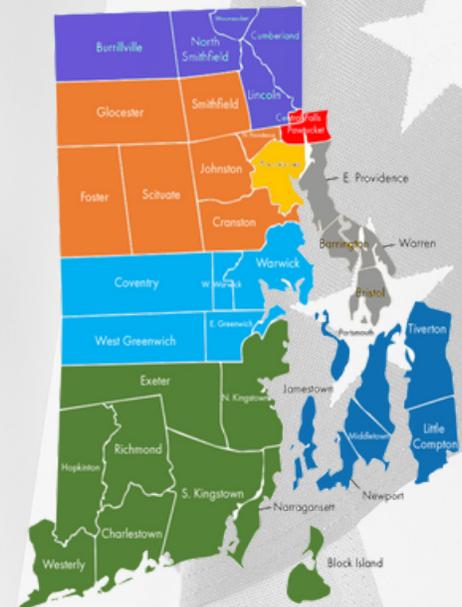
CCBHC Training

CCBHC professionals are trained to:

- Provide mental-health assessments, counseling, and ongoing support for individuals and families
- Respond to and assist with substance-use challenges
- Deliver 24/7 crisis intervention and stabilization services

Rhode Island CCBHCs are Located in*:

- Community Care Alliance
- Family Service of Rhode Island
- The Providence Center
- Gateway Healthcare | Johnston
- Gateway Healthcare | Pawtucket
- Gateway Healthcare | South County
- Newport Mental Health
- Thrive Behavioral Health



RIVETS continued its role as a key partner with the Rhode Island Department of Health in implementing the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program. Through this partnership, RIVETS worked with community-based providers to identify service members, Veterans, and their families and connect them to essential benefits and support services.

*CCBHCs are regionally based as indicated on the map. However, Rhode Islanders can choose which CCBHC they want to go to. To ensure well-coordinated care, an individual can only 'belong' to one CCBHC at a time but can elect to switch providers if they are not satisfied with their care.

Mental Health & Wellness

RIVETS supported the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention program through coordinated, statewide outreach and integration efforts, expanding engagement where the military community lives, works, and seeks support. Outreach activities were conducted at Veteran-owned businesses, senior centers, resource fairs, and colleges and universities. RIVETS partnered with shooting ranges and firearm retailers to promote safety through education on secure firearm storage for Veterans and their families. During Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in September, RIVETS staff participated in 24 outreach events across Rhode Island.

RIVETS also maintained active participation in a VA-led focus group on addressing suicide among underserved Veteran populations. This collaboration resulted in the establishment of a peer support group at a Rhode Island American Legion post.

In a statewide collaboration with the Rhode Island Department of Health, RIVETS delivered trainings on “Ask the Question: *Have You or a Loved One Served?*” This year’s trainings prioritized the Office of Healthy Aging to address the needs of older Veterans and ambulatory care centers to reach Veterans not currently engaged in VA health care.



Veterans Café

The Office of Veterans Services has partnered with Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island to bring the Veterans Café to communities across the state on a monthly, rotating basis. This initiative creates a welcoming space for Veterans of all ages to enjoy a nutritious meal, build connections with one another, and engage directly with critical service providers—including the VA Healthcare System in Providence and the Rhode Island Department of Human Services.

Now in its second year, the Veterans Café continues to grow in both attendance and scope. More than 300 Veterans participated in cafés throughout the year, reflecting the increasing demand for this type of community-based engagement. In 2025, cafés were hosted in Warwick, Woonsocket, East Greenwich, Wakefield, East Providence, and Providence. In 2026, RIVETS looks forward to bringing the Veterans Café to: Bristol, Pawtucket, North Scituate, West Greenwich, and Warwick—with additional sites to be announced.



Legislation

The 2025 legislative session once again demonstrated Rhode Island's unwavering commitment to its Veterans; underscoring the strength of partnerships between the Executive Branch, General Assembly lawmakers, and dedicated community members who work tirelessly to protect and support those who served.

Budget

Governor McKee has been a strong and consistent advocate for Rhode Island's Veterans and military families. In his annual budget, McKee advanced initiatives that deliver vital protections and resources to our state's Veterans. RIVETS is grateful for the leadership of Senate President Valerie Lawson and House Speaker Joseph Shekarchi, and their support of our work.



Initiatives Include:

- \$30.1 million in state funding allocated for the operation of the RI Veterans Home
- \$1.9 million in state funding allocated to the RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery
- \$1 million in state funding allocated for capital purchases and equipment



Legislation

In fiscal year 2026, \$350,000 in total grant funding was added to the RIVETS budget for a second year. \$50,000 in state designated grant funding supports Operation Stand Down's Legal Services Program. \$100,000 was allocated to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Rhode Island for their Veterans Service Officer program.



