

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



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Southwest Montana Veterans' Home Butte Montana

The 2011 Montana legislature passed HB 296 which provides that State Special Revenue from cigarette taxes beginning Fiscal Year July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2015, of 1.2% will be deposited to the credit of the account established for the construction of the state veterans' home in southwestern Montana.

The bill appropriates \$4,812,500 from the state special revenue account and appropriates \$8,937,500 from federal special revenue for construction of the home. Total cost for construction was estimated at \$13,750,000.

- In April 2011 the State of Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) Senior and Long Term Care Division, submitted a construction grant request to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to request funding for 65% of the cost of construction for a community living design, (60 bed) state veteran's home in Butte, MT. This request was for 65% of the cost of construction or the \$8,937,400
- In August 2011 DPHHS submitted all the required documentation for consideration of funding by the federal VA for the Federal Fiscal Year 2012 funding cycle.
- In February of 2012, Montana was notified by DVA that our project was listed on the Priority One list for funding; however they did not have adequate federal grant funds to fund the Butte facility. Montana's project was listed as # 60 on the priority one list and funding was available to fund projects through # 52.
- During the summer of 2012 DPHHS worked with the Montana Department of Administration's Architect and Engineering Division (A&E), and CTA Architects to develop design documents and plans for consideration for conditional funding for this project, should other projects that were funded above Montana on the priority list not be able to meet the DVA requirements and timelines.
- In July 2012, DPHHS submitted a letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) requesting that the DVA maintain the Southwest Montana Veterans' Home project on their Priority 1 listing to be considered for the 2013 construction funding period.
- In August 2012 Montana submitted 35% Construction Documents that were worked on with A&E and CTA to the DVA. These design documents have been approved by the DVA, which allows Montana to be poised to move forward quickly should the DVA provide funding for this project in the 2013 Federal Funding Cycle.

- In October 2012, which begins the federal fiscal year 2013, projects will be prioritized and funded by the DVA from the Priority One list of projects. Montana will wait to see if funding is available for this project in 2013.
- Last year's priority list was not released until February of the federal fiscal year.

The Southwest Montana Veterans Home will be located on a 10 acre site in Butte Montana. The campus will house a 60 bed state veterans home developed with a community living design concept that consists of five (5) cottages that will house 12 veteran residents each.

This campus will be a cul-de-sac layout to minimize pedestrian and vehicular traffic overlap. Cottages will be oriented to the south to capture solar exposure and light as well as to capitalize on the views. The cottages will be designed to create a home-like atmosphere where residents, staff, and visitors will feel the comfort of a home. The cottages will have shared kitchen/dining; living room/den/office areas; service rooms; public restrooms and a separate tub room. Residents will have private rooms with private bathrooms that include shower facilities.

The campus includes a Community Center that will provide for a number of the "community-at-large functions" for the veterans such as a Bistro, media center, physical therapy and other activities. The west side of the building will house the administrative offices. The east side of Community Center will be the resident and public spaces and will allow for varying hours of access and operation.

A Maintenance Shop will house service and delivery functions in the northwest corner of the site and will be designed to be similar to a residential garage.

For more information contact Senior and Long Term Care Division staff Kelly Williams, Administrator or Rick Norine, Bureau Chief at 444-4077.

