

## **2009-108 AUDIT SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES—Department of Veterans Affairs**

The audit by the Bureau of State Audits will provide independently developed and verified information related to the Department of Veterans Affairs (department) and will include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Review and evaluate the laws, rules, and regulations significant to the audit objectives.
2. Identify the state and federal funding sources received by the department. Specifically, for the past five years, identify the state and federal funds received to support the department's various responsibilities and determine the methods used by the department to allocate those funds among its programs.
3. Review and assess any instances in the last five years in which federal funds may have been available but were not used or were underused by the department and the reasons why.
4. Review the goals and objectives in the department's current strategic plan to determine if they adequately address the needs and issues in the veteran community such as mental health, job training, and housing. Examine the methods the department uses to measure its performance and the extent to which it is meeting its goals and objectives.
5. Determine the current methods used by the department to identify and serve veterans, including a review of its interaction and agreements with other state departments and agencies that serve veterans. Examples might include the Military Department, Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the Employment Development Department, the Employment Training Panel, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, and the Department of Mental Health.
6. For the most recent year that statistics are available, identify the number of California veterans that receive benefits from the Cal-Vet Home Loan Program and, to the extent possible, determine whether this program specifically benefits homeless veterans or veterans in need of multi-family or transitional housing.
7. Review the programs administered by the Veterans Services Division and determine the extent to which the department assists with the administration of these programs. Determine whether the division operates a program for homeless veterans and identify the goals and objectives of and functions provided by the program if such a program exists.
8. Identify the federal disability benefits that qualifying veterans can receive. During the last five years, determine the number of California veterans that annually apply for and receive federal veterans disability compensation and pension payments.
9. Examine any barriers veterans may face when applying for federal disability benefits, the services the department offers to help veterans overcome such barriers, and the methods used by the department to improve the State's participation rate.