



In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum 11-35, *Eliminating Excess Conference Spending and Promoting Efficiency in Government*, issued September 21, 2011, OMB Memorandum 12-12, *Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations*, dated May 11, 2012, and OMB Memorandum 17-08, *Amending OMB Memorandum M-12-12, Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations*, dated November 25, 2016; the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) prepared the attached FY 2018 report on covered conference events over \$100,000. During FY 2018, VA incurred expenses of approximately \$16.5 million for the 81 covered conference events.

Continuous workforce training and development is absolutely critical to delivering the timely, quality VA care and services our Veterans have earned and deserve. Our senior leaders across the Department are focused on transforming procedures for conference and training events that build accountability at every step. VA has improved our procedures by implementing senior-level review of proposed budgets and expenditures, reviewing internal processes and controls, and maintaining strict oversight of all reportable conference expenses.

The report is posted at: [http://www.va.gov/about\\_va/va\\_notices.asp](http://www.va.gov/about_va/va_notices.asp)

## Veterans Affairs FY2018 Sponsored Conferences in excess of \$100,000

Title	Total Costs	Location	Start Date	End Date	# VA Paid Travelers	Conference Description
2017 National Veterans Small Business Engagement (NVSBE)	\$ 757,256	Saint Louis, MO	12/4/2017	12/7/2017	3,409	Allow VA to demonstrate the agency priority goal of providing "Access", promoting VOSB opportunities to meet the strategic objective of improving Veteran economic well-being.
2018 Veterans Canteen Service Leadership Conference (55283/BIS 5411)	\$ 472,948	Chicago, IL	9/24/2018	9/26/2018	223	Introduction of new business models, E-commerce, OI&T process changes and training for effective management/leadership of canteens.
VA Cerner Program Kickoff (87660/BIS 8368)	\$ 462,753	Kansas City, MO	8/14/2018	8/16/2018	745	Modernize our systems; infrastructure improvements and streamlining services; EMR interoperability and IT modernization
Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) EHR Council Model Validation Event - Kansas City, MO (98048/BIS8613)	\$ 445,573	Kansas City, MO	9/25/2018	9/27/2018	260	Develop and sustain capabilities in evaluating services pertaining to clients' complex operational needs.
Women's Health Mini-Residency Primary Care Providers (65714/BIS5780)	\$ 445,271	Orlando, FL	2/6/2018	2/8/2018	296	Provided PC providers with the knowledge, physical examination, and critical thinking skills needed to provide high quality care to women Veterans.
Women's Health Mini-Residency Primary Care Providers (65718/BIS5781)	\$ 412,225	Orlando, FL	6/19/2018	6/21/2018	285	Provided PC & EC providers & nurses with the knowledge, physical examination, and critical thinking skills needed to provide high quality care to women Veterans.
VHA Environmental Program Service Conference (66090/BIS5403)	\$ 317,690	Orlando, FL	8/28/2018	8/30/2018	253	The training will improve the VHA service capability by enhancing knowledge among staff and reinforcing the value of performance measures through in-person cooperation among colleagues
Stepped Care for Opioid Use Disorder Train the Trainer Conference (55200 / BIS 5633)	\$ 294,632	Hartford, CT	8/21/2018	8/22/2018	249	This training is designed to facilitate Veteran-centered healthcare delivery, such that life-saving treatment can be provided to Veterans on demand at the point of care
Leadership VA (LVA) (54741/BIS4528.5863)	\$ 290,315	Washington, DC	10/23/2017	10/27/2017	85	The program assisted participants in developing and enhancing the leadership skills and competencies of VA high-performing leaders.
VBA Directors Symposium FY 2018	\$ 290,205	Louisville, KY	4/15/2018	4/20/2018	168	The training event provided senior leadership with key information on performance targets, goals, and strategies for backlog reduction.
VISN Chief Logistics Officers/Facility Chief Supply Chain Officers (65806/BIS 5393)	\$ 282,501	Phoenix, AZ	7/24/2018	7/26/2018	212	Improved supply chain performance creates efficiencies that can be reinvested into VHA clinical efforts. Additionally, improved SCM performance reduces clinician involvement in no
National Nurse Executive Conference (66673 / BIS 7151)	\$ 280,107	Dallas, TX	6/5/2018	6/7/2018	180	Share best practices and improve staff engagement
GPM / Executive Leader Access Conference - Session 2 (66680/BIS 6151.9808)	\$ 278,281	Dallas, TX	8/7/2018	8/10/2018	209	Overall continued implementation and progress of Access Improvement in areas of Veterans Experience, Suicide Prevention, Access to Care and to continue to improve VHA Access improvement
Radiology Service Chief Meeting (65982 / BIS 6138)	\$ 267,574	Orlando, FL	9/12/2018	9/15/2018	249	Improved access and quality of care as well as standardizing policies, procedures, and processes across radiology services
2018 National Leadership Council Strategic Planning Summit (65839/BIS6418)	\$ 267,213	Washington, DC	4/24/2018	4/26/2018	111	VHA leaders develop and advance strategic goals and objectives to ensure that VHA continues to synchronize strategies on improving the delivery of health care to Veterans.

