



## MVAA BRIEFING

Director Jeff Barnes



# Michigan's Veteran Population

OVER 660,000  
MEN & WOMEN



represent Michigan's  
current veteran  
population

MICHIGAN

11th

largest veteran  
population in the U.S.

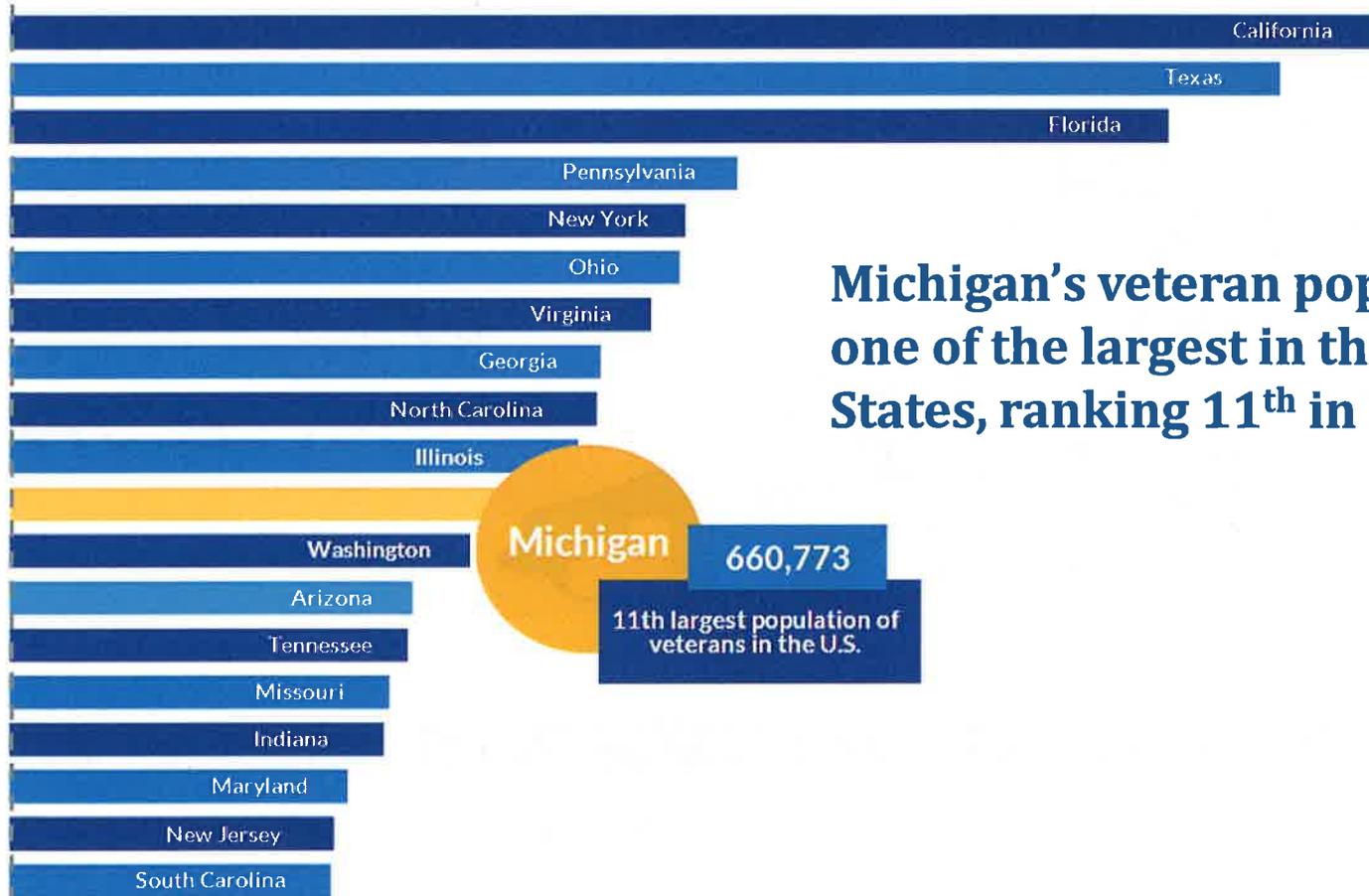
\$5,090 PER VET



The average amount  
of federal benefits  
paid to Michigan's  
veterans

# Michigan's Veteran Population Compared to Other States

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**Michigan's veteran population is one of the largest in the United States, ranking 11<sup>th</sup> in 2013**

