

Veterans' Success Initiative

Veterans' Success -- Student Assistance Program, *may be used only to provide space and services* to meet veterans' needs for access to and completion of postsecondary education.

NEED

- Enrollment of veterans in the MUS is projected to double in the next 5 years (from 2,500 to 5,000 students)
- Funds are needed to increase service levels across the system to meet the unique challenges veterans face with engaging and succeeding in higher education

FUNDING and PLAN

\$1M one-time only funding for the 2015 biennium

Specific items to be funded:

- Ensure dedicated space for veterans is available on all campuses
- Veterans oriented academic and student services, advising, peer mentoring, counseling, and health/mental health services
- Financial literacy education and outreach activities to engage veterans on campus
- System-wide veterans website/portal to provide information on veterans benefits and opportunities, admissions and college planning , transfer of military training/courses
- Enrollment and student success tracking

PERFORMANCE

The success of this program will be measured in the following areas:

- Enrollment (total # of veterans enrolled each year)
- Retention Rates (% returning for 2nd year of enrollment)
- Completions (# veterans receiving degrees and certificates)
- Workforce Placement (% of veterans receiving degrees and certificates that find employment in Montana within one year following graduation)

CAMPUS ALLOCATIONS

- Conference call with Student Affairs Officers (first week of June)
- Convene meeting with campus veterans staff in conjunction with VA meeting (6-12-13)
 - Gap analysis of campus veterans **space and services**
- Campuses submit proposals to OCHE for the development, expansion or improvement of **veterans space and service only** as determined by Best Practices (8-1-13)
- OCHE approval based on assessment of needs and implementation of best practices and impact (9-1-13)