



## **Santa Fe Veterans Advisory Board**

### **Strategic Plan 2026-2028**

#### **VISION**

Helping military veterans and their families thrive in Santa Fe, New Mexico

#### **MISSION**

The Veterans Advisory Board (VAB) advises the Mayor and Santa Fe City leadership on issues relating to military veterans, their needs, and the care they receive from the City of Santa Fe and ancillary groups within the city.

#### **VALUES**

Our values – Respect, Integrity, Selflessness and Excellence (RISE) – are derived from our military service and devotion to the nation.

- (R) Respect. We will respect each other and those we meet in all ways, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or political views.
- (I) Integrity. We will conduct every aspect of our work with the highest level of integrity and truth.
- (S) Selflessness. We will be selfless in seeking out the best outcomes for our veterans and their families.
- (E) Excellence. We will seek to achieve excellence in all we do as veteran advisors.

#### **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The VAB advises the Mayor and the Santa Fe City Council on all matters related to military veteran programs, policies, and procedures. Through regular meetings, this diverse group of veterans ensures the lines of communication are maintained and cultivates an active community in support of veterans within the City of Santa Fe. The VAB will:

- Serve as a source of information related to the status, resources, and services available in the community for the large population of veterans.
- Identify and review the entire range of services currently available to veterans and recommend ways to strengthen such services.
- Evaluate and recommend programs, policies and practices designed to alleviate veteran's difficulties in meeting needs for essential services and other areas affecting them.

- Maintain awareness among both the public and private sector of veterans' full potential and of the importance of veterans' contributions to the sustainability and development of our community.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Goal 1: Strengthen Veteran Community Collaboration**

- Objective 1.1: Meet with and build collaboration among veteran organizations in northern New Mexico.
- Objective 1.2: Assist in synchronizing support and services to veterans among the veteran organizations in northern New Mexico.
- Objective 1.3: Participate in all veteran-related community events in Santa Fe.

### **Goal 2: Grow Veterans Programs**

- Objective 2.1: Increase funding and program support to reduce the number of veterans experiencing homelessness.
- Objective 2.2: Establish reviews of veteran-related programs through assessment of quantifiable performance metrics.

### **Goal 3: Expand Awareness and Communication**

- Objective 3.1: Create greater community awareness of issues important to veteran groups through outreach and influence opportunities.
- Objective 3.2: Strengthen and expand communication related to veterans' issues on city web pages, social media platforms, and other communications venues.

### **Goal 4: Strengthen and Grow Health Care and Mental Health Services for Veterans**

- Objective 4.1: In coordination with the Santa Fe Veterans Center and the New Mexico Department of Veteran Services (DVS), work to implement the recommendations of the Syracuse University IVMF study.
- Objective 4.2: Work with the city and county of Santa Fe and DVS to expand the CONNECT Network to other counties in northern New Mexico.
- Objective 4.3: Collaborate with DVS and other veteran organizations to secure additional funding from the legislature and the VA for veteran health care and mental health treatment in rural areas of New Mexico.
- Objective 4.4: In coordination with DVS and other veteran organizations, work to reduce the incidents of veteran suicide in New Mexico.