

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services

Frequently Asked Questions

- ≈ How was the Ohio Department of Veterans Services (ODVS) created? Governor Strickland, after many years of service as a U.S. Congressman in Ohio's 6th District and as a member of the Congressional Veterans' Affairs Committee, felt strongly that Ohio's veteran community was underserved. In response to the needs of Ohio's veterans, Governor Strickland issued Executive Order 2007-11S on May 30, 2007 to establish the Veterans Study Council, to provide recommendations regarding the creation of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services. The Veterans Study Council, which included 15 different veterans' organizations from within State of Ohio, unanimously recommended in December of 2007 that the state create the Ohio Department of Veterans Services with a cabinet level director. Governor Strickland, after thorough examination of the Study Council's recommendations, called for the creation of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services during his State of the State address in February of 2008. During the same month, Senator Bob Spada introduced Senate Bill 289 that was ultimately signed into law by the Governor on May 23, 2008.

- ≈ What will the Ohio Department of Veterans Services do for Ohio's Veteran Community? The Ohio Department of Veterans Services will ensure that Ohio's veterans and their families have one central place to go to access the benefits they earned. The department will be an advocate for Ohio's veterans in Washington D.C., ensuring our veterans have greater access to federal benefits and programs. The new department will work closely with county veterans' service offices and veterans' organizations to effectively coordinate and collaborate while providing quality services to Ohio veterans as expeditiously as possible.

- ≈ What existing elements of State Government will become part of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services? The Ohio Veterans Home Agency, the Governor's Office of Veterans' Affairs and the Ohio War

Orphan Scholarship Board will be consolidated into the new department.

- ≈ Are there other elements of State Government under consideration to become part of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services? [Yes, the State Approving Agency within the Board of Education and the Veterans Service Unit from the Department of Jobs and Family Services are both under consideration for possible inclusion.](#)
- ≈ When will the legislation to create the Ohio Department of Veterans Services take effect? [August 21, 2008](#)
- ≈ I work for one of the affected agencies, how will the consolidation impact my job? [With the exception of the reporting structure, the consolidation will have virtually no effect on the vast majority of the employees.](#)
- ≈ Will new jobs be created with the establishment of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services? [The organizational structure for the new department is still a work in progress. Initial efforts are focused on the consolidation of existing resources.](#)
- ≈ Where will the headquarters for the new department be located? [We anticipate that the Headquarters for the Ohio Department of Veterans Services will be located in Columbus, Ohio. The specific location for the headquarters of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services has not yet been determined.](#)
- ≈ Who do I contact if I have further questions about the new department? [Depending on the nature of your inquiry, you should contact one of the resources below:](#)
 - [For general questions, please contact the Governor's Office of Veterans' Affairs at \(614\) 644-0898.](#)
 - [For state employees with questions regarding how this transition may impact you directly, please contact your union representative if you are in the bargaining unit or your HR Department if you are an exempt employee.](#)