



FOVA Recommendations for FY 2021

Department of Veterans Affairs

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH PROGRAM

| <u>FY 2020 Enacted (P.L. 116-94)</u> | <u>President's FY 2021 Request</u> | <u>FOVA FY 2021 Recommendation</u> |
|--|--|--|
| \$800 million | \$787 million | \$860 million |
| Prior year rescission: \$50 million | -\$13 million below FY 2020 appropriation | +\$60 million above FY 2020 appropriation |

FOVA is thankful to Congress for its recent increased investments to support veteran-centric research. While the FY 2020 appropriation would have continued this funding growth and covered the cost of biomedical inflation, the FY 2020 Military Construction, VA, and Related Agencies bill also included \$50 million in rescissions from prior appropriations to the Medical and Prosthetic Research Program, negating the increases in FY 2020. FOVA's FY 2021 recommendation of \$860 million for VA research would return the investment in veteran-centric research to a trajectory of meaningful growth and renewed support for groundbreaking programs like the Million Veteran Program (MVP), while also supporting VA research on chronic and emerging needs of our nation's veterans. Sustained and predictable funding growth for VA research - without rescissions - is imperative to help ensure the best return on investment in improving the health of veterans and all Americans.

MAJOR AND MINOR CONSTRUCTION

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <u>FOVA FY 2021 Recommendation</u> | At least \$100 million |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|

State-of-the-art research requires an investment in state-of-the-art facilities, technology, and equipment. For decades, appropriations for construction and maintenance have not provided the resources VA needs to replace, maintain, or upgrade its aging research facilities. The impact of this funding shortage was published in a 2012 congressionally mandated report that found a clear need for systematic research infrastructure improvements. VA recently completed a Phase II assessment 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 identified to correct all deficiencies, 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.

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FOVA was founded over 30 years ago to ensure that America's veterans receive high-quality health care. Today, FOVA is a diverse coalition representing national academic, medical, and scientific societies; voluntary health and patient advocacy groups; and veteran-focused associations. FOVA works in concert with the *Independent Budget* veterans service organizations.