



Northern Nevada Veterans Home

A "Community Living Center" Concept

- **NNVH Overview:**

There are over 80,000 veterans residing in Northern Nevada. We have a Veterans Nursing Home in Boulder City, but there is no corresponding facility to serve those in Northern Nevada. Currently, the Southern Nevada 180 bed facility is at capacity. NRS 417.147 states that if an additional skilled nursing facility (SNF) is authorized, it must be in Northern Nevada.

A grant application was submitted to the VA in 2006 and approved. It was confirmed again in 2009, placing Nevada on the VA's approved new nursing home construction project list. This will require a 35% state match (\$14,137,851) to receive the anticipated 65% funding (\$32,033,166) from the VA. The next step is 2015 Legislative approval of the Nevada State matching funding.

The Federal VA has noted a current 379 bed need in Nevada. The new NNVH will accommodate 96 veterans, spouses, and Gold Star parents and will be built on state owned property near the northern Nevada Mental Health facilities, at the intersection of Kietzke Lane and Galletti Way, Sparks.

- **History:**

During the 77th session, Governor Sandoval recommended, and the Legislature passed, a bill (AB 505) to begin the design phase and planning for the construction. A needs assessment was conducted in April of 2014, substantiating the importance of the development of a northern Nevada Veterans Home. Currently, Nevada has only 180 nursing home beds available for a population of 95,000 Nevada Veterans 65 and older.

The Nevada Department of Public Works initiated the preliminary schematic drawings for Project #5622. Subject matter experts were engaged in the new, innovative design (which is non-institutional and residential in nature, yet includes the supportive services required in a skilled nursing setting). It is the Community Living Center concept, embraced by the VA.

- **Next Steps:**

The Governor included it in his 2015 Budget presentation with strong support from many stakeholders. Once Legislative approval is secured, Nevada will be advanced on the approved project list for a new Veterans Home from the Federal Veterans

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Administration. If Nevada State matching funds are approved and VA funding is available, the earliest construction could begin is January 2016.

- **Future Benefit:**

Approximately 125 + jobs will be created; nursing and clinical care staff, therapy, food service, clerical, Veterans Services, housekeeping, laundry, maintenance and information technology to name a few. Approximately 20+ merchants and vendors will be engaged for but not limited to; fire/safety systems monitoring and service, medical equipment and supplies, food vendors, landscaping services, clinical care-physicians and nurse practitioners, pharmacy, laboratory and diagnostic services, beautician/barber, pest control, electrical service, furniture and finish contractors, painting, other maintenance. Community Center/Town Hall will encourage and allow for large community and Veterans groups to hold events as well as expand volunteer participation. Parade ground will allow for special ceremonies.

- **Estimated Timeline:**

February 2016: Construction to begin (anticipate 18 months)
January-June, 2017: Operational budget presented to Legislature
May 2017: Key leadership staff hired (Administrator, etc.)
September 1, 2017: Opening date
October 15, 2017: Occupancy date



- **Why a veterans home verses a community nursing home:**

Care: Our Nevada Veterans Nursing home has 3 regulatory agencies; the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, the US Department of Veterans Affairs, and the State of

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Nevada Health Division. Together, these regulatory agencies ensure that our veterans receive the best care possible in order to achieve the goal of maintaining or improving the physical and mental health of our residents.

Cost: The cost for a veteran to reside at the Nevada State Veterans home is \$110 dollars a day. The veteran pays for the stay from a variety of revenue sources, to include Medicare/Medicaid, VA compensation, pension, and per diem, and private pay sources. This cost compares to an average daily rate of \$233 charged by nearby facilities.

Culture: Veterans Homes are operated under a **“Person-Centered Care”** philosophy; incorporating resident preferences in decision making. Residents play an active role in shaping decisions affecting their lives, not only improving operations but giving veterans, who were leaders in their military lives, the dignity of determining how their lives will be led.

Another important cultural aspect is **community involvement**. We embrace family and community members into a shared partnership of supporting and caring for residents. We have almost as many volunteers as we do residents. And, where our clinical staff ensures a great quality of care, our volunteers help ensure a great quality of life with activities ranging from crafts and educational classes, bingo, to outings in the local community, ice cream socials and theatrical productions. Over 12,000 volunteer hours were logged during 2013 in the Southern Nevada home.

The final comment centers on the needs of the veteran. About 75% of our veterans in homes are male, whereas in a non-veteran home the inverse is the true. Instead of entering a residence and having to establish relationships with strangers, every new resident has a **common tie with all others- the shared experience of service to nation and the bonds of comradeship.**

