“To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan.”
Abraham Lincoln, 1865

Our Mission
To care for those who have “borne the battle” and for their families and survivors.
The President’s 2018 Budget

$186.5 billion

3.6% increase in total funding
7.1% increase in discretionary VHA funding to improve access
6% increase for mental health
7.1% increase for women-specific healthcare
9.1% increase for the HUD-VASH housing program
Medical Services vs. Community Care:

- **5.7% increase** in Medical Services  ($2.7 billion of $50 billion)
- **8.3% increase** for Community Care  ($0.965 billion of $12.6 billion)

In total dollars:
The Medical Services increase is **three times** the Community Care increase, counting all funding sources (direct appropriations, carryover, transfers, collections, and reimbursements)
13 Risks

1. Access to Care
2. Paying Providers
3. Community Care
4. Quality of VA Care
5. Disability Claims & Appeals
6. Information Technology
7. Capital Assets
8. Construction
9. Accountability
10. Staffing
11. Bureaucracy
12. Fraud, Waste & Abuse
13. Veteran Suicides
The Secretary’s 5 Priorities

Greater Choice  Modernize Systems  Focus Resources

Improve Timeliness  Suicide Prevention
1. Greater Choice: We Are Listening

Community Care challenges identified by our stakeholders

**Today**

1. Administrative Eligibility Criteria
2. Excessive Bureaucracy and Confusion
3. Minimal Care Coordination
4. Lack of Timely Payments and Outdated Processes

**Tomorrow**

- Clinical Eligibility Criteria
- Single, Easy to Use Program with More Choice
- Robust Care Coordination
- Timely Payments and Contemporary Processes
Clinically based decisions on when and where Veterans receive care, always involving the Veteran and their provider.
How Do Veterans Benefit?

1. Improved care coordination & consistent point of contact
2. Seamless health information exchange between providers
3. Robust network of convenient care clinics
4. Access to best in class VA and community providers
5. Transparency on VA and community provider performance
6. New tools to easily schedule with VA and community providers
2. Modernize Our Systems

- EMR interoperability and IT modernization
- Infrastructure improvements and streamlining services
3. Improve Timeliness of Services

• Access to care and wait times
• Decisions on appeals
• Performance on disability claims
4. Focus Resources More Efficiently

• Strengthening of foundational services
• VA/DOD/Community coordination
• Deliver on accountability and effective management practices
5. Suicide Prevention

GETTING TO ZERO
For Those Who’ve Borne the Battle

There are things we all agree on.