



# **VACLC 2022 Year in Review**

**January 31, 2023**

# Mission

Dynamic Advocacy for Veterans.



**To promote the welfare of honorably discharged Veterans of military service and their families through maximizing all possible benefits through effective and dynamic advocacy and by serving as the central service office for all Veterans residing in the county of Lake.**



# Mission

## Dynamic Advocacy for Veterans.

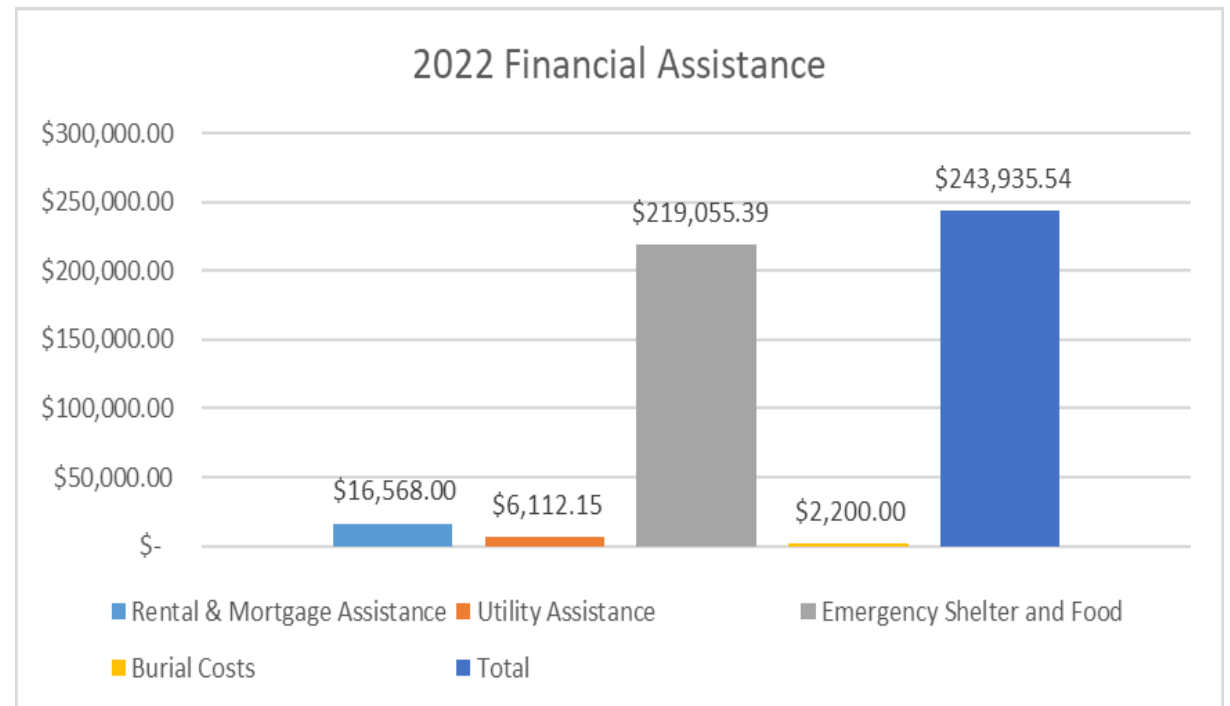


- **This mission is accomplished through three key areas:**
  - **Financial Assistance**
  - **Advocacy**
  - **Partnerships**
- **Staff of the VACLCL:**
  - **Superintendent Andrew C. Tangen**
  - **Assistant Superintendent Sherry J. Kruse**
  - **Chief of Staff (CoS) John L. Murray**
  - **Senior Veteran Service Officers (SVSO) Shane McNerney and Jilian “Summer” Padaoan**
  - **Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Allan Lacson**
  - **Executive Assistant Suzette Pawluk**
- **VACLCL is currently interviewing for an additional VSO and two Administrative Assistants**

