

Date: January 31, 2006

To: State Veterans Home Directors
State Directors of Veterans Affairs
From: Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health
Chief Consultant, Office of Geriatrics & Extended Care

Subj.: State Veterans Home Life and Safety Renovations

- 1) Congress has directed the Department of Veterans Affairs to prepare a report on the long-term care needs of veterans and future funding needed to address all known life safety deficiencies within existing State home facilities. We are writing to request your assistance in gathering the data needed to prepare the required report. Our draft of this report must be completed by March 1, 2006, so we must ask for your immediate attention to this request.
- 2) Please report to us any life safety projects that have been identified in your Home(s) for which you anticipate submitting a grant application to VA's State Home Construction Grant Program within the next five fiscal years (FY 2007 through FY 2011). Deficiencies may have been identified through your own internal review or as a result of inspections by VA or other agencies. You do not need to submit a completed application or proof of state matching funds now.
- 3) Please provide only the following information in your report (5 items for each identified life safety project):
 - Name and location of the State Home
 - Nature of the deficiency (e.g. fire doors, sprinkler system)
 - Scale of the project (e.g. replace 5 fire doors versus retrofit a 300 bed nursing home with a sprinkler system)
 - Estimate of the approximate cost of the project
 - Estimate of the fiscal year in which a grant application will be submitted
- 4) Please send your report electronically or by mail to Mr. Frank Salvas, Chief, State Home Construction Grant Program, to arrive at the address below not later than Wednesday, February 15, 2006 in order to ensure that your project can be included in the report that VA will submit to Congress.
- 5) Thank you for your assistance.

Patricia Vandenberg

James F. Burriss, MD

Frank Salvas e-mail: Frank.Salvas@va.gov
Office of Geriatrics & Extended Care (114)
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington DC 20420