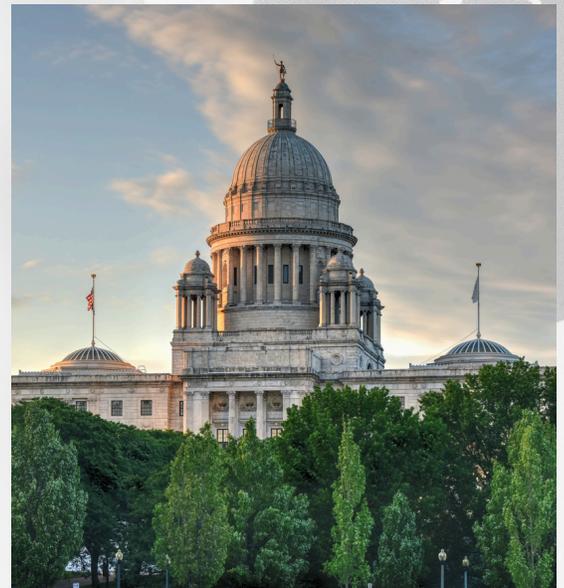
In 2025, the Rhode Island General Assembly passed a series of measures that deliver meaningful improvements to the lives of Veterans and their families.

- **Claim Shark Protections** (S-71A/H-5043A) Provides protection and prevents the unethical, improper conduct and the collection of fees, by anyone advising or assisting a Veteran filing a claim for disability benefits with the Department of Veterans Affairs, except as authorized by federal law.



Legislation

- **Space Force Recognized** (S-625/H-5460) Adds the recently formed U.S. Space Force to the branches of the military included in various sections of RI General Law. The legislation will allow Space Force Veterans access to the RI Veterans Home, Veterans Cemetery, and other state benefits.
- **Tax credits for Veterans** (S-98/H-5370) Provides property tax credits or the equivalent assessment dollars to Veterans, Gold Star parents, visually impaired persons and the elderly.
- **Concurrent Jurisdiction** (S-557AA/H5222AA) Legislation establishes concurrent jurisdiction between the Rhode Island Family Court and the Federal Government for the purposes of adjudicating minors who have allegedly committed a crime on a military installation located in the State of Rhode Island.
- **Fees Waived for Bronze Star License Plates** (S-76A/H-5049A) Removes the requirement that applicants for a Bronze Star Medal license plate, pay a registration fee or transfer charge at the Department of Motor Vehicles.



Veterans Services Strategic Plan

The Rhode Island Office of Veterans Services (RIVETS) operates under a clear and driving principle: **“Working together to ensure every Veteran has the opportunity to succeed in Rhode Island.”** In accordance with directives from the General Assembly, RIVETS partners closely with state agencies, community organizations, and stakeholders to develop, implement, and annually update a comprehensive, statewide Veterans Services Strategic Plan (VSSP). This plan serves as a blueprint for delivering essential, high-quality services to Veterans and their families. In 2025, Veterans and military families most frequently turned to RIVETS for support with transportation, pension and disability claims, and benefits eligibility screening, underscoring the continued demand for accessible, coordinated assistance across the state.

VSSP Categories

R.I. Gen. Laws § 30-17.1-11 identifies thirteen Veterans Service Categories impacting Veterans and their families. The VSSP and Advisory Committee work toward supporting these vital service areas:

Veterans Resource Center



Disability Benefits
Transportation

RI Veterans Home



Long-Term Care

RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery



Mortuary Affairs

Veterans Services Strategic Plan

Local, State, & Federal Partnerships

RIVETS leverages municipal, state, and federal partnerships to support Veterans and their families throughout the following Veteran Service Categories:

- Veterans PTSD, Suicide Prevention, Agent Orange Health Effects, and Burn Pits Health Effects
- Veterans Homelessness,
- Veterans Living in Poverty,
- Veterans Education
- Veterans Employment & Training
- Veterans Family Members & Caregivers
- Veterans Financial Planning Services
- Veterans Legal Services
- Veterans Transitional Assistance



Veterans Disability Benefits

Veterans receive comprehensive healthcare and medical benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and affiliated hospitals. To ensure Rhode Island's Veterans can fully access these benefits, RIVETS' Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) provide free expert counseling and assistance with claims and applications.

