



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2023-082

ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico is committed to honoring and supporting its veterans who have bravely served our nation;

WHEREAS, veterans face unique challenges reintegrating into civilian life, such as finding meaningful employment, accessing quality healthcare, and navigating obtaining the services and benefits to which they are entitled;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to address the needs and challenges faced by veterans and ensure they receive the necessary support and services they deserve; and

WHEREAS, an advisory council comprising of veterans and individuals with expertise in veterans affairs will provide valuable insights that can be used to eliminate gaps in services, address areas for improvement, and develop innovative strategies to enhance the wellness of our veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the State of New Mexico do hereby **ORDER** and **DIRECT** as follows:

1. Creation; Membership. The Veterans Advisory Council (the “Council”) is hereby established and administratively attached to the Department of Veterans Services. The Council

shall consist of eleven members with experience receiving or providing veterans services. Members shall be appointed by the Governor for staggered terms of three years.

2. Council Duties. The Council shall:

A. Conduct research, gather information, and analyze data related to veterans' needs, including but not limited to healthcare, mental health, education, employment, housing, and legal services;

B. Review existing policies, programs, and services provided by state agencies, non-profit organizations, and private entities to identify areas for improvement and recommend strategies to address gaps in support for veterans;

C. Consult with veterans, their families, and relevant stakeholders to gather input and understand the diverse needs and perspectives of the veteran community; and

D. Perform any other actions, as directed by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Services.

3. Annual Report. By June 1, 2024, and each June 1 thereafter, the Council shall prepare and submit a report to the Governor and the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Services summarizing the Council's findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislative or administrative actions.

4. Compensation; Meetings.

A. The members shall not be compensated for their service, other than per diem allowed under the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

B. The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Services shall designate the Council Chair and Vice Chair.

C. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business. The Council shall meet at the call of the chair. A simple majority vote by the Council is sufficient to approve motions.

D. The Council shall adopt by-laws, meet at regular intervals as determined by the Chair, and establish working groups or subcommittees as necessary to address specific topics or tasks.

5. Department Duties. The Department of Veterans Services shall:

A. Consult with the Council on proposed policies, programs, and actions that affect veterans, as directed by the Secretary; and

B. Provide administrative support to the Council as necessary to carry out its functions.

I FURTHER ORDER and DIRECT as follows:

1. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until renewed, modified, or rescinded.

ATTEST:

MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 22ND DAY OF JUNE 2023

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR