



VLER Benefits Phase 1

EPS Number:

01-02-02-04-08-001T

NSR Number:

Project Summary:

VLER Benefits provides a wide range of electronic information sourcing capabilities to Veterans and Service members, to include those severely wounded, ill, and injured. Case management tracking tools, automated disability benefits questionnaires (DBQs), and electronic case file transfer are essential components of VA's move toward an electronic information sourcing paradigm to eliminate the claims backlog.

Justification:

The goal of VLER Benefits is to assist Servicemembers, Veterans, and their families with access to care, services, and benefits. These efforts are foundational to the President's goal of developing the VLER for all Veterans; satisfying SECVA and SECDEF directives to create paperless, searchable Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) case files; and meeting VA APGs to reduce claims processing times and improve accuracy.

Business Values

Business Requirements

- Provide electronic information sourcing capabilities to support VBA's Ingest strategy through VCA-2 Rapid Acceleration IPT efforts, including DBQs, C&P Exam Management, and electronic Case File Transfer requirements
- Transition of Federal Recovery Coordination Program (FRCP), Veterans Health Administration (VHA), and Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) users to new IT platform from the Veterans Tracking Application (VTA) platform to the new Federal Case Management Tool (FCMT) platform)
- Share Care Coordinator Profile data and Benefit Claim Status data between VA FRCP and DOD Army Warrior Care and Transition System (AWCTS)

Business Processes Enabled

- Provides a process by which a thorough review of each Servicemember's case is undertaken to determine the level of disability and entitlement for disability retirement
- Creates a tool used to track the disability evaluation claims of Servicemembers and Veterans. Critical enabler of the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) process
- DBQs are streamlined medical examination forms designed to capture essential medical information for purposes of evaluating VA disability compensation and/or pension claims from Veterans or Servicemembers.

Schedule and Deliverables

- Oct 2012 Project Start
- Oct 2012 Milestone 0 Review
- Oct 2012 Milestone 1 Review
- Jul 2013 Increment 1 Customer Acceptance (Benefits Claim Status Sharing, Transition users to FCMT platform)
- Mar 2014 Increment 2 Customer Acceptance (Database convergence)
- Sep 2014 Project End

Lifecycle Cost Table:

	Prior Year(s)	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	Total
Lifecycle Costs									
Pay			redacted						
Non-Pay			redacted						
Non-Pay DME			redacted	redacted					redacted
Non-Pay SUS			redacted						
Total		redacted							
All Other Non-IT*									redacted

*Included in other Non-IT appropriation.

Project Risks:

1. Dependencies and Interoperability
2. Reliability

Risk Matrix

Impact	5 Very High					1
	4 High					
	3 Mod				2	
	2 Low					
	1 Very Low					
		1 Very Low	2 Low	3 Mod	4 High	5 Very High
		Probability				



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Is this project mandated? Yes

If mandated, enter all applicable documentation for mandate.

VA/DoD Joint Strategic Plan (JSP)

Acquisition Strategy

The acquisition strategy is to issue Firm Fixed Price Task Orders against the Transformation Twenty-One Total Technology (T4) Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Multiple Award Task Order Contract (MATOC).

Dependencies

- Warrior Support Information Sharing Initiative (ISI) (01-02-02-04-03-003): Benefits Claim Status – VLER Data Access Services (DAS) (01-02-02-04-04-009) for interface exchange package; Veteran Identity Eligibility Reporting System (VIERS) (01-02-02-06-06-002) interface to produce data; FCMT (01-02-02-04-03-002) & AWCTS interface to consume data.
- DBQ (01-02-02-04-03-005): DAS for data transport. Health Data Repository (HDR) (01-02-03-04-01-002) for data storage

Risks and Mitigation

Business Risks and Mitigation

Risk: Organizational and Change Management – If the multitude of stakeholders become disharmonious, or discouraged by the rate of progress, then the priorities of the various governance bodies will become conflicted, impeding progress, confusing direction, and weakening budget sponsorship.

Mitigation: Plan small increments of modest scope for quick delivery, and build on that success with ever increasing scope & schedule size. Coordinate with the customer Point of Contacts (POCs) and customer management to gain concurrence on scope and schedule for each progressive increment.

Technical/Project Risks and Mitigation

Risk: Dependencies and Interoperability – If interoperable systems at VA and DoD (e.g. DAS data transport, National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) Extensible Markup Language (XML) Information Exchange Package, HDR data storage, DOD AWCTS interface, VIERS interface, etc.) are not brought to successful and timely delivery (including budgets, System of Records Notice (SORNs), Information Security Agreement (ISAs), Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs), Authority to Operate (ATOs), network connections) then various project components will fail.

Mitigation: Maintain monthly contact with POC of external dependencies, via Integrated Project Team (IPT) or other means, to monitor external schedules, risks and issues, and maintain an Integrated Master Schedule (IMS).

Risk: Reliability – If it takes more than 18-24 months to retire the VTA product, the user experience may become intolerable with regard to response times and download timeout.

Mitigation: Focus on expediting the transition of users to the new platform as a first priority.

Comments

None