- **Data-Driven Support:** RIVETS monitors Veterans' needs through the Unite Us Referral Platform, which identifies and tracks the most frequent service requests.
- **Continuous Training and Expertise:** RIVETS maintains robust training standards to ensure VSOs remain current on federal and state benefit systems, policies, and best practices in Veteran support — protecting Veterans from predatory “claim sharks.”
- **Statewide Access to Care:** Eight Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) across Rhode Island provide Veterans and military families with on-site access to VSOs. These coordinators help Veterans navigate benefits and connect them to mental health and substance use treatment services.



Veterans Services Strategic Plan

Veterans Transportation

Transportation remains the most critical need for Rhode Island Veterans who rely on the RIVETS Resource Center in Warwick. Ensuring Veterans can access medical care, social services, and employment opportunities continues to drive our commitment to removing transportation barriers.

- 2025 marks the third consecutive year of dedicated state funding for the RIVETS VetPass program. The VetPass provides reloadable RIPTA Wave bus passes, giving Veterans free, reliable, and consistent transportation to essential healthcare appointments, social-service providers, and job opportunities.
- In 2025, RIVETS distributed 764 monthly bus passes, directly improving mobility for hundreds of Veterans across the state. RIVETS and RIPTA are committed to expanding the VetPass program in 2026.



Veterans Services Strategic Plan

Veterans Long-Term Care

The Rhode Island Veterans Home (RIVH) in Bristol stands as the state's premier long-term care facility for approximately 160 wartime Veterans. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the Home's Foxtrot neighborhood has remained offline due to staffing shortages. In 2026, a RIVETS top priority includes increasing staffing to allow for a reopening of Foxtrot.



- More than 50 new staff members were hired in 2025, marking the largest single-year hiring increase in recent history. This includes over 30 nursing and culinary professionals recruited through a highly successful January career fair held on the Home's grounds.
- RIVETS leadership continues to participate in the Rhode Island Long Term Care Coordinating Council.



Veterans Services Strategic Plan

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Veterans Mortuary Affairs

The Rhode Island Veterans Memorial Cemetery (RIVMC) in Exeter serves as our state's sacred and honorable final resting place for Veterans and their eligible family members. Staff support an average of 100 burials each month, ensuring every service reflects the respect and gratitude owed to those who served. Situated on 280 acres, RIVMC continues to plan proactively for future growth and long-term sustainability.



- In 2025, RIVMC conducted 1,113 committal services, honoring the lives and legacies of Rhode Island's Veterans.
- Construction was completed on six new columbarium walls, adding 2,100 niches and significantly expanding the cemetery's cremation capacity for up to 8 years. This major improvement was made possible through \$3.8 million in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Veterans Services Strategic Plan

Veterans Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Veteran Suicide, Agent Orange Effects, and Burn Pit Health Effects

Promoting mental health and preventing suicide in the Veteran community remain top priorities for RIVETS and Governor McKee's administration. Our commitment is to ensure that every Veteran has access to support, care, and resources.

- RIVETS Director Yarn led Rhode Island's fifth annual Mental Health Action Day, organizing a statewide initiative focused on turning awareness into meaningful action. This year's theme, "Check-in with Someone," emphasized the A.S.K. framework—Acknowledge, Support, Keep in-touch — empowering communities to respond to mental health needs.
- Director Yarn continues to serve as co-chair of the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and military families.
- RIVETS maintains dedicated staff supporting the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program, which has played a critical role in helping Veterans enroll in the VA healthcare system and connect with life-saving mental health resources.
- RIVETS actively participates in the Governor's Overdose Task Force, which recently marked its 10-year anniversary combatting the opioid epidemic and support for substance use and behavioral health challenges.
- RIVETS Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) participated in a week-long training exercise "Veterans Talking to Veterans Program." Coaching provided powerful dialogue for Veterans transitioning to civilian life, those dealing with combat-related trauma, or families of Veterans seeking healing and understanding.

Veterans Services Strategic Plan

Veterans Living in Poverty

RIVETS is deeply committed to ensuring that no Veteran or military family in Rhode Island faces food insecurity or financial hardship alone. We work closely with the Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS) to connect Veterans with essential supports and services, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).



RIVETS and Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island have entered the second year of the highly successful Veterans Café program. These cafés offer a welcoming community space where Veterans of all ages can gather, build connections, and meet directly with critical service providers such as

the VA Healthcare System in Providence and RI DHS. Over the past year, more than 300 Veterans participated, gaining access to nutritious food and vital resources.

RIVETS' state-designated grant funding delivers direct relief for Veterans facing urgent financial challenges, with Military Women Across the Nation, Ocean State Unit 118, helping women Veterans meet essential needs such as groceries and fuel.

