

First, I would like to thank you for having me here today.

We are currently at 3 Service Officers who are all fully accredited Josey, Steven, and Shane.

As of December 2024, we are up to \$39,530,757.00 in monthly benefits.

Total benefits received by our veterans this FY is \$115,546,546.00

The average monthly payment to our veterans is \$1748.68.

In 2025, My HealtheVet users will no longer be able to sign in to VA.gov using their My HealtheVet user ID and password. Instead, users will need to create a Login.gov or ID.me account to sign in.

Upcoming 2025 VA Disability Changes

Significant updates to the VA rating system in 2025 will impact **mental health, sleep apnea, and tinnitus** ratings. These changes affect both current and future claims:

- **More Objective Mental Health VA Rating Criteria**
The VA will focus on symptom severity rather than social or occupational impact when evaluating mental health conditions. This could result in higher ratings for Veterans with severe symptoms while creating more consistency in how claims are evaluated.
- **Stricter VA Rating Criteria for Sleep Apnea**
Under the updated system, Veterans using a CPAP machine may receive **only a 10% rating**, a reduction from the current 50%. This marks a major adjustment in compensation for those with service-connected sleep apnea. You can read more about the VA rating for sleep apnea in our last month's article, VA Disability Rating for Sleep Apnea: [Why you should file your claim now before changes take effect.](#)
- **Elimination of Standalone Tinnitus Ratings**
Veterans will no longer receive a separate 10% rating for tinnitus. Instead, tinnitus will only be rated if it's tied to another compensable condition. This could reduce benefits for Veterans who claim tinnitus as a primary condition.

The VA claims backlog is the number of disability benefits claims, appeals, and rating bundle compensation claims that the VA still needs to process. The backlog is made up of all previously received claims, with new claims added to the bottom.

What's happening with the backlog?

- The VA has been making progress in reducing the backlog.
- In December 2024, the number of backlogged VA disability claims was 241,601, which is a 42.2% decrease from January 2024.
- The VA has hired more claims processors and invested in new technology.
- The VA has processed nearly 2 million claims in fiscal year 2023, which is a 16% increase from the previous record.

What's causing the backlog?

- The backlog is the result of multiple issues, including:
 - The PACT Act, which was passed in 2022

- Mistakes made by processors
- Claims getting stuck in the automated routing system

What's the VA doing to address the backlog?

- The VA is hiring more claims processors
- The VA is investing in new technology
- The VA is processing some parts of claims faster than others
- The VA is granting benefits at higher rates

At this time, I would like to open it up for any questions.

Shane Pankonen Department of Iowa Service office



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Benefits Administration
Des Moines Regional Office



