



GENESEE ■ COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
SERVICES

Department Update Veterans Day Acknowledgements

Lt Col Derrick Britton (Ret.), Director





GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN • 2025

THANK YOU VETERANS



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED • 11TH NOVEMBER • VETERANS DAY





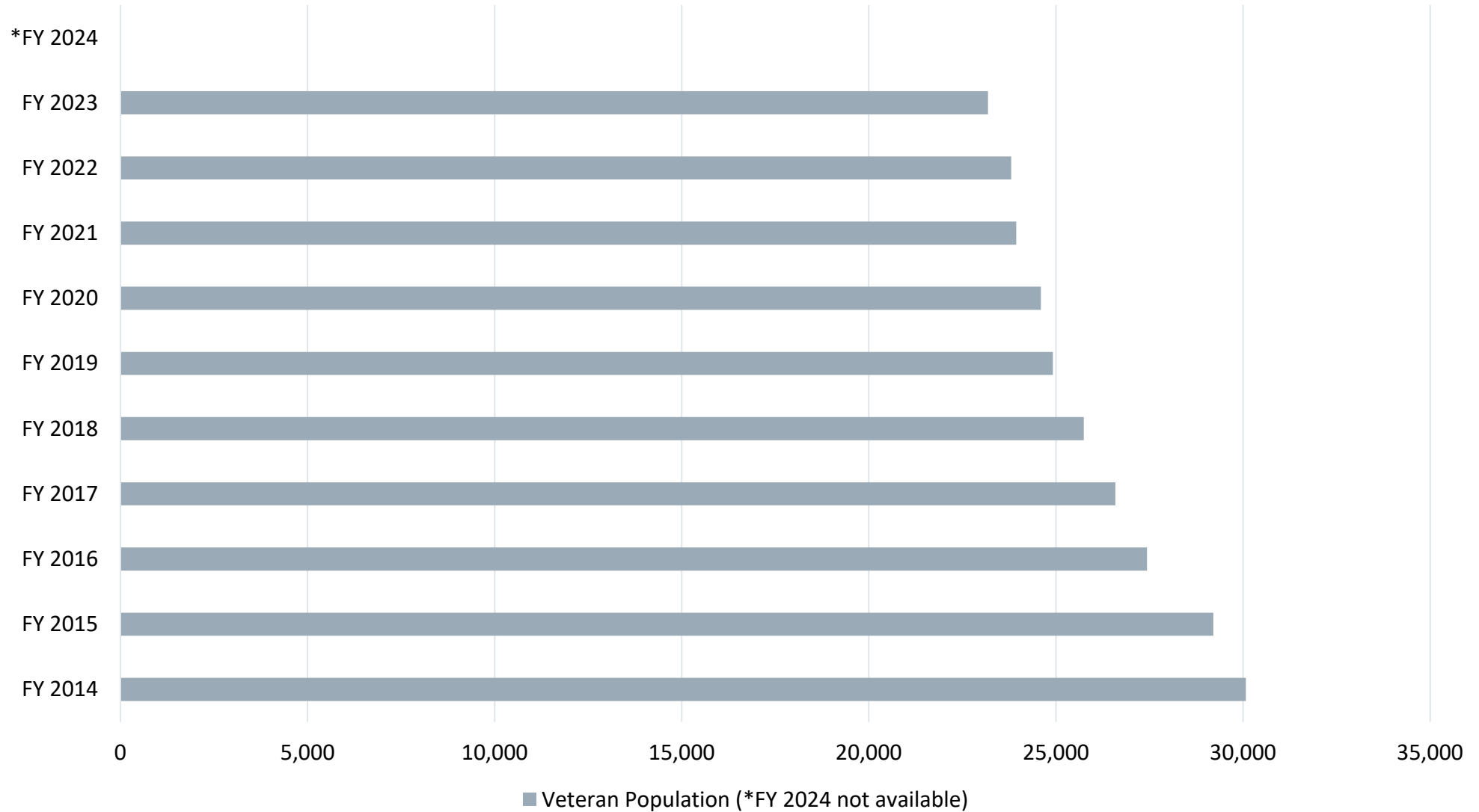
Veteran Service Officers (VSOs)

- › **VSOs – VA accredited professionals who help veterans and their families access and apply for military and VA benefits**
 - Carrie Wagner, Beth Smith, David Downer, Tristan Shaw, Rhonda Sparling