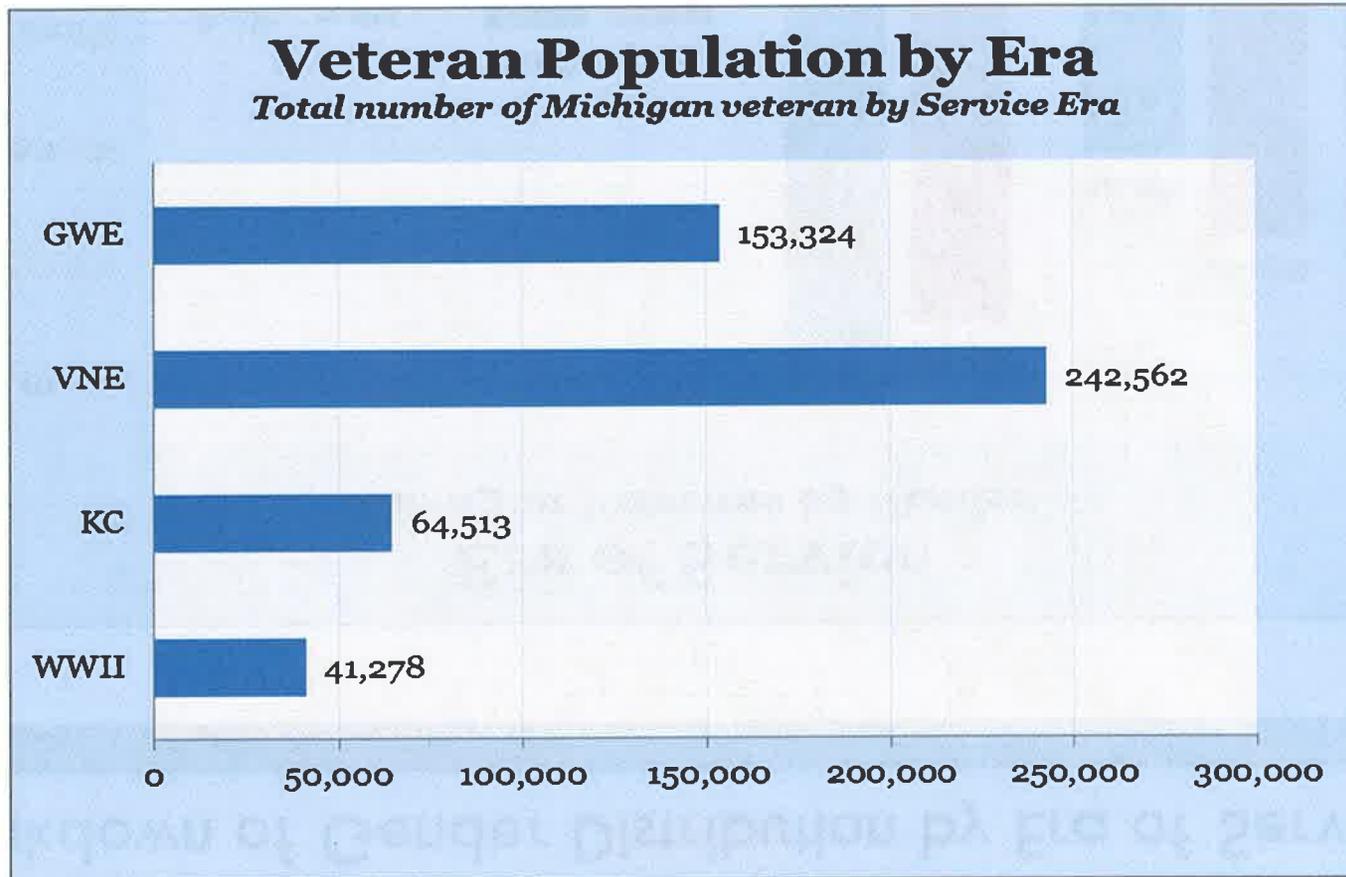
**Michigan** 660,773  
11th largest population of veterans in the U.S.



# Michigan's Veteran Population

## Number of Veterans by Era of Service

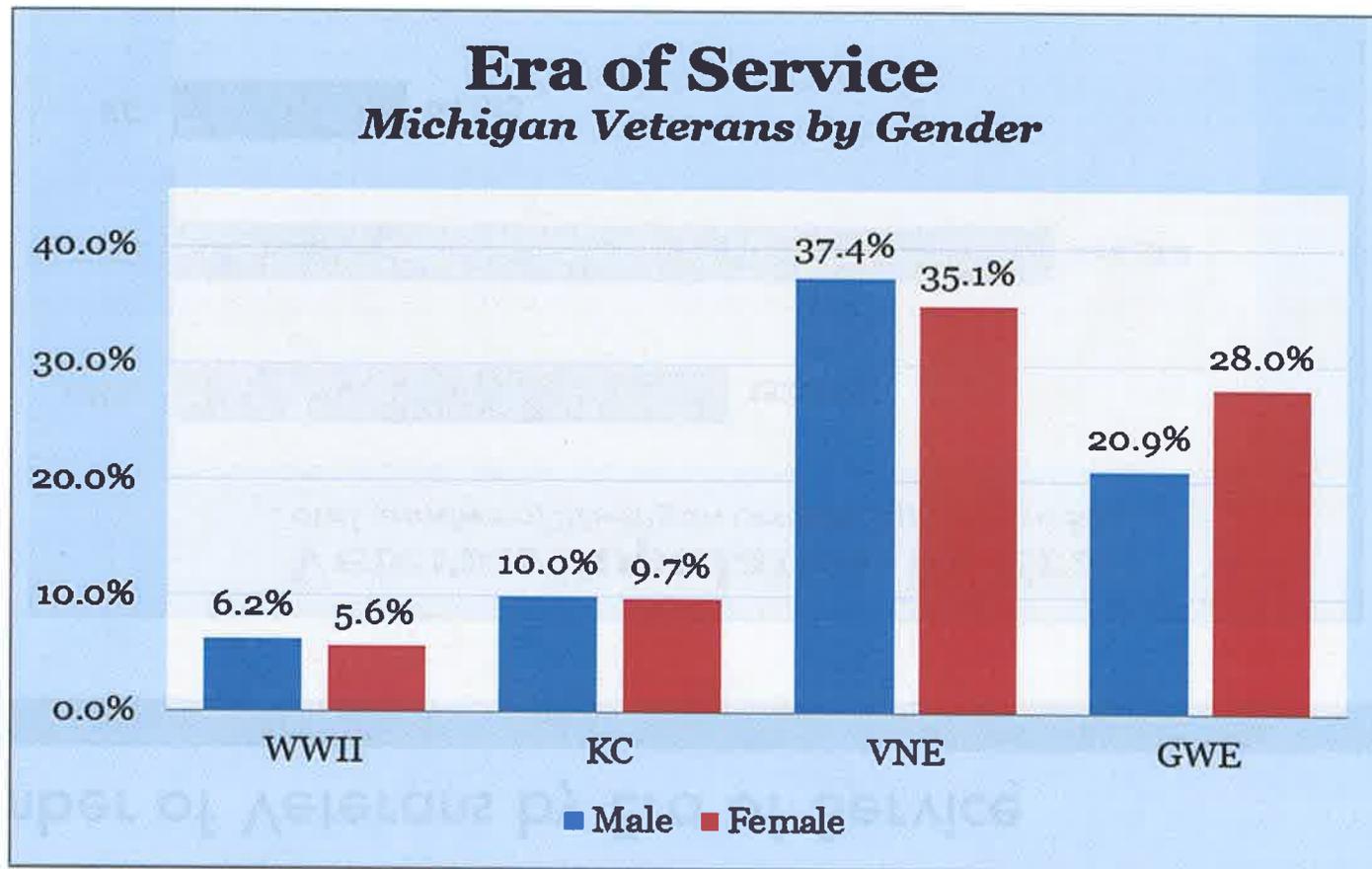
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# Michigan's Veteran Population

