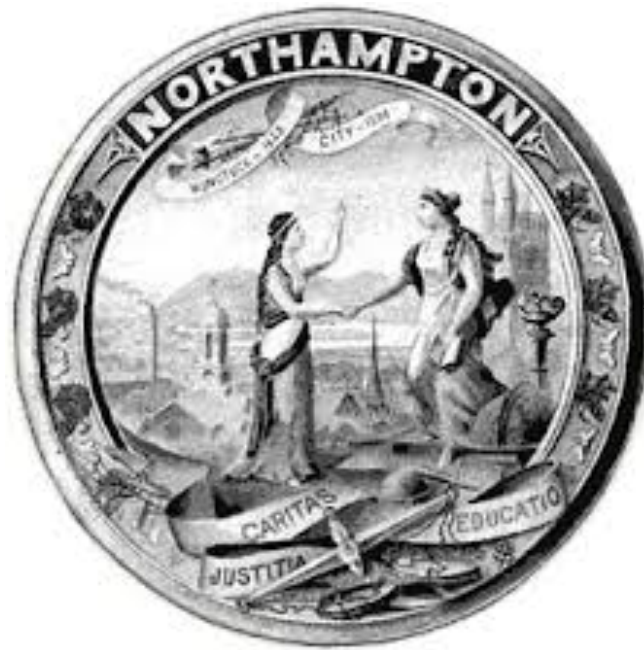


District Formation and the new Valor Act law

Steven J. Connor, Director
Central Hampshire Veterans Services
Past President, MVSOA

How It Began

Contracts and Agreements



More communities reached out...



Our original district (FY2008):

- Northampton
- Chesterfield
- Cummington
- Williamsburg
- Amherst
- Pelham

Within two years:

- Northampton
- Chesterfield
- Cummington
- Williamsburg
- Amherst
- Pelham
- Goshen
- Worthington

Emergency coverage in 2013...

- Northampton
- Chesterfield
- Cummington
- Williamsburg
- Amherst
- Pelham
- Goshen
- Worthington
- **Hatfield**
- **Middlefield**

...led to application for CIC grant.

Budget

- Determine population
 - Total population of district
 - Population of member towns
- Determine staffing levels
 - Appropriate VSO per capita
 - Administrative support
- Draft District Budget
- Cost sharing among communities

■ Determine population

Community*	2010 Federal Census	Student Factor	Adjusted Population
Northampton	28,549	2,580	25,969
Amherst	37,819	15,569	22,250
Chesterfield	1,222	-	1,222
Williamsburg	2,482	-	2,482
Cummington	872	-	872
Goshen	1,054	-	1,054
Pelham	1,321	-	1,321
Worthington	1,156	-	1,156
Hadley	5,250	-	5,250
Middlefield	521	-	521
Total:	80,246	18,149	62,097
<u>Amherst Student Population</u>			
UMASS	12,544		
Amherst	1,841		
Hampshire	1,184		
	15,569		

Budget

- Determine staffing levels

PERSONAL SERVICES	Hrs/Wk
Director - Steve Connor	40
Administrative Assistant - Rebecca Twining	40
Deputy Veterans Service Agent – Tom Geryk	40
Outreach Veterans Service Agent - Joe Russo	5
Employee Benefits	
Total Personnel	125

- *The District Treasurer*
 - *responsibility, risk, cost, liability*

Budget

- Draft Budget
- Share cost among communities

Community*	2010 Federal Census	Student Factor	Adjusted Population	FY15 Assessment Inter-municipal
Northampton	28,549	2,580	25,969	\$ 99,736.81
Amherst	37,819	15,569	22,250	\$ 85,453.58
Chesterfield	1,222	-	1,222	\$ 4,693.23
Williamsburg	2,482	-	2,482	\$ 9,532.40
Cummington	872	-	872	\$ 3,349.01
Goshen	1,054	-	1,054	\$ 4,048.00
Pelham	1,321	-	1,321	\$ 5,073.45
Worthington	1,156	-	1,156	\$ 4,439.75
Hadley	5,250	-	5,250	\$ 20,163.20
Middlefield	521	-	521	\$ 2,000.96
Total:	80,246	18,149	62,097	\$ 238,490.39

Budget

The Importance of Certified VSO's: more than parades, flags, and ceremonies

1. take **all** applications for benefits
2. maintain discharge & service records; safeguard the names of clients
3. Funerals, burials, cemeteries
4. Outreach services
 1. referrals and assistance about available benefits and services
 2. work with federal, state, and local governmental bodies and agencies, as well as private entities, as needed
5. Conduct public information campaigns to ensure that the eligible population is aware of current laws
6. Keep current with changes in the laws which affect veterans' benefits and services by attending professional development programs and by communicating with DVS
7. Ceremonial duties

At your service...

Steven James Connor
Director, Central Hampshire
Veterans Services District

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