



Montgomery County
**VETERANS
SERVICE
COMMISSION**

2024 Annual Report

Jerry Hays
Commission President
Disabled American Veterans

John Theobald
Vice President
AMVETS

William Fried
Secretary
Vietnam Veterans of American

James Dare
Commissioner
American Legion

Michael J. Howley
Commissioner
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Kimberly Frisco
Executive Director

SERVICE WITH
**COMPASSION
DIGNITY
& RESPECT**

Claims

 **\$8,500,000**

One of the primary missions of the Veterans Service Commission is assisting and advising Veterans who are making a claim for disability compensation. Our team of 7 Nationally and State Accredited Service Officers filed more than 600 claims for compensation. More than 80% of those claims had a positive award.

2021 **\$2.2M**

2022 **\$5.2 M**

2023 **\$6.1 M**

2024 **\$8.5M**

 **82%**

Consistently since 2020, the amount of reported claim awards has increased annually year over year. More than 80% of all claims filed in 2024 were granted an award. Those monthly awards, one time retro pay and single payments, amounted to more than \$8.5 million for 2024.

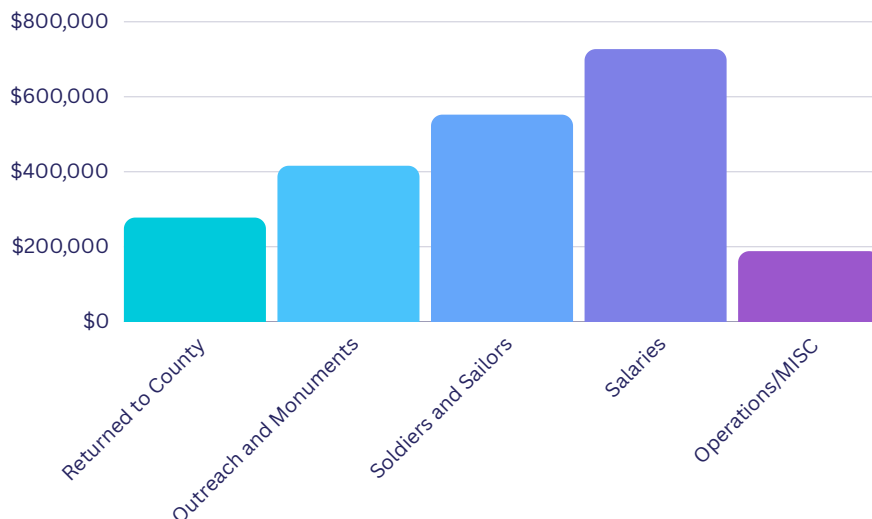
 **40%**

More than 40% of all awarded claims went to Vietnam Era Veterans. 2024 saw a record number of Vietnam Era Veterans (service between August 1964 and May 1975) making application for disability compensation. Most of these were PACT Act related.

Budget

At-A-Glance

The 2024 Budget Appropriation was set at \$2,744,858.44. Of that appropriation \$2,402,518 was expended. Expenditures represent 90% of the budget allocations. The majority of unused budget was due to unfilled vacancies.



Financial Assistance

 **\$552,391.00**

More than 690 applications for Financial Assistance were taken in 2024. More than \$500,000 was awarded to Veterans in need of rent, mortgage, utility and food assistance. Additionally more than \$32,000 was awarded to more than 34 applications for indigent burial assistance.

Increased food and housing costs drove an increase in the number of Financial Assistance applications this year.

The continued partnership with Community Action Partnership (CAP) resulted in a lower expenditure of Utility Assistance this year over last year. This allowed more families to be served in 2024 than in 2023. More than 100 Veterans received assistance from CAP.

Transportation

 **\$87,614.00**

From 2020 with an average of 18 rides per month to 2024 where the monthly average is more than 200 rides, no program has grown faster.

More than
200+
rides per month.

Medical appointment transportation continues to be one of the most popular services provided by the Commission.

Driven by partnerships with RTA and private liveries, Veterans are transported to the VA, WPAFB, dialysis, and routine medical appointments daily.

Under the direction of Loren Scott, Transportation Coordinator, the program boasts an average of less than \$30 per roundtrip.

Coat Giveaway

For the 5th year qualifying Veterans were able to pick up a new winter coat, hat, scarf and gloves. This program runs from November through January. Annually more than 300 new winter coats are distributed to Veterans in need.

Aldi Gift Card

278 gift cards for food from local Aldi Supermarkets were distributed to indigent Veterans during the 2024 Holiday Season. Valued at \$200 each, this program provides holiday meals to qualifying Veterans with household incomes at 250% or below the federal poverty line. This program is scheduled for a return in 2025.

Dental Assistance

The Dental Assistance Program provided routine dental care to a number of Veterans who lacked dental insurance or access to care. Local providers partnered with the MCVSC to insure that every Veteran who needed routine preventative care and more were treated. This year \$6,165 was spent on Veteran Dental Care.

Outreach

News appearances, parades, fairs, festivals, concerts, poker runs, Post events, Golf Outings, Base events, non-profit partnerships and more totaled more than 50 occasions staff represented MCVSC in our community.

100%

Percent of MCVSC Staff participated in 5 or more Outreach Events during 2024. MCVSC participated in parades, fairs, festivals and presentations to dozens of organizations.

About Us

The Montgomery County Veterans Service Commission is a county agency dedicated to serving Montgomery County Veterans. It is not affiliated with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The agency provides these services:

- Assistance when dealing with the VA including compensation claims and widows' benefits
- Emergency financial assistance to eligible Veterans and family members
- No cost legal consultations for Veterans
- Medical transportation to any medical appointment in Montgomery County
- Dental vouchers for low-income veterans to receive basic annual dental care

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