

## Veterans Benefit Enhancement Program

### **PARTNERSHIP** | *A State Health Care Authority and Veterans Administration Collaborative*

Veterans who are in need of medical benefits often turn to state Medicaid programs for help, not realizing that they may qualify for more generous benefits from the US Department of Veterans Affairs. Almost nine years ago, when state employees realized that hundreds of veterans were encountered every year, they launched a state partnership with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs to coordinate referrals. In response, the veterans are getting better benefits, and the cost is picked up by the federal government rather than the state. Even better—while Medicaid must try to recover costs from client estates, which may require selling a family home—federal veterans programs have no strings attached. Veterans earn their federal benefit with their military service.

Washington was the first state to launch this initiative, and in response, 32 other states are establishing similar efforts. Credited with avoiding over \$83 million in state costs since it was started in 2004, the program also enhances some veteran’s benefits by lining up monthly cash payments and dependent benefits. The average savings per veteran per month is running close to \$350.

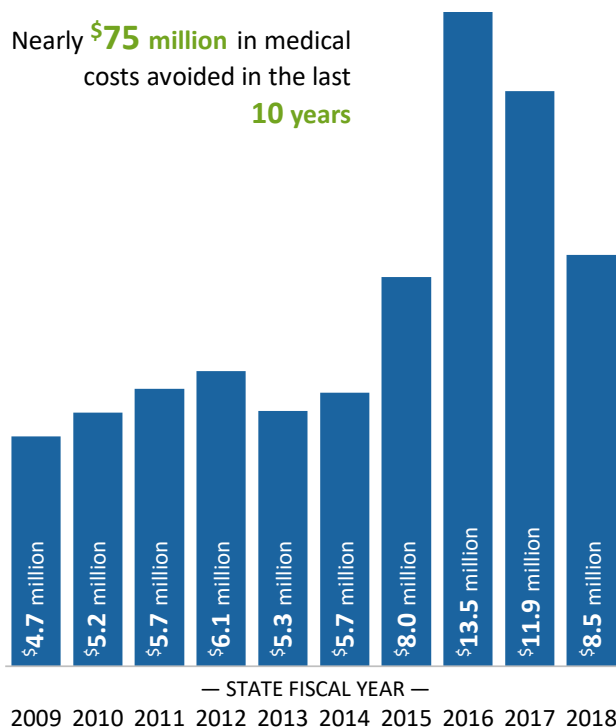
***“Washington is proud that so many veterans and their families, from all the services, call our state home. Through the Veterans Benefit Enhancement Program, we are making sure our vets and their families have access to the important benefits they have earned in serving our country. We’re proud of this program’s success, and are pleased that other states are pursuing initiatives to help their veteran residents.”***

WASHINGTON STATE GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE (QUOTED IN WHITE HOUSE PRESS RELEASE, JUNE 9, 2016)

### **PARIS** | *The federal Public Assistance Reporting Information System, the core of the solution*

#### Medical Costs Avoided for Washington State

Nearly **\$75 million** in medical costs avoided in the last **10 years**



The PARIS reporting system was originally created to allow both state and federal programs the opportunity to compare public assistance files to assure no one was double dipping by drawing the same kind of benefits from different programs.

Washington State—in addition to being the forerunner of utilizing the PARIS VA and DOD data matches to enhance military related benefits—is the first state to successfully target, identify and close those Medicaid managed care cases that the PARIS Interstate match reflected as residing in another state. By verifying and closing these cases, Washington State saved \$8.5 million dollars by not continuing to pay the monthly managed care premiums for these cases throughout the remainder of their one year certification.

This contributed greatly to both Medicaid payment and program integrity and has additionally benefited over 60,000 Washington veterans and families.

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