

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Hon. Corey Johnson
Speaker of the Council

Hon. Chaim Deutsch
Chair, Committee on Veterans



Report of the Finance Division on the
Fiscal 2022 Preliminary Plan for the
Department of Veterans' Services (DVS)

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Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) Overview

The New York City Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) is dedicated to serving the City's veterans and current members of the United States Armed Forces, as well as their survivors, families, and caregivers. DVS's scope of activities includes providing housing and supportive services to homeless veterans, promoting educational and employment opportunities for veterans, and conducting wellness checks on veterans, among other programs. The agency facilitates access to City, State, and federal resources—particularly Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits—as well as assistance provided through partnerships with private and not-for-profit organizations for veterans and their families.

Fiscal 2022 Preliminary Plan

The Fiscal 2022 Preliminary Plan includes \$6.1 million in Fiscal 2021 and \$6.2 million in Fiscal 2022 for DVS—amounting, respectively, to less than one-ten-thousandth of the City's Expense Budgets of \$95.1 billion in Fiscal 2021 and \$92.3 billion in Fiscal 2022. DVS's Fiscal 2021 and Fiscal 2022 budgets as of the current Preliminary Plan are below the Fiscal 2021 Adopted amount of \$6.49 million, but exceed actual agency spending of nearly \$5 million for Fiscal 2020, due in large measure to increased Other Than Personal Services (OTPS) costs. As of the Preliminary Plan, the ratio of Personal Services (PS) to OTPS expenses at DVS is approximately 2:1 for Fiscal 2021 and Fiscal 2022, and nearly 95 percent of DVS's Fiscal 2021 and Fiscal 2022 expense budgets are comprised of City Funds.

Table 1: DVS Financial Summary

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Adopted	2021 November	2021 Current	2022 January
City			\$6,163	\$6,020	\$5,751	\$5,914
State			\$327	\$327	\$327	\$327
Total	\$4,142	\$4,975	\$6,490	\$6,348	\$6,078	\$6,242

Central Administration constitutes half of DVS's spending, while Community Outreach, Homelessness Prevention, and VetConnectNYC account for over a third of DVS's expenses, across Fiscal 2022 and Fiscal 2021 as of the Preliminary Plan; this is broadly in line with the Fiscal 2021 Adopted Budget. Financial Plan savings total \$268,000 in Fiscal 2021 and \$198,000 in Fiscal 2022 in the current Plan.

Table 2: DVS Program Areas

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	2021 Adopted	2021 Current	2022 Prelim
Central Administration	\$3,352	\$3,055	\$3,187
Community Outreach	\$795	\$727	\$734
Financial Plan Savings	(\$153)	(\$268)	(\$198)
Homelessness Prevention	\$824	\$820	\$824
Mental Health	\$642	\$640	\$642
VetConnectNYC	\$800	\$710	\$800
Veterans Employment Pay for Success	\$229	\$394	\$252
Total, DVS	\$6,490	\$6,078	\$6,242

The Preliminary Plan budgets 44 positions for DVS in Fiscal 2021, and 46 positions in Fiscal 2022 and in each of the outyears. These are concentrated in Central Administration (23 in Fiscal 2021 as of the Plan, and 20 in Fiscal 2022 and in each of the outyears); Community Outreach (11 positions in each

fiscal year); and Homelessness Prevention (10 positions in each fiscal year). Financial Plan savings capture a loss of 10 positions in Fiscal 2021 as of the Plan, and 5 positions in each year thereafter.

Changes in the Preliminary Plan

The Fiscal 2022 Preliminary Plan reflects decreases of \$269,758 in Fiscal 2021 and \$211,000 in Fiscal 2022 at DVS, relative to the November 2020 Plan. The Plan captures reductions of \$4,531 in other adjustments and \$265,227 in savings in Fiscal 2021, and reductions of \$150,000 in other adjustments and \$61,000 in savings in Fiscal 2022, in the agency's expense budget. The Plan does not include new needs for DVS. Changes at DVS, as denoted in the Plan, solely affect City funds.

Other Adjustments

- The Plan includes decreases of \$2,627 for citywide wireless services, \$1,736 for printing, and \$168 for office supplies in Fiscal 2021 at DVS. The Plan additionally indicates a reduction of \$150,000 in Fiscal 2022 at DVS in relation to the City's pilot program for dispatching Emergency Medical Services (EMS) mental health teams in response to 911 calls; the Council continues to seek additional information about this action from DVS and ThriveNYC.

Citywide Savings

- The Plan includes PS savings of \$150,000 in Fiscal 2021 and \$61,000 in Fiscal 2022, as well as \$115,227 in savings in Fiscal 2021 at DVS from the City's hiring and attrition management program—an action associated with a reduction of five positions at the agency in Fiscal 2021.