## Breakdown of Gender Distribution by Era of Service

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# MVAA Overview

**MVAA's mission, vision and organization**

# Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

## Improving Service for Those Who Served

**The Problem:** In 2011, Michigan ranked 53<sup>rd</sup> out of 53 in per capita receipt of federal veterans benefits (GDX), and this fact made evident what many in the state had known for some time: Michigan was not doing what needed to be done to appropriately support its veteran citizens.

**The Solution:** In March 2013, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency was created by Executive Order to address this critical need. MVAA seeks to promote greater resource management, benefitting both veterans and the state by ensuring veterans are appropriately and efficiently connected to the resources available to them at any level of government and through private organizations within communities.

# Mission

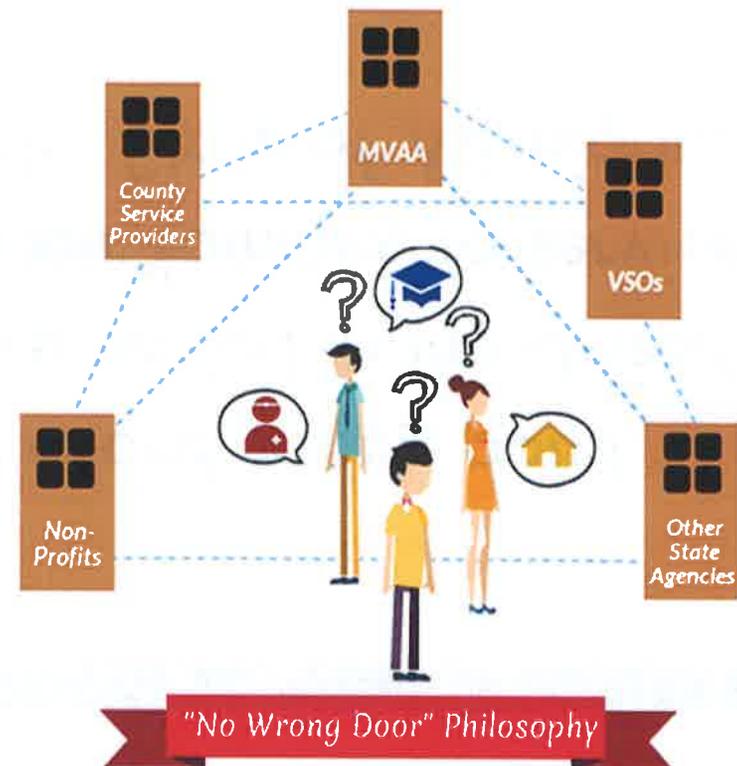
*To serve as the central coordinating point, connecting those who have served in the United States Armed Forces and their families, to services and benefits throughout the State of Michigan.*

# Vision

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*Putting Michigan on the path to be the most veteran-friendly state, by:*