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VHA Safe Patient Handling and Mobility (SPHM) Facility Coordinators (FC) Conference (66153/BI)	\$ 258,436	Orlando, FL	3/27/2018	3/29/2018	181	Safe Patient Handling and Mobility (SPHM) Facility Coordinators (FC) can protect staff and patients while building effective SPHM programs that reduce employee injuries, improve patie
Annual Field Health Informatics Council Symposium for FY18 (55423/BIS 5909)	\$ 247,621	Orlando, FL	9/11/2018	9/13/2018	188	Provided health informatics solutions/support (improving access to mental health care, promoting Suicide Risk Assessment/Prevention, facilitating culture of measurement based care)
Promoting the Unique Mission of VA Dentistry Through Innovation (66032/BIS6517)	\$ 242,012	Philadelphia, PA	7/17/2018	7/19/2018	148	Bold and innovative practices were discussed and shared to enhance delivery of dentistry care provided to Veterans. Exposure was given to both clinical and operational innovations and
FY18 VA Police Chiefs Training Symposium	\$ 239,844	Little Rock, AR	5/20/2018	5/24/2018	228	LETC prepares VA Police Chiefs to fulfill their leadership responsibilities in a safe manner and at the highest level of proficiency.
Infectious Diseases: Prevention and Control Summit, Know the Past, Predict the Future (76858)	\$ 237,029	Cincinnati, OH	8/21/2018	8/23/2018	195	Use of MDRO program, ASP, vaccinology and infection prevention and control technologies to prevent healthcare associated infections directly relate to improving care for Veterans
HUD-VASH National Conference (66221/ BIS6932)	\$ 235,426	Orlando, FL	8/14/2018	8/16/2018	212	The conference will also focus on the integration of risk assessment and mental health access for homeless Veterans to address the complex psychosocial needs of Veterans deemed at risk
Environmental health Clinician and Coordinator Training (66109/BIS6377.8672)	\$ 235,125	St. Louis, MO	7/10/2018	7/12/2018	171	To Provide up to date information to Environmental Health Clinicians and Coordinators across the VHA on Veterans Administration requirements for VA delivered Services.
National Blind Rehabilitation Service Conference: Foundation for Excellence (66075/BIS 6322)	\$ 234,161	Incline Village, NV	8/14/2018	8/16/2018	165	Assisting blind and visually impaired Veterans and eligible active duty Service Members to develop personal independence and successful integration into the community and family enviro
VHA 2018 healthCare Technology Conference (65813/BIS5327)	\$ 232,623	Long Beach, CA	6/4/2018	6/6/2018	227	VA staff gained knowledge in best practices and new regulations for healthcare technology which will ensure better care for Veterans and facilitate continued support for VA priorities
FY18 Patient Flow Coordination Collaborative(Session 1) 952876/BIS4292.5194)	\$ 231,130	Orlando, FL	6/12/2018	6/14/2018	177	increase access by maximizing effectiveness of patient flow.
Preventing Veteran Suicide in Everyones Business (55463/BIS5097.7499)	\$ 220,495	Salt Lake City, UT	10/31/2017	11/2/2017	189	Participants will have plans to implement the VA mental health continuum of care in their facilities and VISN's and to ensure local efforts are aligned with VA modernization goals.
SSD Training Conference	\$ 220,289	Charlotte, NC	8/6/2018	8/10/2018	147	Improve VBAs financial position by reduction of improper payments through standardization of processes and better internal controls.
VACAA and DEO Annual Conference (65661/BIS6304)	\$ 219,606	Orlando, FL	8/7/2018	8/8/2018	184	Developed facility readiness to expand medical education as directed by VACAA in order to fulfill the intent of the legislation.
Whole Health Learning and Integration Forum 2 (65541 / BIS 4545.7554)	\$ 219,287	Orlando, FL	1/30/2018	2/1/2018	153	Allowed VAMC facilities to meet the requirements of the CARA law.

