

CLAYTON COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS MEETING
CLAYTON COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING/CONFERENCE ROOM 1
600 Gunder Road NE, Elkader, Iowa 52043
September 8, 2025 at 7:30 a.m.

The Veterans Commission Meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. on September 8, 2025 at the Clayton County Office Building Meeting Conference Room #1.

I.) Roll Call: Commissioners Clark, Eilers, Torkelson, and Jordan, Administrator, were present.

II.) Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Clark to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2025 meeting, seconded by Eilers. Motion carried unanimously.

III.) Public Comments: No comments were noted.

IV.) Budget Review: Jordan distributed the current Fiscal Budget for Period Ending: August 31, 2025. The Veterans Affairs Office began the current fiscal year on July 1, 2025. \$102,019.00 is the yearly budget for 2025-2026. \$3,488.50 was spent during the month of August with 88.75% remaining in the budget for the year. Eilers made the motion to approve the budget, Clark seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

V.) Old Business:

a). Jordan commented that the State now required cross accreditation with three organizations. He has met this requirement.

b) The Fall County Commissioner Training is now going to be an in-person training October 12-13, 2025. The Commissioner Networking event will begin on Sunday, October 12, from 5-7 at the Stoney Creek Hotel and Event Center, 5291 Stoney Creek Court, Johnston, IA. The Commissioner Training will be on Monday, October 13 from 8-4.

VI.) New Business:

a). Jordan reported that the collaboration with other counties continues. The counties in our area have been receptive to this idea. Counties will share strategies regarding volunteers and resources with effective ways to work with each other and not compete against each other. The location and time need to be selected to accommodate all counties servicing veterans in our area.

b). Van/shuttle concerns have been addressed, and maintenance has been completed.

c). The County continues to move forward in creating a new website including information pertaining to the Clayton County Veterans Affairs Commission.

d). Van drivers are still needed to transport veterans to clinics. Advertising for van driver positions is in the local theatre announcements. The Commission will investigate the possibility of using public service announcements on radio and/or television.

e). It was noted that there is a drop box in the lobby area of the Clayton County Office Building for flags needing retirement.

f). Commissioner Clark inquired re: available storage space for the Clayton County Float with the names of county veterans who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

g). Clark reported that he would be receiving the 2025 University of Iowa Veteran's Award during the Iowa Oregon Game. The official ceremony would be on November 7, and presentation on the 8th during the football game in honor of Veterans' Day.

h). The August Statistical Report was distributed. Thirty total number of calls were received this month re: Veteran related concerns. Twenty-Two total office visits from Veterans. One home visit for Veterans, and one training event.

VII. Review and approval of Claims:

VIII. Confirmation of the Next Meeting: Next meeting will be on October 6, 2025, at 7:30 a.m.

IX. Adjournment: Clark made the motion to adjourn, Eilers seconded the motion; Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gerrie Torkelson