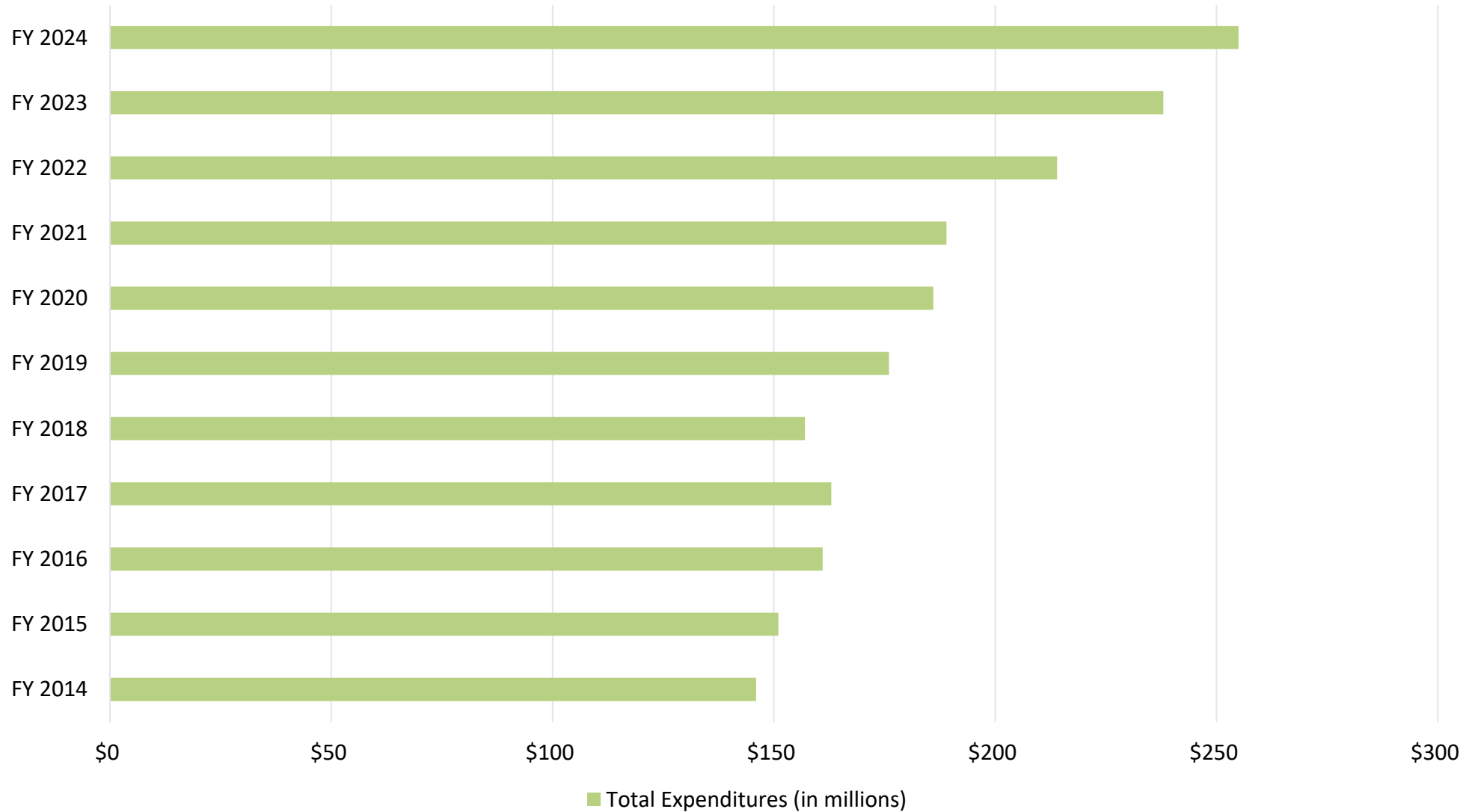


Geographic Summary of VA Expenditures (GDX) Genesee County





Geographic Summary of VA Expenditures (GDX) Genesee County





Emergent Need Funding for Veterans

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund

Provides emergency grants to Michigan veterans and dependent family members to help them weather short-term financial crisis.

Committee Members

Ted Henry

Richard Monroe

Fredrick Caruso

Soldiers Relief Fund

County level emergency assistance for veterans and dependent family members.

