



## United Veterans Committee of Colorado

### 2010 State Goals and Priorities

*The following document contains the 2010 UVC State Legislative Goals and non-legislative Organizational Priorities. The numbering does not reflect a priority order.*

#### **State Legislative Goals:**

1. Monitor and protect all moneys in the Veterans Trust Fund so that funds are used consistent with the purposes specified in statute.
2. Support funding for the programs administered by the Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs, including: (a) an incentive-based funding increase for the County Veterans Service Officer Program; (b) increase funding for veterans and families mental health services; (c) sufficient funding for administration, maintenance and operation of the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado
3. Support capital construction and controlled maintenance funding for all State Veterans Nursing homes.
4. Support funding to restore the historic buildings at the State Veterans Center at Homelake, and for the operation, maintenance, administration and expansion of the Homelake cemetery
5. Support needed action for the planning, funding and construction of a domiciliary care assisted living and other related veteran health care facilities to be located on the vacant land south and north of the existing State Veterans Nursing Home at Fitzsimons (Aurora), as endorsed by the State Board of Human Services, the State Board of Veterans Affairs and United Veterans Committee
6. Support funding for programs serving veterans that are administered by the Department of Human Services, the Department of Labor and Employment, and other State agencies.
7. Support funding for a statewide "Veterans Information Center," an information and referral directory system for government and recognized non-government organization providing veteran services and support.
8. Support legislative and departmental efforts to conclude the sale of DHS's Trinidad State Nursing Home at fair market value with the proceeds going to the State Veterans Nursing Home "505" fund.
9. Support establishment of a permanent military and veterans display inside the new Colorado History Museum.

#### **State Organizational Priorities**

1. Support the recommendations from the strategic planning efforts conducted by the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs.
2. Protect Veterans Trust Fund and explore and secure additional sources of funding.
3. Support the recommendations of the 2007 Final Report of the Commission on State and Veterans Nursing Homes related to the facilities at Florence, Homelake, Rifle, Trinidad, Walsenburg and Fitzsimons.
4. Take appropriate steps as approved by the UVC to obtain funding support to employ a qualified Executive Director/Secretary and to meet other organizational obligations to serve our membership.
5. Initiate a cooperative effort with casino operators to provide funding and services to address unmet needs of veterans and their families, possibly including a portion of Veterans Day and Memorial Day proceeds.
6. Strengthen accountability and administrative effectiveness at the State and Veterans Nursing Homes to ensure the highest quality of care for veterans and their families, including measures to assure proper management and oversight of the Central Enterprise Fund (505 fund).
7. Support the "Support our Troops" license plate, with proceeds to support families of service men and women and veterans.
8. Support efforts to fund the Colorado Veterans Monument Preservation Trust Fund to ensure the timely and ongoing maintenance of the Monument and surrounding park area west of the Capitol.

9. Seek solutions, funding sources and partnerships to serve homeless veterans.
10. Identify effective means and funding sources to provide transportation to needed health care for veterans from rural areas (e.g. to VA hospitals in Denver, Grand Junction, Cheyenne & Albuquerque).
11. Support efforts to maintain and strengthen the provision and enforcement of veterans' preference in employment especially for veterans recently returned from active military duty.
12. Support efforts to complete the Aurora Transitional Homeless Veterans Housing Project.
13. Continue work with DHS & SVNH administrators to find resolution to and mitigate the impact on the 505 Central Fund caused by state budget cuts with implications to personnel decisions.
14. Support executive or legislative action, including obtaining a complete financial report from the State Comptroller, and an audit by the State Legislative Audit Committee/State Auditor of the 505 Enterprise Fund, established for funding of the State and Veteran Nursing Homes with a public report of its findings and recommendations.
15. Support executive/legislative action requiring the DHS establish a viable 5-year plan for each of the state and Veteran nursing homes, including the requirement the DHS must consult with the SVNH Commission and the State Board of Veterans Affairs.

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