



Minnesota Commanders' Task Force

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Nine congressionally chartered veterans service organizations
working together on behalf of all North Star State veterans

Minnesota CTF Legislative Priority
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VA Vet Centers in Minnesota

The Concern: There are not enough VA Vet Centers in Minnesota.

The Request: We are asking the federal Department of Veterans Affairs to spend already budgeted federal funding in Minnesota and not elsewhere in order to bring Minnesota's level of readjustment counseling in line with other states.

The explanation: We ask a lot of the people we send to war to defend our freedoms. We owe them effective programming and supportive community relationships to ease the transition to a positive life after service. Community-based VA Vet Centers are proven to be a key link to assist Veterans through counseling for them and their families. They are a connection to community resources and to additional VA services.

In 2011, Minnesota had three Vet Centers — Brooklyn Park, Duluth and New Brighton (moving to St. Paul this spring). In 2020 that number remains the same while neighboring states have added more: North Dakota increased from three to four; Iowa from two to three; and Wisconsin from three to five. Across the country, most states have added Vet Centers. Minnesota is among only six states with Vet Center to Veterans ratio over 90,000. (See spreadsheet next page.)

We know Vet Centers work. We also know Minnesota's Citizen/Soldiers regularly deploy; this winter sent approximately 800 of our state's finest to the Middle East; this year our state is expected to send another approximately 800 of our finest to the Middle East.

Vet Centers are proven to reduce the number of Veterans who die by suicide or experience homelessness, and, as can be expected, they are very effective at aiding with the transition from military to civilian worlds and to peace after combat.

OK, now what?

How we get there: We ask the congressional delegation from Minnesota to pressure the federal Department of Veterans Affairs to allocate funding for adding three Vet Centers, much like congressional delegations have done in other states. Basically, IT'S OUR TURN. We suggest adding Vet Centers in St. Cloud, Bemidji and Rochester.



About the CTF: The Minnesota Commanders' Task Force comprises the nine congressionally chartered Veterans Service Organizations — The American Legion, AmVets, Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans, Marine Corps League, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Vietnam Veterans of America.



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Comparison of Vet Centers to Veterans

States with ratios over 1 per 90,000 marked in orange

State	# of Vet Centers	2018 Est. Veteran Population*	1 Vet Center Per # Veterans	Comment
United States of America	320	17,964,242	56,138	2015 census: 21,369,602
Alabama	4	324,612	81,153	
Alaska	4	67,635	16,909	
Arkansas	2	187,903	93,952	
Arizona	9	496,239	55,138	
California	32	1,538,797	48,087	
Colorado	6	371,081	61,847	
Connecticut	4	165,029	41,257	
Delaware	2	66,896	33,448	
District of Columbia	1	23,354	23,354	
Florida	24	1,439,606	59,984	
Georgia	7	609,508	87,073	
Hawaii	6	102,915	17,153	
Idaho	2	121,327	60,664	
Illinois	11	559,656	50,878	
Indiana	5	380,079	76,016	
Iowa	3	184,032	61,344	
Kansas	2	178,959	89,480	
Kentucky	2	261,887	130,944	
Louisiana	4	247,339	61,835	
Maine	5	105,385	21,077	
Maryland	8	363,178	45,397	
Massachusetts	7	292,644	41,806	
Michigan	8	530,572	66,322	
Minnesota	3	294,377	98,126	2015 census: 366,990
Mississippi	2	162,926	81,463	
Missouri	5	384,150	76,830	
Montana	5	84,392	16,878	
Nebraska	2	116,754	58,377	
Nevada	4	211,114	52,779	
New Hampshire	4	93,957	23,489	
New Jersey	5	308,012	61,602	
New Mexico	4	146,147	36,537	
New York	16	678,833	42,427	
North Carolina	7	667,035	95,291	
North Dakota	4	45,135	11,284	
Ohio	8	680,310	85,039	
Oklahoma	3	266,513	88,838	
Oregon	5	279,132	55,826	
Pennsylvania	12	745,909	62,159	
Puerto Rico	3	74,415	24,805	
Rhode Island	1	54,848	54,848	
South Carolina	4	363,194	90,799	
South Dakota	3	54,691	18,230	
Tennessee	6	429,585	71,598	
Texas	20	1,435,787	71,789	
Utah	4	120,410	30,103	
Vermont	2	33,986	16,993	
Virginia	5	670,273	134,055	
Washington state	9	520,226	57,803	
West Virginia	9	126,473	14,053	
Wisconsin	5	326,288	65,258	
Wyoming	2	45,252	22,626	

*Latest available figures from the U.S. Census Bureau (released in 2019)