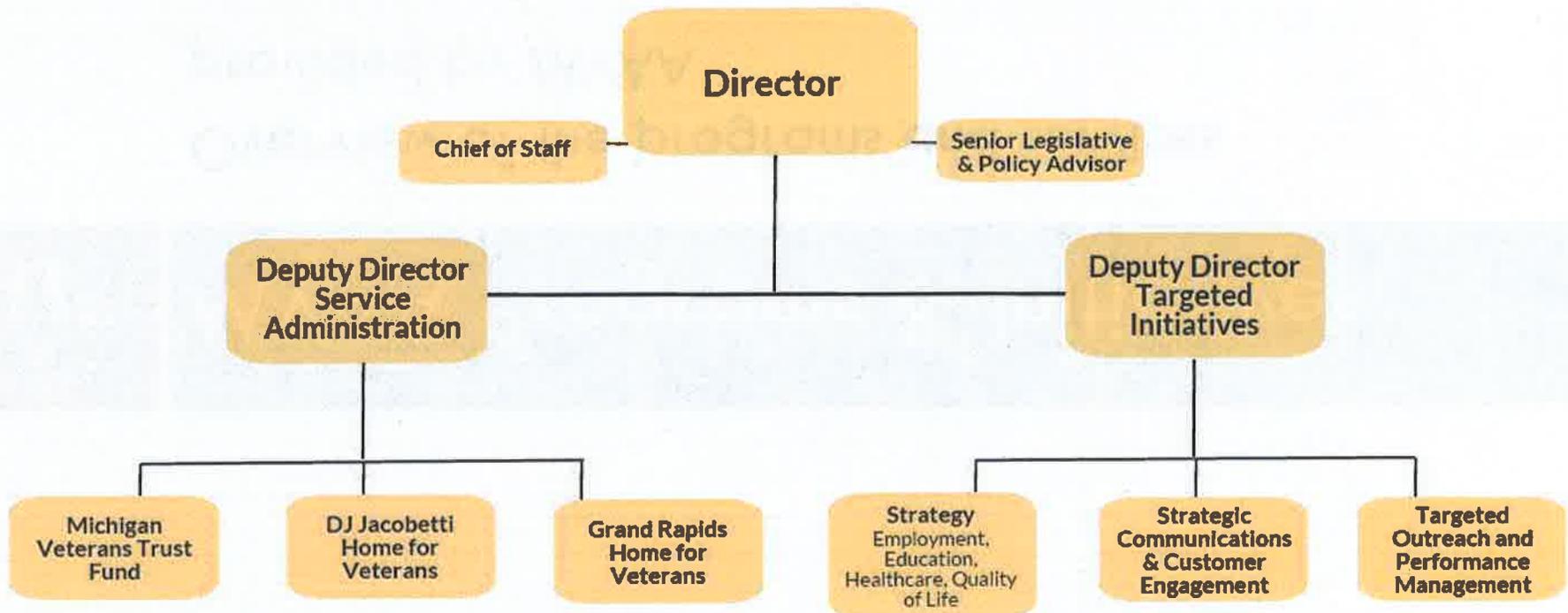
- Providing the advice and assistance veterans need as they transition through the chapters of their lives;
- Creating a “**no wrong door**” customer service culture; and
- Advocating for and on behalf of veterans and their families.



# Organizational Structure

## Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

Organizational Structure





# MVAA Programs & Initiatives

Overview of the programs and services  
provided by MVAA

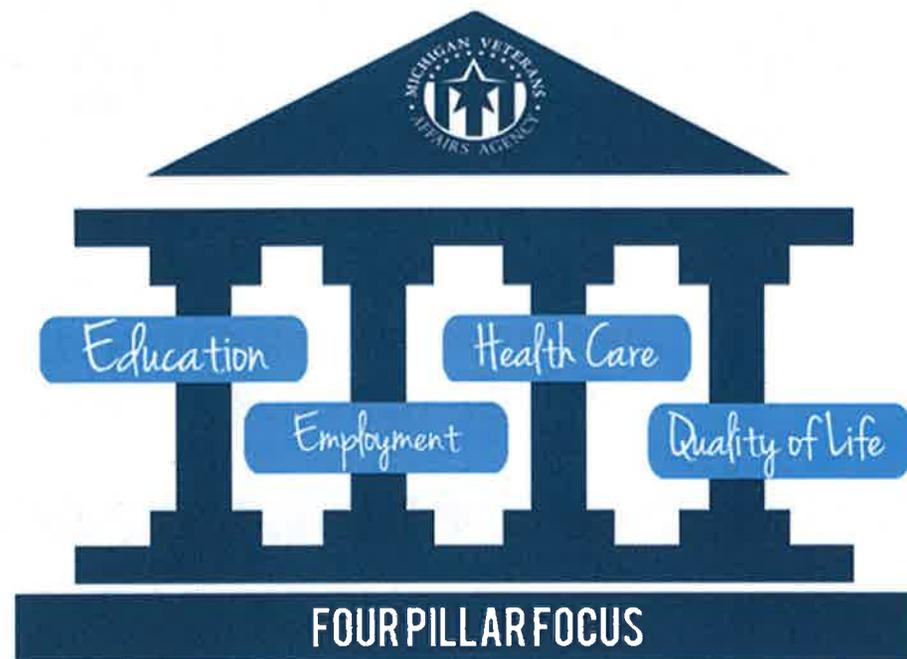
# Connecting Veterans to Benefits

## Four Pillar Focus

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Previously, one of the challenges associated with delivery of veteran-related services was **the lack of a common organizational approach and lexicon** across providers, which often **led to confusion and frustration for veterans** seeking assistance.