Table 3: DVS, Changes from November 2020 Plan to Preliminary Plan 2022

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
DVS, November Plan	\$6,348	\$6,453	\$6,235	\$6,235
Total Change	(\$270)	(\$211)	-	-
Other Adjustments	(\$5)	(\$150)	-	-
Savings Program	(\$265)	(\$61)	-	-
DVS, Preliminary Plan	\$6,078	\$6,242	\$6,235	\$6,235

Fiscal 2021 City Council Discretionary Spending

The Fiscal 2021 Adopted Budget included \$2.7 million in discretionary expense funding across five Veterans Services initiatives—Homeless Prevention Services, Job Placement, Legal Services, Mental Health Services, and Community Development. Veterans Services allocations, both at Adoption and following post-Adoption adjustments, are listed by initiative in the table below.

Table 4: Council Discretionary Expense Funding – Veterans Services Initiatives

Initiative	FY21 Adoption	Post-FY21 Adoption
Homeless Prevention Services for Veterans	\$285,000	\$307,500
Job Placement for Veterans	\$190,000	\$100,000
Legal Services for Veterans	\$570,000	\$570,000
Mental Health Services for Veterans	\$475,000	\$497,500
Veterans Community Development	\$1,206,500	\$1,251,500
Total	\$2,726,500	\$2,726,500

For more details on Council discretionary expense allocations in the Fiscal 2021 Adopted Budget, please consult the Fiscal 2021 Adopted Expense Budget Summary/Schedule C at the following [link](#).¹

Fiscal 2021 Preliminary Mayor's Management Report

The COVID-19 pandemic has adversely impacted outcomes on a range of performance indicators for DVS in the Fiscal 2021 Preliminary Mayor's Management Report (PMMR), as outlined below.

- **Accessing Veteran resources.** The number of veterans and their families that received assistance from DVS to access available resources fell to 443 during the first four months of Fiscal 2021, from 1,450 during the same period in Fiscal 2020—or a decline of approximately 69 percent. DVS also reports that the share of assistance requests related to hunger, housing insecurity, employment, and VA claims has increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Homelessness prevention and housing.** The number of veterans receiving homelessness prevention assistance from the agency declined to 133 during the July-October 2020 period, from 176 during the same period the previous year, representing a drop of about 24 percent, as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the number of veterans for whom housing was secured through DVS's Veteran Peer Coordinator (VPC) program fell to 38 in July-October 2020 from 91 during the same time in the last year, a drop of 58 percent; the Council's Finance Division is seeking further details on the impact of COVID-19 on this measure.

The full text of the Fiscal 2021 PMMR is available [here](#).

¹ Note that DVS itself does not serve as the contracting agency for Veterans Services initiative funding.

Appendix: Budget Actions in the November and the Preliminary Plans

Description <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	FY 2021			FY 2022		
	CITY	NON-CITY	TOTAL	CITY	NON-CITY	TOTAL
DVS, as of Adopted Plan 2021	\$6,163	\$327	\$6,490	\$6,249	\$327	\$6,577
Other Adjustments, November 2020 Plan						
Citywide Wireless Services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Citywide Wireless Services	0	0	0	(5)	0	(5)
Managerial and OJ Furloughs - CTL	(28)	0	(28)	0	0	0
Managerial and OJ Furloughs - CTL	(4)	0	(4)	0	0	0
Managerial and OJ Furloughs - CTL	(2)	0	(2)	0	0	0
Managerial and OJ Furloughs - CTL	(8)	0	(8)	0	0	0
Pay for Success	(165)	0	(165)	0	0	0
Pay for Success	165	0	165	0	0	0
Subtotal, Other Adjustments, November 2020 Plan	(42)	0	(42)	(5)	0	(5)
Savings Program, November 2020 Plan						
Job Path Savings	(100)	0	(100)	(119)	0	(119)
Subtotal, Savings Program, November 2020 Plan	(100)	0	(100)	(119)	0	(119)
Total, All Changes, November 2020 Plan	(142)	0	(142)	(124)	0	(124)
DVS, as of November 2020 Plan	6,020	327	6,348	6,125	327	6,453
Other Adjustments, Preliminary Plan 2022						
Citywide Wireless Services	(3)	0	(3)	0	0	0
EMS MH Teams Transfer	0	0	0	(150)	0	(150)
Office Supplies Spending	(0.2)	0	(0)	0	0	0
Printing Reduction	(2)	0	(2)	0	0	0
Subtotal, Other Adjustments, Preliminary Plan 2022	(5)	0	(5)	(150)	0	(150)
Savings Program, Preliminary Plan 2022						
PS Savings	(60)	0	(60)	(61)	0	(61)
PS Savings	(90)	0	(90)	0	0	0
Hiring and Attrition Management	(115)	0	(115)	0	0	0
Subtotal, Savings Program, Preliminary Plan 2022	(265)	0	(265)	(61)	0	(61)
Total, All Changes, Preliminary Plan 2022	(270)	0	(270)	(211)	0	(211)
DVS, as of Preliminary Plan 2022	5,751	327	6,078	5,914	327	6,242