

2018 Legislative Priority Goals

The Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs (NOVA) is the professional organization for all nurses employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Our members are the frontline faces who provide the best care for Veterans. The following legislative priority goals identify several areas of concern. Some items require legislation, some require funding, and others need to be supported and implemented by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA).

Retention/Recruitment/Staffing:

- Hire additional Human Resources Staff, review and streamline policies and procedures to improve the efficiency and speed of the hiring process.
- Undertake a thorough review of downgrades and reclassification of critical positions across VA.
- Increase training of HR personnel on use of Locality Pay process in hiring.
- Revise the cap on Nurse Pay structures and RN pay schedules and reclassification of critical positions so that VA can ensure competitive salaries.
- Address difficulties of USA Jobs including complexity and excessive time required to complete application, inadequate response/feedback of completed applications.

CHOICE/Community Integrated Healthcare:

- Deliver a program that is easy to understand, simple to administer, and meets the needs of our Veterans, VA staff and community providers.
- Ensure that VA continues to be the point of access and coordinator of all health care for enrolled Veterans.
- Implement a care coordination system allowing Veterans to return with ease back to the VA when resources are available.
- Employ mandatory training for VHA personnel and community providers to improve the coordination of care across networks.
- Demand community providers meet the same high standards and metrics that VHA delivers.

Information Technology:

- Improve and adequately fund all information technology so proper support is provided to the field to improve patient safety, software usability and data standardization for strong integrated patient healthcare records across the system.
- Support for Electronic Health Record to enable seamless transition of care between DOD and VA.

VA Modernization and Transformation:

- Continue to support VA's Modernization Plan which must include appropriate use of funding, and inclusion of nursing in strategic decision making, access, operational efficiency, research, and academic efforts.
- Allow nursing leadership to make decisions related to their nursing profession.