



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

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Position Paper 2015-06 **Veterans Care Centers**

1. **OBJECTIVE:** to ensure the continued commitment of the Commonwealth of Virginia to the construction of veterans care centers in Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia.
2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - a. Virginia's veterans care centers deliver skilled nursing, domiciliary, and Alzheimer's/dementia care, and short-term rehabilitation, to Virginia veterans. Virginia currently has 400 beds at veterans care centers in Richmond and Roanoke. A 40-bed addition to the Richmond center is under construction and is expected to open in early 2015.
 - b. The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) will fund up to 65% of construction projects for state veterans care centers.
 - c. States must fund at least 35%.
 - d. The Virginia Department of Veteran Services (VDVS) submitted grant applications to the VA in 2005 and 2009 for the construction of new veterans care centers in Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia, each with up to 240 beds.
 - e. Since 2005 (Hampton Roads) and 2009 (Northern Virginia), the Governor of Virginia and the Virginia General Assembly have continued Virginia's 35% state funding commitment to these projects.
 - f. Both projects are listed in the 2014 VA Priority List Group 1 (projects with 35% state matching funds). Ranking within the priority group is established in 38 C.F.R. §59.50.
 - g. VDVS was notified by VA that the Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia projects would not receive federal funds in FY14. An estimated \$85 million in VA funds was available for all projects nationwide in FY14; only projects that address life/safety issues were funded by VA in FY14.
 - h. The two Virginia projects will re-complete for VA funding in 2015.
3. **DISCUSSION:** Continued state commitment (35% of construction costs) is critical to the future receipt of federal grant funding for the Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia veterans care center projects.
4. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the Governor and General Assembly continue state support for the Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia veterans care center construction projects and continue certification of the availability of 35% state funding to match the federal grant funds, thereby maintaining both projects on the VA Priority List Group 1.