DES MOINES RO DISABILITY COMPENSATION REPORT FY25 - IOWA

Month Year:	Combined Disability	TOTAL AWARDS MONTH	TOTAL BENEFITS MONTH	TOTAL BENEFITS FYTD	AVERAGE PAYMENT MONTH	NEW AWARDS MONTH	NEW AWARDS FYTD	NEW AWARDS BENEFITS MONTH	NEW AWARD BENEFITS FYTD	TERMINATIONS MONTH	TERMINATIONS FYTD
OCTOBER 2024	TOTAL	50,871	\$88,315,492.00	\$88,310,459.00	\$1,736.07	311	311	\$392,098.82	\$392,098.82	8	8
	0%	76	\$9,035.00	\$9,035.00	\$118.88	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	1	1
	10%	10,473	\$1,804,695.00	\$1,803,668.00	\$172.32	98	98	\$16,913.28	\$16,913.28	3	3
	20%	3,907	\$1,345,646.00	\$1,345,308.00	\$344.42	27	27	\$9,139.23	\$9,139.23	1	1
	30%	3,421	\$1,962,595.00	\$1,961,485.00	\$573.69	26	26	\$14,177.80	\$14,177.80	1	1
	40%	3,744	\$3,119,684.00	\$3,119,684.00	\$833.25	18	18	\$13,844.04	\$13,844.04	0	0
	50%	2,835	\$3,315,117.00	\$33,313,922.00	\$1,169.35	20	20	\$22,881.68	\$22,881.68	1	1
	60%	4,342	\$6,766,417.00	\$6,765,056.00	\$1,558.36	29	29	\$41,322.00	\$41,322.00	0	0
	70%	4,313	\$9,322,317.00	\$9,322,317.00	\$2,161.45	20	20	\$37,059.34	\$37,059.34	0	0
	80%	4,288	\$10,676,412.00	\$10,676,412.00	\$2,489.83	16	16	\$34,715.64	\$34,715.64	0	0
	90%	3,994	\$11,289,495.00	\$11,289,495.00	\$2,826.61	16	16	\$39,350.04	\$39,350.04	0	0
	100%	9,352	\$38,704,078.00	\$38,704,078.00	\$4,138.59	41	41	\$162,694.77	\$162,694.77	1	1
UNKOWN		126	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	0
TOTAL		50,884	\$88,898,280.00	\$177,213,772.00	\$1,747.08	299	610	\$329,274.96	\$721,373.78	3	11
NOVEMBER 2024	0%	75	\$9,101.00	\$18,136.00	\$121.35	1	1	\$132.74	\$132.74	0	1
	10%	10,487	\$1,807,504.00	\$3,912,199.00	\$172.36	115	213	\$19,956.93	\$36,870.21	1	4
	20%	3,908	\$1,345,568.00	\$2,691,214.00	\$344.31	30	57	\$10,287.44	\$19,426.67	1	2
	30%	3,411	\$1,955,513.00	\$3,918,108.00	\$573.30	16	42	\$8,682.96	\$22,860.76	0	1
	40%	3,716	\$3,095,508.00	\$6,215,193.00	\$833.02	20	38	\$15,649.60	\$29,493.64	0	0
	50%	2,830	\$3,309,171.00	\$6,624,288.00	\$1,169.32	16	36	\$17,825.30	\$40,706.98	0	1
	60%	4,335	\$6,755,157.00	\$13,521,574.00	\$1,558.28	21	50	\$29,343.48	\$70,665.48	0	0
	70%	4,324	\$9,338,987.00	\$18,661,304.00	\$2,159.80	20	40	\$36,478.60	\$73,537.94	1	1
	80%	4,300	\$10,706,033.00	\$21,382,444.00	\$2,489.78	21	37	\$43,819.43	\$78,535.07	0	0
	90%	4,028	\$11,386,274.00	\$22,675,769.00	\$2,826.78	7	23	\$16,847.11	\$56,197.15	0	0
	100%	9,470	\$39,189,465.00	\$77,893,542.00	\$4,138.28	32	73	\$130,251.37	\$292,946.14	0	1
	UNKOWN		0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
TOTAL		51,028	\$91,637,873.00	\$268,851,645.00	\$1,795.84	289	899	\$350,579.40	\$1,071,953.18	94	105
DECEMBER 2024	0%	76	\$9,443.00	\$27,579.00	\$124.25	1	2	\$136.06	\$268.80	0	1
	10%	10,469	\$1,849,727.00	\$5,461,926.00	\$176.69	90	303	\$15,931.96	\$52,802.17	24	28
	20%	3,909	\$1,379,228.00	\$4,070,442.00	\$352.83	29	86	\$10,333.67	\$29,760.34	10	12
	30%	3,418	\$2,007,125.00	\$5,925,233.00	\$587.22	27	69	\$14,813.34	\$37,674.10	3	4
	40%	3,712	\$3,166,013.00	\$9,381,205.00	\$852.91	20	58	\$16,500.26	\$45,993.90	7	7
	50%	2,835	\$3,397,746.00	\$10,022,034.00	\$1,198.50	23	59	\$26,577.98	\$67,284.96	1	2
	60%	4,325	\$6,907,537.00	\$20,429,111.00	\$1,597.12	19	69	\$28,157.67	\$98,823.15	12	12
	70%	4,335	\$9,596,805.00	\$28,258,108.00	\$2,213.80	20	60	\$37,756.80	\$111,294.74	6	7
	80%	4,294	\$10,959,861.00	\$32,342,305.00	\$2,552.37	13	50	\$27,433.69	\$105,968.76	4	4
	90%	4,084	\$11,806,059.00	\$34,481,829.00	\$2,890.81	12	35	\$30,718.58	\$86,915.73	2	2
	100%	9,571	\$40,558,330.00	\$118,451,873.00	\$4,237.63	35	108	\$142,219.39	\$435,165.53	25	26
	UNKOWN		0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
 Veterans Benefits Administration
 Des Moines Regional Office