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Strategic Leadership Course II Cohort 28	\$ 217,498	Chapel Hill, NC	10/29/2017	11/3/2017	27	The instruction provided is critical to making Senior leaders more ready to leading VA modernization efforts. It provides tools and methods that are readily applied.
VA Innovators Network Accelerator Bootcamp 2018 (55287/BIS5900)	\$ 216,733	Washington, DC	5/15/2018	5/17/2018	127	This training propelled staff to return to their facilities with new management methods, operational practices; as well as encouraged staff to apply their capabilities in the field.
2018 Office of Human Capital Management Symposium	\$ 212,053	Denver, CO	8/12/2018	8/31/2018	154	Enhanced knowledge to apply technical and consultative competencies to further improve HR services across the administration.
PTSD (52215/BIS4202)	\$ 211,918	Orlando, FL	1/30/2018	1/31/2018	209	This conference provided VA practitioners and providers with updated evidence-based information on care and clinic performance measures to continue providing exceptional care.
GPM/Access Conference-Session 1 (66334/BIS6151.9475)	\$ 207,981	Dallas, TX	4/17/2018	4/20/2018	161	Overall continued implementation and progress of Access Improvement in areas of Veterans Experience, Suicide Prevention, Access to Care and to continue to improve VHA Access improvement
Preventing Veteran Suicide in Everyones Business (65462/BIS5097)	\$ 202,834	Orlando, FL	10/24/2017	10/26/2017	181	Participants will have clear plans to implement VA mental health continuum of care in their facilities and VISN's and to ensure local efforts are aligned with VA modernization goals.
VHA Innovation Experience - FY18 (87470/BIS 8195)	\$ 193,937	Washington, DC	8/28/2018	8/30/2018	182	The innovations and best practices are helping the agency achieve it's mission of delivering world class medical center, customer service as well as capitalizing on standardizing certa
2018 Nurse Staffing methodology Conference (65707/BIS5827)	\$ 193,114	Phoenix, AZ	4/11/2018	4/12/2018	184	In order to provide Veterans personalized, proactive and patient-driven health care, Nurse Executives must be able to use the Staffing Methodology effectively at their facility.
Transitional Work:Enrichment of the Service Delivery Model COnference (65980/BIS6473)	\$ 186,472	St. Louis, MO	5/15/2018	5/16/2018	168	The CWT TW conference provides an opportune time to share latest best practices, research findings, policy updates in TSES program operations, including key trainings in suicide awaren
C&L National Training Conference	\$ 183,529	Jacksonville, FL	4/9/2018	4/13/2018	151	This conference provided training on improving quality services to schools and training establishments ensuring they are in compliance with all applicable provision of the law.
Pharmacy Informaticist face-To-Face Training Workshop (65590/BIS5443)	\$ 179,232	Orlando, FL	3/20/2018	3/22/2018	145	The meeting is essential to ensure the facilitation of the programs critical and operational objectives.
FY18 72nd Annual VA Voluntary Service national Advisory Committee (65786/BIS5974)	\$ 178,735	Tampa, FL	4/11/2018	4/13/2018	306	The VAVS NAC is the advising body to the Secretary through the Under Secretary for health on all matters related to VAVS operations, policy and programs in all VHA facilities.
VHA Green Enviromental Management Systems Conference (65793/BIS5295)	\$ 177,760	Orlando, FL	6/19/2018	6/21/2018	130	Train VHA Green Environmental Management Systems Program Managers in latest emerging EPA requirements to reduce incidence of compliance actions....
Patient Safety Improvement - PS 101: 76776/BIS6308.9976)	\$ 177,720	Orlando, FL	9/17/2018	9/20/2018	121	This course addresses the need for effective communication among healthcare professionals in order to positively impact patient safety in VA facilities.