To improve clarity, MVAA organized itself and its community partnerships by integrating a “Four Pillar Focus” on four key areas: **education, employment, health care and quality of life** issues.



# Connecting Veterans to Benefits & Services

## michiganveterans.com & 1-800-MICH-VET

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Both the Michigan Veteran Resource Center (1-800-MICH-VET) and michiganveterans.com are available 24 hours a day, and are a great resource for legislator's constituent referrals.

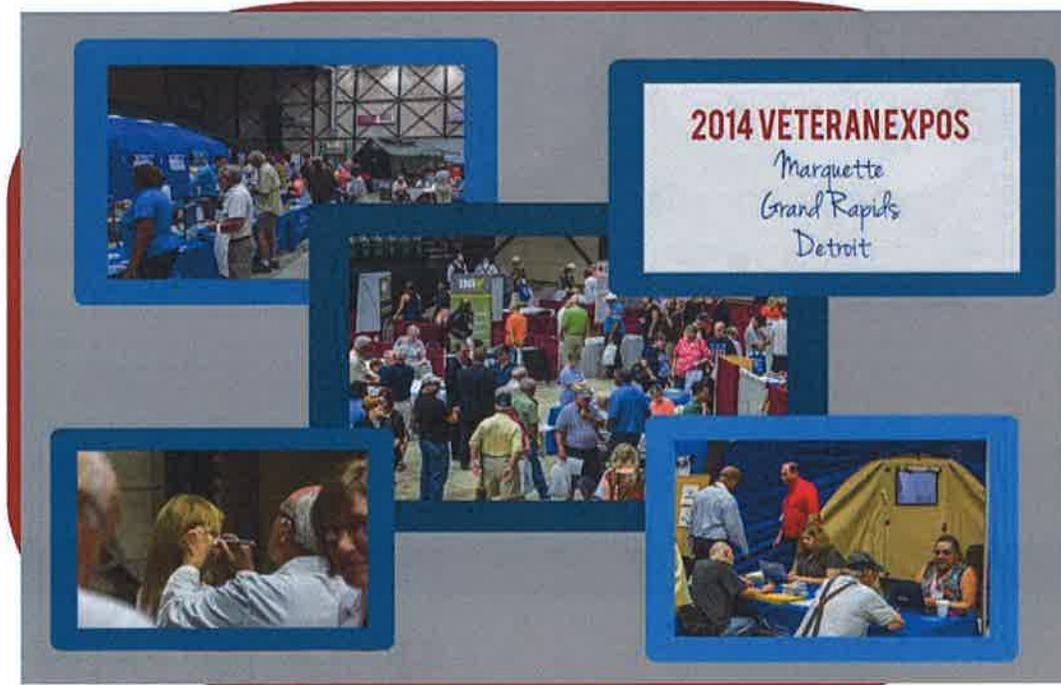


# Connecting Veterans to Benefits & Services

## Veteran Expos

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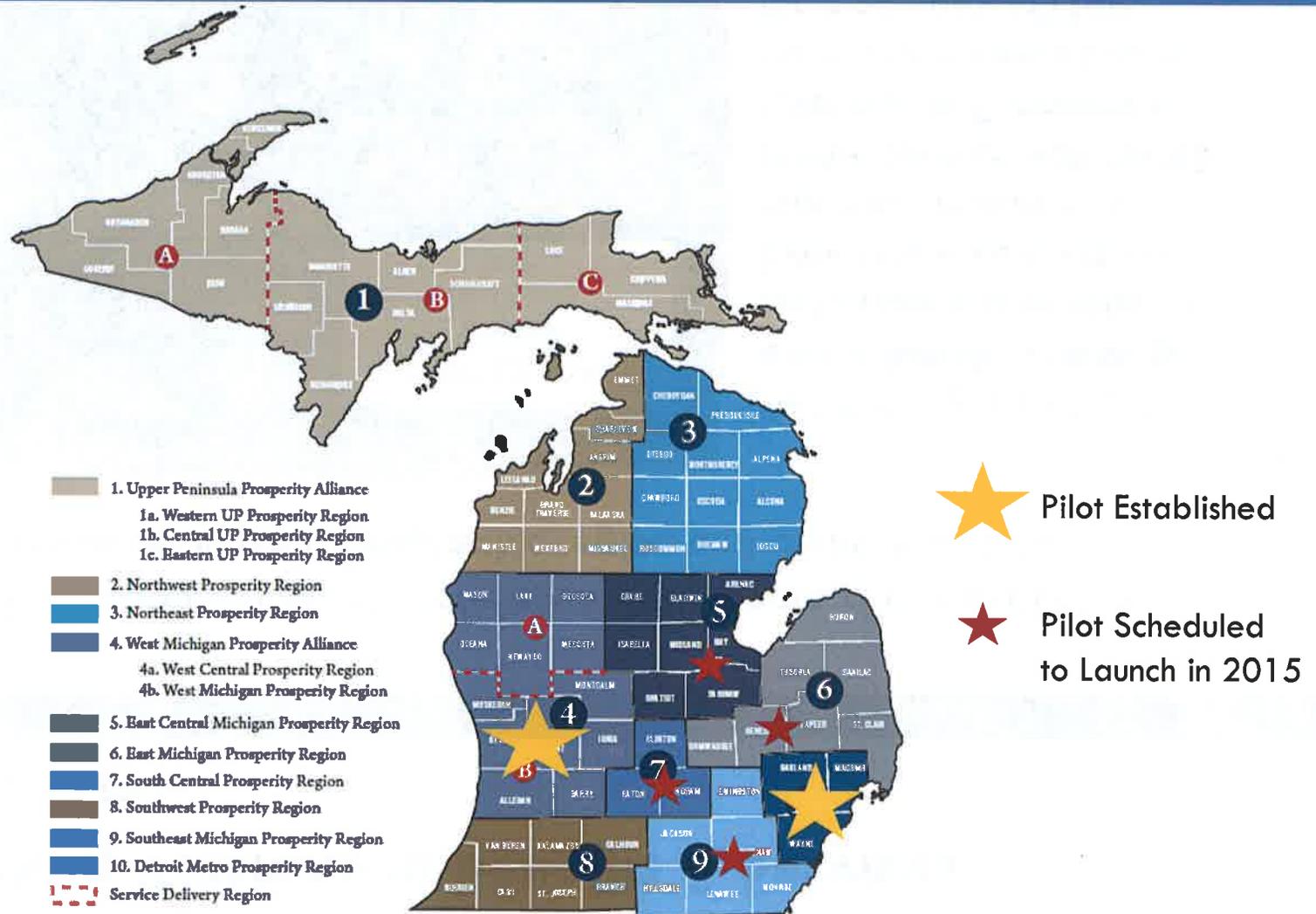
Each Expo offers opportunities for veterans to learn more about available services and resources in their geographic region and across the state.



