



Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs  
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## **2008-09 BUDGET REFLECTS GOVERNOR CRIST'S SUPPORT FOR VETERANS**

*~Proposal continues quality care in veterans' homes and staffing increases~*

**TALLAHASSEE** – Governor Charlie Crist and Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp today unveiled their 2008-09 budget recommendation for the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, which provides robust support for Florida's military veterans and their families. Florida has the fastest growing veteran population in the United States.

"The governor's recommended budget of \$60.5 million reflects his commitment to Florida's more than 1.7 million veterans," said FDVA Executive Director LeRoy Collins Jr. "Florida continues to be a leader in providing services to those who have honorably answered the call to serve our country."

The Crist/Kottkamp budget for 2008-09 funds quality long-term care and provides staff increases to improve access to veterans' benefits and assistance. Governor Crist's Fiscal Year 2008-09 recommended budget includes the following:

- Provides authorization to fund \$313,885 to support the opening of the St. Johns County State Veterans' Nursing Home.
- Provides funding of \$55,000 and one additional staff member in the agency's Benefits and Assistance Division to support additional veterans' outreach programs.
- Provides funding for three staff members to expand vital electronic business processes and long-term health care initiatives in the agency's Office of Information Technology.

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs is a state agency responsible for assisting, without charge, Florida's veterans, their families and survivors in improving their health and economic well-being through quality benefit information, advocacy and education. FDVA also provides long-term health care services through five veterans' nursing homes and one assisted living facility.

For information on FDVA and benefits offered to Florida's veterans, visit [www.FloridaVets.org](http://www.FloridaVets.org).

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