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2018 VRE Employment Coordinator Training Symposium	\$ 166,751	Washington, DC	9/17/2018	9/21/2018	91	Training for ECs focusing on expanding the EC community of shared practices to better equip staff with relevant information, tools, resources to serve and advocate for Veterans.
HBPC National Conference (65476/BIS5340)	\$ 163,086	Orlando, FL	8/14/2018	8/16/2018	126	Initiated to support the high-risk elderly aimed at reducing institutionalization, allowing Veterans and Caregivers to remain in the home setting despite debilitating diseases and chro
VBA FIELD LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2017 SESSION 9	\$ 160,606	PHOENIX, AZ	10/30/2017	11/3/2017	45	Senior leaders learned concepts and implemented shared ideas at their home stations to see improvements in the claims process.
VBA FIELD LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2017 SESSION 8	\$ 159,804	St. Louis, MO	10/16/2017	10/20/2017	43	leaders are implementing pilots/processes from the course to realize increased claims production
National VA/DOD Women's Mental health Mini-Residency (66174/BIS5196)	\$ 159,030	Washington, DC	8/28/2018	8/30/2018	193	Goal of building a high-performing, integrated network of care, strengthening foundational services in VA and facilitating VA/DoD/Community coordination.
VR&E FY18 Officer's Technical Training Conference	\$ 156,428	Detriot, MI	8/6/2018	8/10/2018	106	Training conducted re: USB's three priorities and upcoming technology releases. Veteran and Vet-friendly employers provided feedback on how to improve VRE processes.
Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System Point of Contact Training (66763/BIS 5389)	\$ 153,959	Orlando, FL	6/12/2018	6/14/2018	110	There have been high turn-over rates in VHA VISN DEMPS Point of Contacts (POCs) and training is needed on DEMPS management and actual deployment processes to ensure readiness of VHA to
HPS Training Workshop (87169/BIS7454)	\$ 148,011	Kansas City, MO	9/18/2018	9/21/2018	104	This conference will demonstrate HPS staff that can serve as SME's of first responders of data recovery and the ability to support health software applications via the VistaA system.
Whole Health Learning and Innovation Forum (54949)	\$ 147,494	Orlando, FL	11/14/2017	11/15/2017	137	Allows SECVA to meet the requirements of the CARA Law
Health Care Leadership Development Program (HCLDP-FY18 Class A) (66436/BIS5983.9571)	\$ 141,821	Kansas City, MO	7/23/2018	7/27/2018	86	The program is a core part of VHA's workforce leadership development strategy and serves to develop future senior leaders.
2018 VBA Director's Symposium	\$ 141,334	Leesburg, VA	9/9/2018	9/12/2018	90	The purpose of this training is to discuss FY2018 and FY2019 targets and goals with an emphasis on the Under Secretary for Benefits three priorities
Patient Safety Improvement-PS101: RCA (65755/BIS6308.7998)	\$ 140,549	Orlando, FL	3/5/2018	3/8/2018	89	This course addresses the need for effective communication among healthcare professionals in order to positively impact patient safety in VA facilities.
2018 Military Serve Coordinator Conference	\$ 139,904	Indianapolis, IN	8/20/2018	8/24/2018	89	Training classes are aligned to ensure MSCs are prepared to develop pre-discharge claims and provide briefings accurately in compliance with law and policy.
Health Care Leadership Development Program (HCLDP-FY18 Class B) (66438/BIS5985.9573)	\$ 136,954	Kansas City, MO	8/27/2018	8/31/2018	92	The program is a core part of VHA's workforce leadership development strategy and serves to develop future senior leaders.
Wheelchair Prescription (66070/BIS 6286)	\$ 135,087	Orlando, FL	7/24/2018	7/26/2018	109	Veterans with mobility issues will have more access to the specialized equipment and interdisciplinary care delivery to optimize their care and function.