Additionally, the VA offers **on-site health screenings** and **benefits counselors are available** to help veterans and their families, and MAAA partners with the US Chamber of Commerce's *Hiring our Heroes* initiative for a **one-day job fair**.

# Connecting Veterans to Benefits & Services

## MiVCAT Pilots



# Connecting Veterans to Benefits & Services

## State Veterans Homes

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Michigan operates two State Veterans Homes: the DJ Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette (left) and the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans in Grand Rapids (right).



# Connecting Veterans to Benefits

## Veteran Programs & Initiatives in Michigan

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### Veteran Programs & Initiatives

#### Veteran designation on Michigan drivers license and state IDs

27,347 signups for veterans designation since SOS began offering the option in May 2014



#### Michigan Veterans Homeowners Assistance Program

\$3,639,783 distributed to 598 grant recipients since May 2013



#### In State Tuition

Since November 2013, all 15 of Michigan's public universities offer in-state tuition to veterans, regardless of residency

#### Veteran Treatment Courts



Since 2008, Michigan's veterans have been served by 22 veteran treatment courts, with plans for additional VTCs in FY15



In FY 2014, \$2,482,845 distributed

#### Michigan Veterans Trust Fund

to 2,157 veterans and family in need of emergency assistance

# Connecting Veterans to Benefits

## MVAA Veteran Outreach

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## Veteran Outreach

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Press coverage in every major media market in Michigan



Multiple articles in all four of Michigan's major VSO publications



41,395 new visitors to the MVAA web portal



1,721 signups to MVAA veteran newsletters



1,795 facebook "likes" since November 2013 launch  
[facebook.com/MIDMVA](https://www.facebook.com/MIDMVA)



332 twitter followers since April 2014 launch  
[twitter.com/miveteran](https://twitter.com/miveteran)

# Connecting Veterans to Benefits

## Boots on the Ground

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# Connecting Veterans to Benefits

The numbers: How has Michigan improved veterans' ability to connect to benefits?

# Connecting Veteran to Benefits

## Increasing Veterans' Access to Federal Benefits

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### *What is “GDX”?*

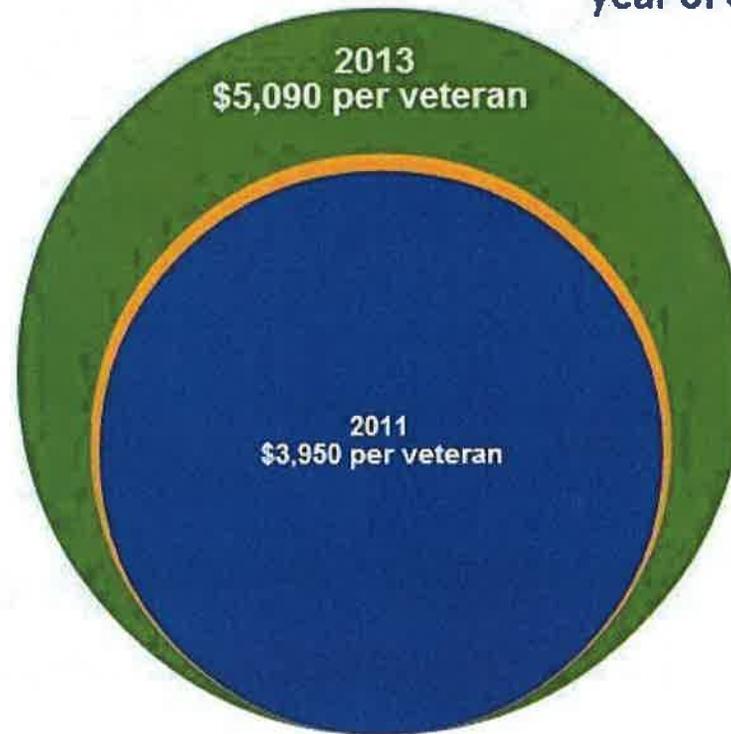
Each year, the federal government publishes the annual Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures (or “**GDX**”) Report, which **provides the estimated federal VA dollar expenditures in every state.** The GDX report helps Michigan policy makers assess whether Michigan’s efforts are helping to connect eligible veterans to the available benefits.

