



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON

June 16, 2020

The Honorable Abby Finkenauer  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Finkenauer:

Thank you for your April 2, 2020, letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regarding VA's plan for distributing emergency assistance as provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (Public Law 116-136) signed into law on March 27, 2020. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

VA is providing a National coordinated response to COVID-19 to protect and care for Veterans in the face of this emerging health risk in Iowa and across the Nation. VA does not know how much of the supplemental will go to assisting the mission in the State of Iowa, but requests will support: obtaining medical supplies and equipment, expanded capacity and increased emergency and urgent care visits. VA is monitoring the status of essential items and supplies to ensure our system can handle an influx of Veteran COVID-19 cases in the State of Iowa.

Through the CARES Act, VA received \$17.4 billion in funding available through September 20, 2021, for the following purposes:

- \$14.4 billion for medical services;
- \$2.1 billion for medical community care;
- \$100 million for medical support and compliance;
- \$606 million for medical facilities; and
- \$150 million for grants for construction for state extended care facilities.

VA provided an initial distribution of \$5.3 billion of the CARES Act medical services dollars to the Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISN) to support increased bed capacity, supply purchases, salary costs, and other needs associated with surge preparation. This initial allocation was based on the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation model and the Bed Management System. VISN 23, which includes the State of Iowa, received \$270 million of these funds.

In addition to this distribution, VA is making corporate purchases for delivery to meet the mission of caring for Veterans and to support our fourth mission of supporting our Nation during a time of crisis. Funds will continue to be allocated based on the need identified to meet pandemic measures as VA supports our Nation's Veterans.

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Should you have further questions, please have a member of your staff contact Mr. Bailey Jackson, Congressional Relations Officer, at [James.Jackson25@va.gov](mailto:James.Jackson25@va.gov) or 202-225-2280.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert L. Wilkie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

Robert L. Wilkie