Des Moines Monthly/FYTD POA Compensation Summary

FY25 - Iowa

Month / Year:	POA	Total Awards	Monthly Total Benefit	Total Benefit FYTD	Average Payment	New Award	New Award FYTD	New Awards Benefit	New Awards Benefit FYTD	Termination	Termination FYTD
October 2024	AL	22,345	\$37,845,422.00	\$37,845,422.00	\$1,693.69	165	165	\$179,246.00	\$179,246.00	7	7
	AMVETS	374	\$556,987.00	\$556,987.00	\$1,489.27	2	2	\$4,493.00	\$4,493.00	0	0
	DAV	7,402	\$14,157,022.00	\$14,157,022.00	\$1,912.59	23	23	\$25,773.00	\$25,773.00	2	2
	IDVA	1,727	\$2,749,355.00	\$2,749,355.00	\$1,591.98	6	6	\$6,749.00	\$6,749.00	1	1
	NACVSO	656	\$1,064,440.00	\$1,064,440.00	\$1,622.62	5	5	\$3,652.00	\$3,652.00	0	0
	PVA	246	\$955,429.00	\$955,429.00	\$3,883.86	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	0
	VFW	4,643	\$8,683,412.00	\$8,683,412.00	\$1,870.22	27	27	\$53,367.00	\$53,367.00	0	0
VVA	2,078	\$4,072,825.00	\$4,072,825.00	\$1,959.97	3	3	\$8,226.00	\$8,226.00	0	0	
	POA	Total Awards	Monthly Total Benefit	Total Benefit FYTD	Average Payment	New Award	New Award FYTD	New Awards Benefit	New Awards Benefit FYTD	Termination	Termination FYTD
November 2024	AL	22,454	\$38,170,367.00	\$76,015,789.00	\$1,699.94	155	320	\$151,386.00	\$330,632.00	4	11
	AMVETS	370	\$554,014.00	\$1,111,001.00	\$1,497.34	0	2	\$0.00	\$4,493.00	0	0
	DAV	7,382	\$14,191,701.00	\$28,348,723.00	\$1,922.47	24	47	\$30,710.00	\$56,483.00	0	2
	IDVA	1,708	\$2,739,088.00	\$5,488,443.00	\$1,603.68	2	8	\$1,833.00	\$8,582.00	0	1
	NACVSO	664	\$1,089,049.00	\$2,153,489.00	\$1,640.13	11	16	\$10,561.00	\$14,213.00	0	0
	PVA	247	\$958,278.00	\$1,913,707.00	\$3,879.67	1	1	\$4,439.00	\$4,439.00	0	0
	VFW	4,657	\$8,712,945.00	\$17,396,357.00	\$1,870.94	26	53	\$29,444.00	\$82,811.00	1	1
VVA	2,073	\$4,069,865.00	\$8,142,690.00	\$1,963.27	5	8	\$5,490.00	\$13,716.00	0	0	
	POA	Total Awards	Monthly Total Benefit	Total Benefit FYTD	Average Payment	New Award	New Award FYTD	New Awards Benefit	New Awards Benefit FYTD	Termination	Termination FYTD
December 2024	AL	22,606	\$39,530,757.00	\$115,546,546.00	\$1,748.68	166	486	\$198,698.00	\$529,330.00	7	18
	AMVETS	370	\$575,949.00	\$1,686,950.00	\$1,556.62	1	3	\$176.00	\$4,669.00	0	0
	DAV	7,356	\$14,514,185.00	\$42,862,908.00	\$1,973.11	23	70	\$28,456.00	\$84,939.00	2	4
	IDVA	1,697	\$2,800,141.00	\$8,288,584.00	\$1,650.05	4	12	\$7,555.00	\$16,137.00	0	1
	NACVSO	680	\$1,151,782.00	\$3,305,271.00	\$1,693.80	8	24	\$7,460.00	\$21,673.00	0	0
	PVA	243	\$963,452.00	\$2,877,159.00	\$3,964.82	0	1	\$0.00	\$4,439.00	1	1
	VFW	4,658	\$8,955,563.00	\$26,351,920.00	\$1,922.62	20	73	\$24,095.00	\$106,906.00	1	2
VVA	2,057	\$4,150,738.00	\$12,293,428.00	\$2,017.86	3	11	\$6,025.00	\$19,741.00	0	0	