Commission Members

Fredrick Caruso

Raymond Jefferson

Sherwood Pea Jr.

FY25: Over **\$85,000** in approved assistance for veterans in need.





Mental Health Services

Great Lakes Bay Vet Center

- Community-based VA counseling center that provides a wide range of social/psychological services to Veterans.



Randall Genow, Readjustment Counselor, LMSW since 2017

- Army Veteran from 1999 to 2007
- Deployments to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)
- Masters of Social Work Degree
- Certified Advanced Alcohol Drug Counselor
- Graduate of VA's Virtual Aspiring Supervisor Program (2025)



Sarah Kennedy, Readjustment Counselor, LMSW since 2024

- Civilian
- Liscensed Master Social Worker
- 15+ years in Human Services
- 10+ years experience as a therapist with an agency contracting with Saginaw County Community Mental Health



James Beall, Readjustment Counselor, LMHC since 2021

- Served in United States Navy During Vietnam Era, (1972-1978)
- Nuclear Reactor Operator Abroad and Attack Submarine.
- Associates Degree in Humanities
- Bachelors Degree in Business Management
- Masters Degree in Counseling
- Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and Nationally Certified Counselor (NBCC)
- 31 Years Working For General Motors Engineering at the Milford Proving Grounds



Transportation Services

- MTA Partnership
- FY25 – Over 5,000 rides totaling over \$105,000.00



Vets to  Wellness
Personal Transportation Services. At Your Service.



Genesee County Veteran Organization Relief Program

- › **Veteran Serving Organizations receiving \$10,000 for programming, infrastructure, etc.**
 - Gordon Bennett VFW Post 1452, Clio
 - Charles Skellenger American Legion Post 267, Davison
 - Strength in Numbers, Davison
 - Boat4Vets Lake Fenton Chapter
 - Curtis Wolverton VFW Post 3243, Fenton
 - George Washington Carver/Leo Crow VFW Post 8236, Flint
 - Friends of McFarlan Veterans Memorial Park, Flint
 - Veterans of Now, Flint
 - American Legion Post 413 Grand Blanc
 - Hammerberg Memorial VFW Post 3720 Post and Auxiliary, Swartz Creek
 - American Legion Auxiliary Post 294, Swartz Creek

Funding for Veteran Serving Organizations





Funding for Unhoused Veterans

- › Two organizations received \$75,000 for operations:
 - Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties
 - › Sacred Heart Veteran Village (Tiny Homes)
 - My Brother's Keeper
 - › Rolling Hills Veterans Facility





Veteran Services Staff

› Secretaries

– Wendy Blackmer, Meranda Garza, Marneka Reed

› Partnerships and Communications Specialist

– Lauren Thompson





Notable Events/Opportunities

- Senior Center Health Fairs
- Commissioners Community Connections
- Michigan Military and Veterans Gala
- Veterans Benefits Radio Show
- Mid Michigan Veterans Coalition Meetings
- Elder Abuse Alliance
- EDGE Conference
- Operation Green Light
- Firebirds Veterans Appreciation Night
- Catholic Charities Veterans Appreciation
- Various Veterans Services Presentations
- Commission on Aging Resource Fair
- Cumulus Media Health and Wellness Fair
- Good Morning Mid Michigan
- Back to the Bricks
- Veterans Treatment Court
- Armed Forces Resource Rally
- Genesee County Day at Crossroads Village
- Armed Forces Day at Genesee County Fair
- Various Chamber Meetings
- Wreaths Across America
- Veterans and First Responders Fair
- Pre Veterans Day Motorcade
- McFarlan Park Veterans Appreciation
- UM-Flint Veterans Appreciation
- Clio Freedom 4 Vets Breakfast
- Haircuts with Veterans, Davison
- Pizza with a Vet
- B95, Z92.7, CK105.5 Radio Advertising
- CRIM Fitness Partnership



Challenges

- › **County Veteran Service Fund Grant – State of Michigan**
 - Reduction in grant funding for FY25
 - Originally approved \$275,460; but was recalculated to \$124,427
 - Reduction of \$151,033
 - Maximum we were allowed to apply for in FY26: \$96,720
 - Used for transportation, advertising/marketing

- › **Service Organization Veteran Service Officer**
 - VFW, American Legion



Department Coin



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