



FOVA Recommendations for FY 2022, Department of Veterans Affairs

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH PROGRAM

<u>FY 2020 Enacted</u> <u>(P.L. 116-94)</u>	<u>FY 2021 Enacted</u> <u>(P.L. 116-260)</u>	<u>FOVA FY 2022 Recommendation</u>
\$800 million	\$815 million	\$902 million
Prior year rescission: \$50 million	Prior year rescission: \$20 million	+\$87 million (10.7%) above FY 2021 program level

The coronavirus pandemic continues to place an unprecedented burden on medical researchers, including those conducting cutting-edge research at the Department of Veterans Affairs. FOVA recognizes the demands of many important programs for America’s veterans in the Military Construction, VA, and Related Agencies spending bill, and urges Congress to restore the VA research program to the sustained funding growth of recent years, without deleterious rescissions. FOVA’s FY 2022 recommendation of \$902 million for VA research would return the investment in veteran-centric research to a trajectory of meaningful growth above inflation, allowing for new efforts to address COVID-19, health disparities, and clinical trials access, while renewing support for groundbreaking programs like the Million Veteran Program (MVP) and research on chronic and emerging needs of our nation’s veterans. Included within the FY 2022 recommendation is \$29 million for additional investments needed to support the strained IT capacity, to be used for computational science purchases to enhance the collection and use of big data. Sustained and predictable funding growth for VA research is imperative to help ensure the best return on investment in improving the health of veterans and all Americans.

PHYSICAL AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) INFRASTRUCTURE

State-of-the-art research requires an investment in state-of-the-art facilities, technology, and equipment. For decades, appropriations for construction, maintenance, and IT have not provided the resources VA needs to replace, maintain, or upgrade its aging research and IT infrastructure to support the research program. For FY 2022, FOVA recommends the following funding to support physical and IT research infrastructure:

MAJOR AND MINOR CONSTRUCTION - At least \$100 million

A 2012 congressionally mandated report found a clear need for systematic infrastructure improvements for VA research laboratories. VA completed a Phase II assessment in 2020 of fewer than one-third of sites inspected in Phase I. Phase II findings show that while certain projects have received funding, significant deficiencies remain. Over \$200 million was estimated to correct all deficiencies identified in the Phase II report, including \$99.5 million in Priority 1 deficiencies, representing immediate needs such as life safety hazard corrections. FOVA believes designating funds specifically for research facilities is the only way to make significant improvements. For capital infrastructure, renovations, and maintenance, FOVA recommends at least \$100 million for VA research facilities to address the most pressing repairs.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY - \$42 million

VA’s Office of Information and Technology (OIT) is responsible for IT development and maintenance for programs including clinical, health management, benefits, security, and research. To advance and modernize the VA research program, OIT funding must be designated specifically for research use on a yearly basis. For FY 2022, FOVA recommends \$42 million of the OIT budget to be assigned for VA research to support the purchase and maintenance of IT infrastructure, increase data storage and access capabilities, increase data security, increase interoperability with affiliated partners, and transition to more robust and functional cloud computing platforms.

Organizations Endorsing the FOVA FY 2022 Recommendation for VA Research (89 as of Feb. 24, 2021)

Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine & Health
AcademyHealth
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM)
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Brain Coalition
American College of Clinical Pharmacology
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American College of Radiology
American Dental Education Association
American Gastroenterological Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Heart Association
American Liver Foundation
American Massage Therapy Association
American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Physiological Society
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
American Society of Nephrology
American Spinal Injury Association
American Surgical Association (ASA)
American Thoracic Society
American Tinnitus Association
American Urological Association
Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY)
Arthritis Foundation
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries
Association of Academic Psychiatrists
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology

Organizations Endorsing the FOVA FY 2022 Recommendation for VA Research, continued

Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Pathology Chairs
Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers
Association of University Anesthesiologists
Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology
Association of University Radiologists
Association of VA Hematology/Oncology
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists (AVANA)
Blinded Veterans Association
Catholic War Veterans of the USA Inc.
Cohen Veterans Bioscience
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Dystonia Advocacy Network
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Endocrine Society
Epilepsy Foundation
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
GBS|CIDP Foundation International
International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders
Interstitial Cystitis Association
LUNGeivity Foundation
Lymphatic Education & Research Network
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics
National Association of Veterans' Research and Education Foundations
NephCure Kidney International
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs (NOVA)
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Project Sleep
Prostate Cancer Foundation
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation
Scleroderma Foundation
Sleep Research Society
Society for Neuroscience
Society of Academic Associations of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine
Society of General Internal Medicine
Vietnam Veterans of America