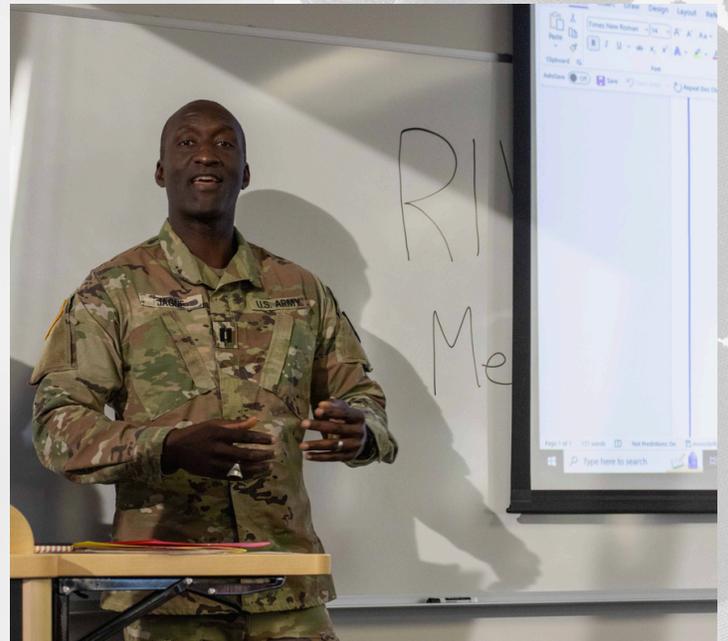


Veterans Services Strategic Plan

Veterans Education

Student Veterans often experience challenges transitioning from military service to higher education. RIVETS plays a critical role in supporting this transition through strategic partnerships with Rhode Island colleges and universities.

Through its Veterans Service Grant, RIVETS funds Student Veteran Relief Programs at the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the Community College of Rhode Island providing short-term financial assistance that helps military-connected students remain enrolled and continue pursuing their academic and professional goals.



RIVETS Director chairs the Post-9/11 Advisory Working Group, a statewide collaboration of community, state, federal, and higher education partners focused on addressing barriers to academic success and improving outcomes for Student Veterans across Rhode Island.

Veterans Services Strategic Plan

Veterans Employment & Training

RIVETS strengthens Veteran employment outcomes through partnerships with state agencies, higher education institutions, and private industry. RIVETS hosted a large-scale career fair at the Rhode Island Veterans Home, resulting in the hiring of more than 30 staff for nursing and culinary positions.



RIVETS collaborates with the Community College of Rhode Island and vocational programs such as Lincoln Tech to create clinical rotation and workforce training opportunities at the RI Veterans Home, with additional initiatives underway to expand culinary and dietary training pathways. RIVETS



also connects Veterans to public and private employment opportunities through www.vets.ri.gov, including state positions and careers with employers such as General Dynamics Electric Boat.

Veterans Services Strategic Plan

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Veterans Family Members & Caregivers

Rhode Island has an aging population, over 31% of residents are age 55 or older, compared to 28% nationally, according to the state's Office of Healthy Aging. 42% of Rhode Island's Veteran constituency is over the age of 65.

- In 2025, RIVETS was an integral partner involved in the planning and execution of a Caregiver Summit at Community College of Rhode Island's Warwick campus.
- RIVETS and the Office of Healthy Aging meet monthly to share information and needs.



Veterans Financial Planning Services

RIVETS partners with federal, state, and nonprofit organizations to deliver financial literacy and planning support to Veterans and military families. Key partners include the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, the Rhode Island National Guard, Naval Station Newport, the Providence VA Healthcare System, and Operation Stand Down Rhode Island.

Through monthly Veterans Cafés, a financial services professional and U.S. Army Veteran provide peer-based guidance on investments, estate planning, and insurance, helping Veterans and their families build long-term financial stability.

Veterans Services Strategic Plan

Veterans Transitional Assistance

Successful transition from military service to civilian life requires timely information, coordinated support, and access to resources for both service members and their families. RIVETS plays a direct role in supporting this transition across the deployment lifecycle.

- RIVETS Director participates in the Rhode Island National Guard Transitional Assistance Program (TAP), providing guidance to service members returning from active duty and connecting them to state and federal benefits, employment resources, and support services.
- RIVETS also participates in Rhode Island National Guard Yellow Ribbon events, ensuring service members and their families have access to critical information and civilian and military support services before, during, and after deployment.