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Chief Residents in Quality and Patient Safety - FY18 (87125 / BIS 6310)	\$ 131,495	Orlando, FL	9/17/2018	9/21/2018	99	To provide an interactive learning opportunity for assigned Chief Residents in Quality and Safety through simulation and discussions with experts in patient safety and quality improve
Leadership VA (LVA) 2018 Session I (65768/BIS6093)	\$ 131,327	Philadelphia, PA	5/7/2018	5/11/2018	69	The program assisted participants in developing and enhancing the leadership skills and competencies of VA high-performing leaders.
Improving the Access and Quality of Psychological Rehab (65586/BIS2292)	\$ 131,262	Orlando, FL	7/17/2018	7/19/2018	122	PRRC Coordinators and staff acquire psychosocial rehabilitation knowledge, skills, and practices necessary to improve access to PRRC services and clinical outcomes.
Health Care Leadership Development Program (HCLDP- FY18 Class B) (66437/BIS5985.9572)	\$ 129,942	Ashburn, VA	6/25/2018	6/29/2018	77	The program is a core part of VHA's workforce leadership development strategy and serves to develop future senior leaders.
Veterans Experience Office All Hands Face-To-Face Meeting, September 24-Sept 28 2018	\$ 127,719	Washington, DC	9/25/2018	9/27/2018	128	By further refining the foundational components of CX data, tools, technology and engagement. Also, reflecting on strategically planning for FY19 milestones and goals for the org.
Health Care Leadership Development Program (HCLDP- FY18 Class A) (65766/BIS5983)	\$ 127,486	Kansas City, MO	2/26/2018	3/2/2018	75	The program is a core part of VHA's workforce leadership development strategy and serves to develop future senior leaders.
VA Innovators Network Training and Onboarding (65555/BIS6200)	\$ 127,221	Washington, DC	10/17/2017	10/20/2017	75	Training will provide VA staff the capability to enhance innovation at their facility and manage relationships with external partners to build innovative networks.
Patient Safety Improvement FY-18- PS201 Developing Leaders in Patient Safety (65756/BIS6309)	\$ 126,953	Orlando, FL	3/5/2018	3/8/2018	83	This course addresses the need for effective communication among healthcare professionals in order to positively impact patient safety in VA facilities.
Health Care Leadership Development Program (HCLDP- FY18 Class B) (65769/BIS5985)	\$ 125,010	Kansas City, MO	4/23/2018	4/27/2018	75	The program is a core part of VHA's workforce leadership development strategy and serves to develop future senior leaders.
Health Care Leadership Development Program (HCLDP- FY18 Class A, Week 2) (66435/BIS5983.9569)	\$ 124,031	Ashburn, VA	5/21/2018	5/25/2018	77	The program is a core part of VHA's workforce leadership development strategy and serves to develop future senior leaders.
Whole Health Facilitated Groups: Taking Charge of My Life and Health (87098 /5653.10662)	\$ 123,525	Nashville, TN	7/24/2018	7/26/2018	54	Introduce Veterans to components of proactive health being, and help Veterans explore what matters most to them
Leadership VA (LVA) 2018 SESSION III (87016/BIS6093.8187)	\$ 117,035	Phoenix, AZ	9/24/2018	9/28/2018	73	The program assisted participants in developing and enhancing the leadership skills and competencies of VA high-performing leaders.
2018 VRE IDES Training Symposium	\$ 116,602	San Antonio, TX	9/10/2018	9/13/2018	107	Prepare employees with the tools to assist Veterans/Servicemembers adjust and accept newly acquired disabilities and transition into civilian life.
Chief Chaplain's Training Convocation (87305 / BIS 7592)	\$ 112,438	Arlington, VA	8/14/2018	8/16/2018	79	This Convocation Educated Chief Chaplains about strategies and practices for integrating Spiritual and Pastoral Care into whole health aligned with VA/VHA priorities.
Military Service Coordinator Conference in FY18	\$ 112,412	Indianapolis, IN	5/21/2018	5/24/2018	90	The purpose of this training is to standardize training for all MSCs and provide updates on the BDD Redesign and IDES Re-Engineering efforts.

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PMDB Trainer Recalibration Conference (66416/BIS5744)	\$ 111,194	Albany, NY	6/18/2018	6/21/2018	82	This training supports the continued education of direct care providers in best practices for preventing and managing violent behavior by patients.
OAWP Training and Semi-Annual All Hands Meeting	\$ 106,117	San Antonio, TX	4/23/2018	4/27/2018	74	The conference will enhance collaboration across our stakeholders to improve the quality and/or efficiency of OAWP services.
Leadership VA (LVA) 2018 Session II (87015/BIS6093.8185)	\$ 105,516	Orlando, FL	7/30/2018	8/3/2018	68	The program assisted participants in developing and enhancing the leadership skills and competencies of VA high-performing leaders.
RN Transition-To-Practice Training (65710/BIS5853)	\$ 104,570	Orlando, FL	5/1/2018	5/2/2018	96	Oversight Improvements Needed for Nurse Recruitment and Retention Initiatives reported that a lack of VHA funding for the RNTTP program (a program that is "financially and staff-resour
VBA ED&T LEAP 2018-1	\$ 103,376	NASHVILLE, TN	12/11/2017	12/15/2017	81	LEAP is a year-long program for developing high-potential, competitively-selected, senior employees (GS-13 thru GS-14) for increased leadership responsibilities.
FY18 National Association of Veterans' Research and Education Foundation (87647/BIS7844)	\$ 103,012	Washington, DC	9/9/2018	9/12/2018	62	The purpose of this meeting is to educate the ACOS/R in the VA policies relevant to research to insure that they meet the highest VA standards.
VBA ED&T LEAD 2018-1	\$ 102,229	San Diego, CA	12/3/2017	12/8/2017	82	Leadership training for high-performing GS-9 thru GS-12 VBA employees.
Training Managers Symposium FY 2018	\$ 100,526	Baltimore, MD	5/7/2018	5/11/2018	93	Provided essential training to VBA Regional Office training managers ensuring consistency and alignment with VA and VBA strategic plans and National Training Curriculum.