# Connecting Veterans to Benefits

## Significant Increase in Per Capita GDV

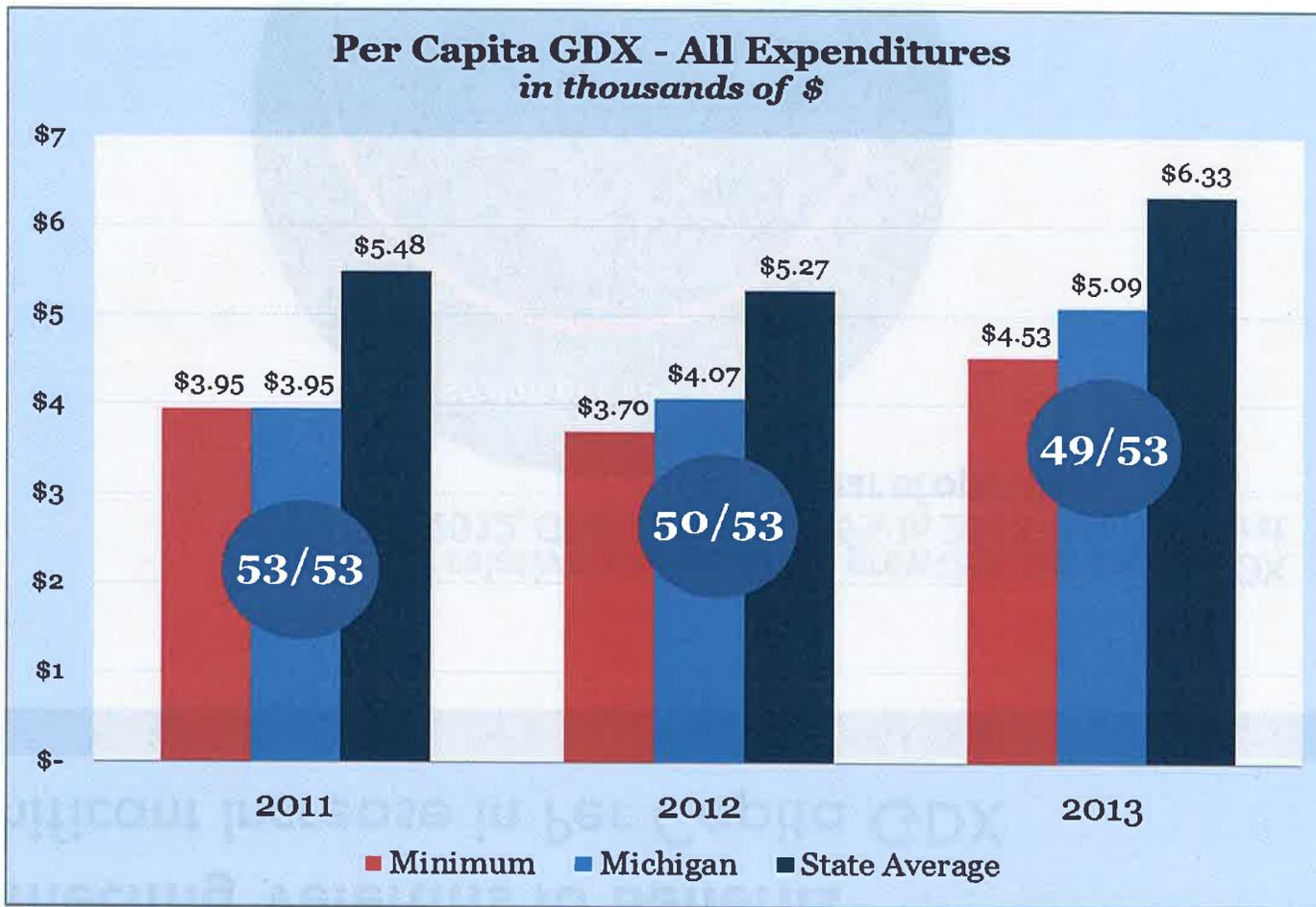
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After relatively minimal 3% growth in per capita GDV in 2012, GDV increased 25% in 2013 - MVAA's first year of operation.



