

Identifying Medicaid Recipients who are Veterans and Eligible for Federal Veterans Health Care Benefits

(FY2021 Appropriation Act - Public Act 166 of 2020)

January 1, 2021

Sec. 1804. (1) The department shall utilize the federal public assistance reporting information system to identify Medicaid recipients who are veterans and who may be eligible for federal veterans' health care benefits or other benefits. The department shall identify the specific outcomes and performance reporting requirements described in this section. The department shall acquire all of the following information by January 1 of the current fiscal year and report to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on the department budget, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the senate and house policy offices on the following:

(a) The number of veterans identified by the department through eligibility determinations.

(b) The number of veterans referred to the department of military and veterans affairs.

(c) The number of referrals made by the department that were contacted by the department of military and veterans affairs.

(d) The number of referrals made by the department that were eligible for veterans health care benefits or other benefits.

(e) The specific actions and efforts undertaken by the department and the department of military and veterans affairs to identify female veterans who are applying for public assistance benefits, but who are eligible for veterans benefits.

(2) By October 1 of the current fiscal year, the department shall change the public assistance application form from asking whether the prospective applicant was a veteran to asking whether the applicant had ever served in the military.

(3) This section does not prohibit the department from entering into interagency agreements with any other public department or agency in this state in order to obtain the information detailed in subsection (1).



Section 1804(1) PA 166 of 2020

Using information from the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) and reports from the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), the following can be reported:

- a) The number of veterans identified by the department through eligibility determinations: **6,196**
- b) The number of veterans referred to the department of military and veterans affairs: **6,196**
- c) The number of referrals made by the department that were contacted by the department of military and veterans affairs: **6,196**
- d) The number of referrals made by the department that were eligible for veterans health care benefits or other benefits: **This number is not available because the term “other benefits” is too broad. The veterans were reached by mail along with all veterans being tracked by Secretary of State and transitioning service members who have moved to Michigan. The Michigan Veteran Resource Service Center will not have a way to identify if the veterans contacting them were specifically from the list of veterans receiving public assistance.**
- e) The specific actions and efforts undertaken by the department and the department of military and veterans affairs to identify female veterans who are applying for public assistance benefits, but who are eligible for veterans benefits: **Female veterans were included in the public assistance information provided through the PARIS database and were sent a contact card along with all other veterans.**

The DMVA further reported that individuals identified as veterans were sent a Holiday Card with contact information for the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) and details on MVAA services, including assistance with COVID relief and crisis line information.