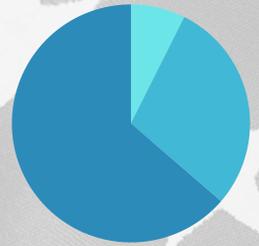


Revenue Totals



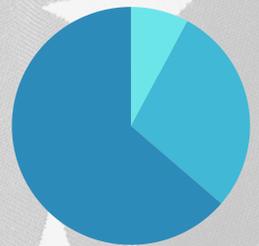
Rhode Island Veterans Services FY25 Revenue

Patient/Family	\$3,561,461
Federal	\$13,932,945
State	\$30,657,711
Total	\$48,152,117



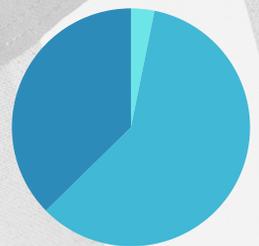
Rhode Island Veterans Home

Patient/Family	\$3,493,471
Federal	\$12,663,452
State	\$28,348,240
Total	\$44,505,363



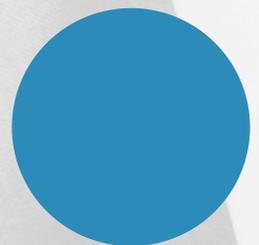
Rhode Island Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Patient/Family	\$67,790
Federal	\$1,269,493
State	\$796,775
Total	\$2,134,058



Rhode Island Veterans Resource Center

Patient/Family	-
Federal	-
State	\$1,512,696
Total	\$1,512,696

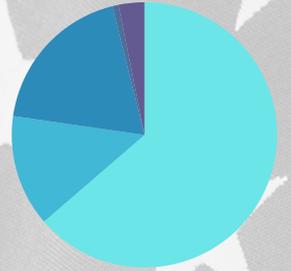


Expenditure Totals



Rhode Island Veterans Services FY25 Expenses

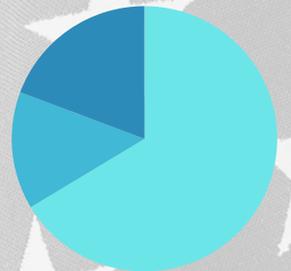
Salary and Benefits	\$30,855,584
Contract Services	\$6,593,135
Operating Expenses	\$9,141,856
Assistance & Grants	\$365,430
Purchases & Equipment	\$1,512,786



Total **\$48,468,791**

Rhode Island Veterans Home

Salary and Benefits	\$28,566,416
Contract Services	\$6,169,129
Operating Expenses	\$8,283,035
Assistance & Grants	\$16,282
Purchases & Equipment	(\$49,280)



Total **\$42,985,582**

Rhode Island Veterans Memorial Cemetery

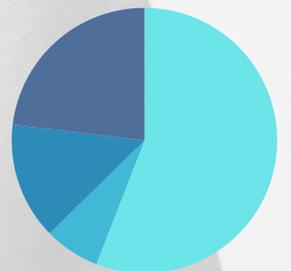
Salary and Benefits	\$1,443,454
Contract Services	\$321,679
Operating Expenses	\$643,314
Assistance & Grants	-
Purchases & Equipment	\$1,562,066



Total **\$3,970,513**

Rhode Island Veterans Resource Center

Salary and Benefits	\$845,714
Contract Services	\$102,327
Operating Expenses	\$215,507
Assistance & Grants	\$349,148
Purchases & Equipment	-



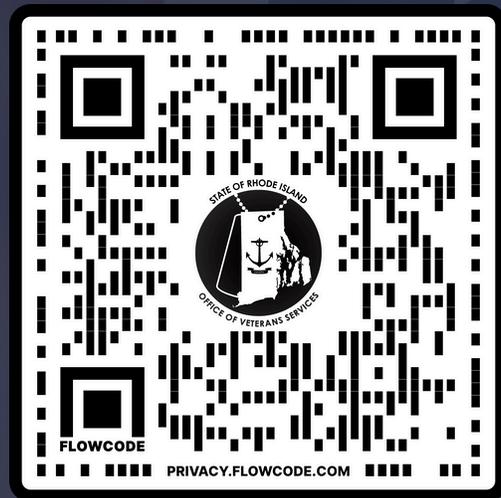
Total **\$1,512,696**



Contact Us

www.vets.ri.gov

Use your smartphone camera to scan the code on the right to fill out our intake form OR call or visit our facilities below.



Rhode Island Veterans Resource Center

560 Jefferson Blvd., Ste 206
Warwick, RI 02886
401-921-2119

Rhode Island Veterans Home

480 Metacom Ave
Bristol, RI 02809
401-253-8000

Rhode Island Veterans Memorial Cemetery

301 South County Trail
Exeter, RI 02882
401-268-3088