



Veterans Affairs Background 2011

New Veterans Affairs Medical Center – Project Eagle – Background

- The United States Department of Veterans Affairs is constructing a new state-of-the-art, 1.126 million square foot, 202-bed medical center that will provide veterans throughout the state of Colorado and beyond with a full range of medical, laboratory, research and counseling services, including services for veterans with spinal cord injuries (SCI) and other disabilities. The total cost of the new facility is \$800 million and construction is slated to begin in May 2011 with an anticipated completion by summer 2014. The VA campus will be located on the southeast edge of the Anschutz Medical Campus and Fitzsimons Life Science District on the northwest corner of Colfax Avenue and Fitzsimons Parkway in Aurora. To date, 24 architecture, engineering and support firms are involved in the project, 17 of them based in Colorado. Colorado's Congressional delegation, in addition to business and civic leaders and veterans organizations have lobbied for nearly 15 years for a new hospital. Once completed, the campus will employ 1,800 full time employees.
- A \$1.3 million contract was awarded in September 2010 for demolition and preconstruction work at the new site at the Anschutz Medical Campus and Fitzsimons Life Science District. On April 21, 2011, a \$22.5 million contract was awarded to renovate the former UPI building and additional demolition work. According to the Denver Business Journal, 10,000 construction jobs will be created over the construction period of the new campus.
- The new facility will provide services to veterans throughout the Veterans Affairs Rocky Mountain Network, which includes Montana, Wyoming, Utah and Colorado, plus parts of five other states. Once the new facilities are operational, 92 percent of all Colorado Veterans will live within a 60-minute drive of a VA primary care provider, and 81 percent of those Veterans will live within 120 minutes of either a VA Medical Center or a VA Health Care Center.
- The Department of Veterans Affairs will also create new Health Care Centers, which provide ambulatory care and same-day surgical services, in Colorado Springs, Colo., and Billings, Mont. The Colorado Springs facility will be managed in collaboration with the Department of Defense. The Department of Veterans Affairs also plans to add eight new health care facilities in rural areas throughout the region.
- In 2008, the Department of Veterans Affairs spent more than \$2.2 billion in Colorado on behalf of the state's 426,000 Veterans. In Colorado, the Department of Veterans Affairs operates medical centers in Denver and Grand Junction, 13 outpatient clinics, four vet centers and two national cemeteries.