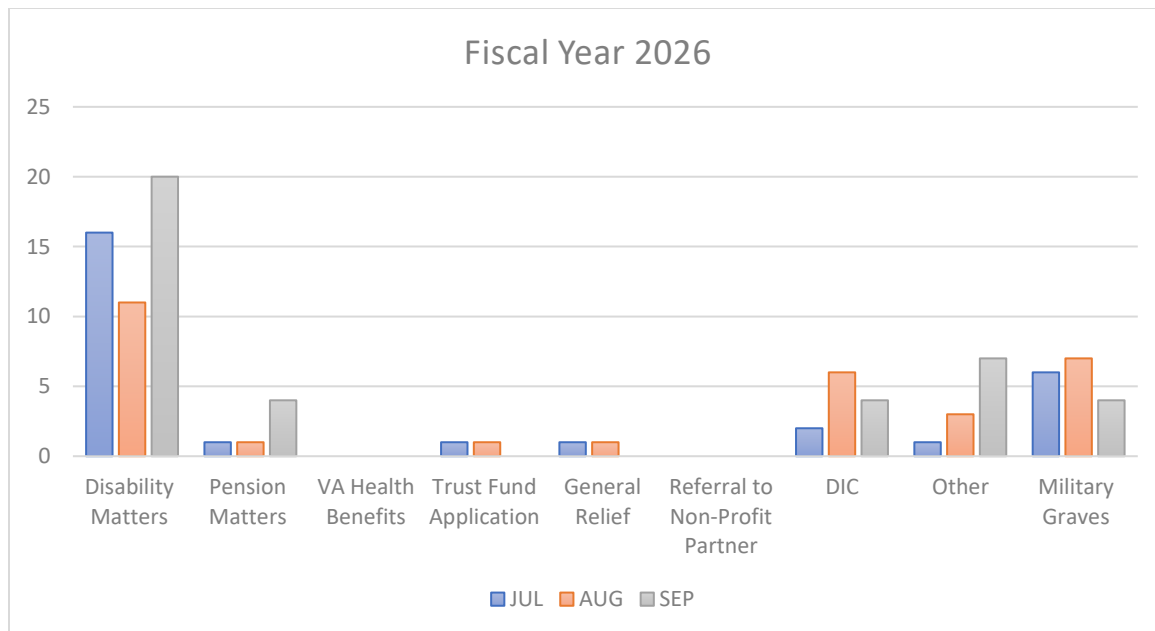
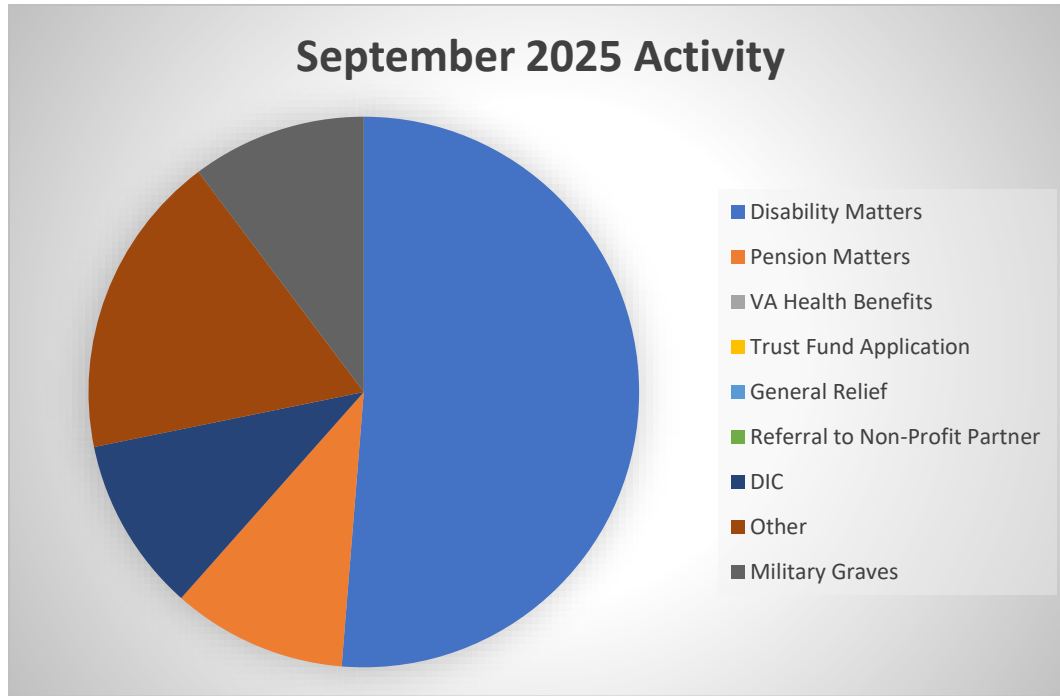
September Report

25 total number of calls received this month re: Veteran related concerns.

21 total office visits from Veterans.

2 home visits

0 training event



VA & State Updates:

Coordinating VA Caregiver Benefits with State Programs – Families may qualify for support from multiple systems at once. The VA's care giver benefits include the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (which provides a stipend), Program of General Caregiver Support Services (no stipend program); VA ordered clinical services (i.e. Homemaker/Home Health Aide, Respite Care, Adult Day Health Care) and Veteran-Directed care. These programs can be accessed along with state Medicaid home or community-based offerings or services (i.e. personal care, respite care, adult day, home modifications). Generally, Medicaid is a payor of last resort, in that Medicaid will not cover services already paid by another program. Stacking, which is leverage services from multiple programs, works best when the services being offered are for different purposes and/or not provided at overlapping times. VA and State Offered programs work to prevent double payment for the same hour or provided services/tasks. Therefore, it is pertinent to keep each program's service offerings, plans and hours distinct. The goal of leveraging any combination of services is to ensure that they complement provided services of the other, establish clear roles, and ensure that funding sources are specific to each respective program offering.

VA Will Issue 12-Month Community Care Authorizations for 30 Specialties – The VA has announced a policy change to extend the length of time (for a full 12 months) for new community care authorizations for a defined set of 30 specialties. The rationale for providing this extension is to cut down or reduce mid-year or mid-course renewals while a patient may be receiving treatment. Prior to this change, authorizations were reviewed every 90-180 days. The one year authorization will cover care for cardiology, dermatology, endocrinology, neurology, otolaryngology, gastroenterology, urogynecology, addiction psychiatry (outpatient), family and couples' psychotherapy (outpatient), mental health (outpatient), nephrology, nutrition intervention, oncology and hematology, neuro-ophthalmology, oculoplastic services, comprehensive eye exams, routine optometry, orthopedic hand, general orthopedics, orthopedic spine, pain management, podiatry, addition medicine (outpatient), pulmonary, physical medicine & rehab (physiatry), rheumatology, sleep medicine and urology. Authorizations will require VA clinician referral. The change is simply that the authorization for these services have been extended from 90-180 days to 12 months.