

The following is a condensed list of outreach needs from veteran groups across Montana. SAVA staff, Sheri Scurr, asked groups to comment on needs from their perspectives. Here is what the responders had to say:

1. **Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.-Dept. of Montana based at Ft. Harrison**
 - A. service officers needed--applying for and receiving benefits for veterans
 - B. new veteran service office in Glasgow-would relieve pressure at Havre & Miles City
 - C. provide added staff at all the other VSO's in the state—bringing more money into Montana from Feds

NO-statewide coordinator or framework in statute for community-based effort
2. **Veteran Service Coordinator in Office of Academic Affairs at Carroll College**
 - A. support for veteran statewide coordinator position—organizational support with facilitation to all 56 counties
3. **Rep. Kelly McCarthy-HD 51**
 - A. more veteran courts—cost savings and effective for treating veterans
4. **MT DPHHS-‘Home Team – Montana’ --pilot program seeking approval**
 - A. small towns of Montana are best suited for a rural veterans’ pilot program funded with \$2 million request from federal government
 - B. includes training for health care professionals, first responders, law enforcement regarding issues surrounding veterans including employment, crisis services, enrollment, education and critical access
 - C. increase coordination to create a multi-faceted outreach and communications strategy
 - D. seeks to serve 102,246 veterans and their families across Montana
5. **Rep-elect Andrea Olsen-HD 100**
 - A. consumer protection efforts—education, technical assistance and representation in cases involving new laws and FTC regulations
6. **Connie LaSalle-MT State Ombudsman—through DPHHS**
 - A. now only serves residents in long term care facilities but could benefit by expansion
 - B. coordination language vital to process, along with advocacy wording in community outreach

C. veterans having support in assisted living facilities along with information about locations available in our rural state which presents challenges

7. MT Center for Veterans Education & Training—Dr. Petriccione

- A. establish a Glasgow service office—providing more efficiency and outreach**
- B. provide added staff to other VSO's in the state**

NO-new state bureaucracy which could add confusion and frustration to the process

8. American Legion of MT----Gary White, Dept. Adjutant

- A. increase FTEs for service officers**
- B. new office in Glendive**
- C. add fulltime funded positions to Disabled Veteran Outreach Program**
- D. coordinator for veteran forums and job seekers**
- E. join 28 state to offer state tuition rates in effect the fall of 2015**

NO-ombudsman since it's a waste of valuable resources

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Dee