# Connecting Veterans to Benefits

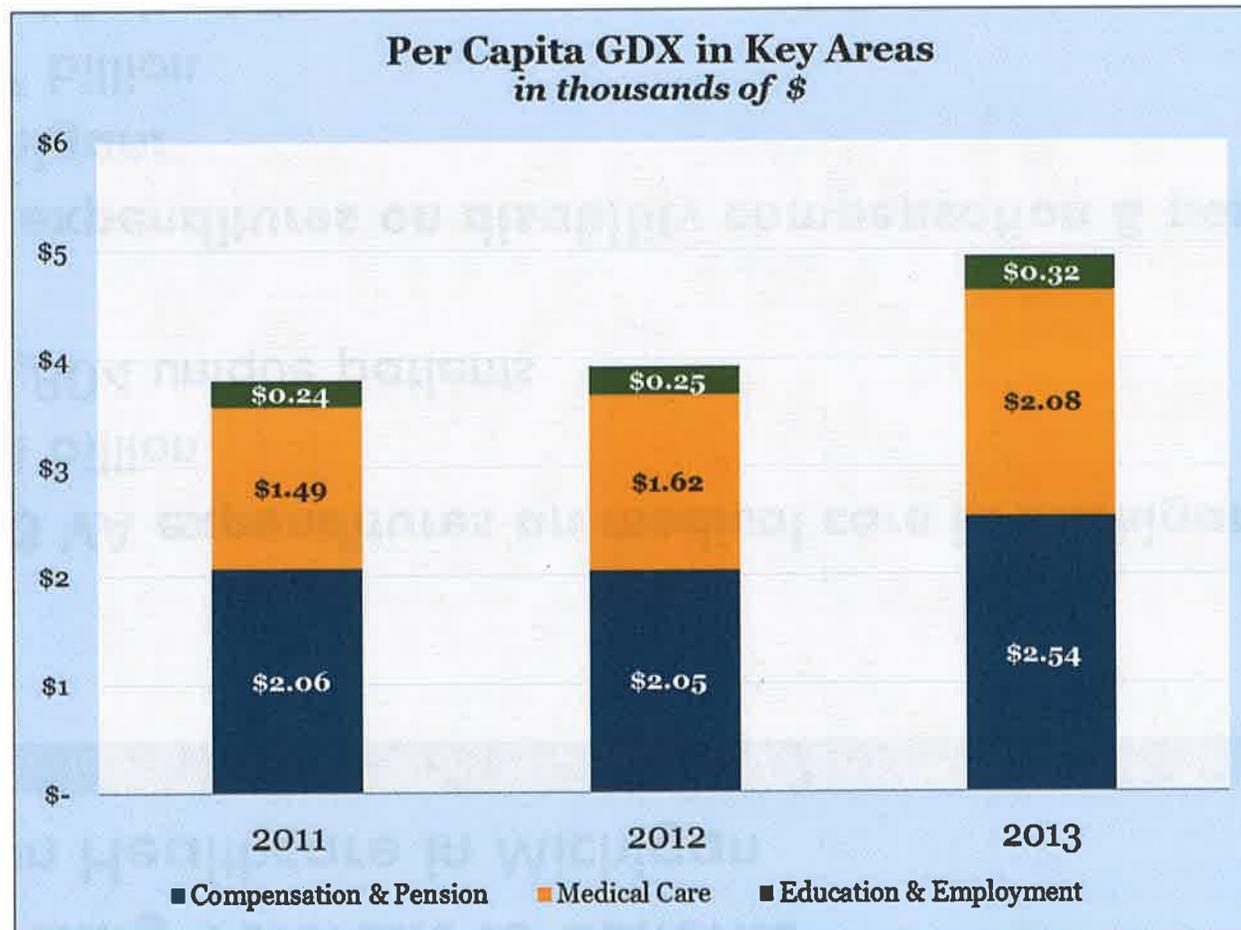
## Increase in Michigan's Rank in Per Capita GDX



# Connecting Veterans to Benefits

## Improved GDX in all Key Areas

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# Connecting Veterans to Benefits

## Veteran Healthcare in Michigan

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### **FY2013 VA expenditures on medical care in Michigan:**

- \$1.4 billion
- 146,804 unique patients

### **FY VA expenditures on disability compensation & pension in Michigan:**

- \$1.7 billion
- 87,699 disability compensation recipients
- 10,371 pension recipients

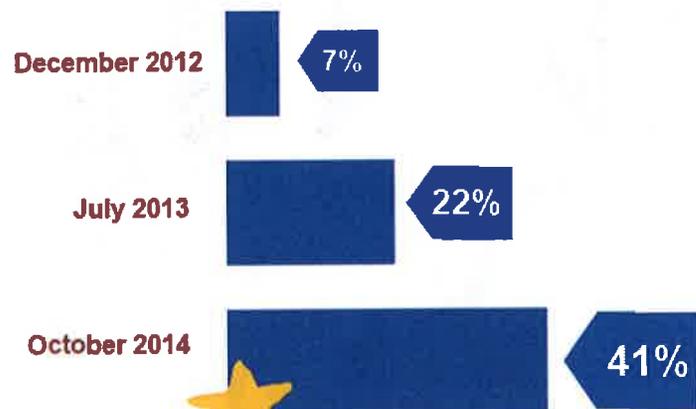
# Connecting Veterans to Benefits

## Fully Developed Disability Compensation Claims

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### Fully Developed Claims Dramatically Improved

Submission of a pension claim that is considered "fully developed" can significantly reduce a veteran's wait time for a decision from the USDVA. Improving the rate of FDCs submitted was one of MVAA's strategic priorities.



As of October 2014, the MVAA and veteran service organizations that partnered with MVAA as part of the Michigan Veterans Coalition had the highest FDC rates in Michigan, at 53% and 47%, respectively.



[www.MichiganVeterans.com](http://www.MichiganVeterans.com)

1-800-MICHVET