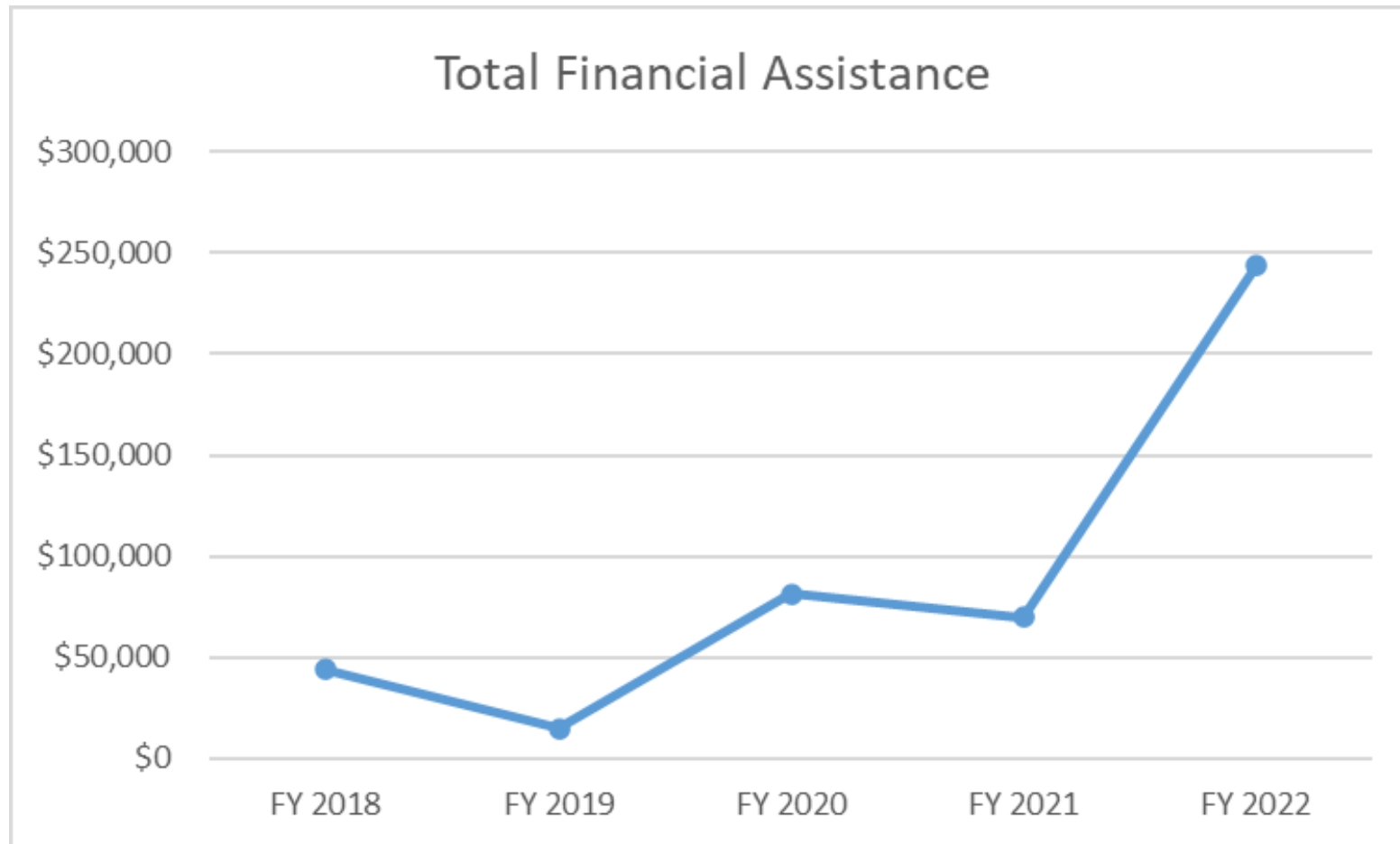


# Financial Assistance

- Available to all honorably discharged Veterans of the County, including, but not limited to:
  - Rental and mortgage assistance
  - Utility payments
  - Aid to the medically indigent
  - Assistance and emergency shelter to:
    - Homeless Veterans
    - Veterans in danger of becoming homeless
    - Veterans displaced by natural disasters
  - Burial assistance of indigent Veterans.



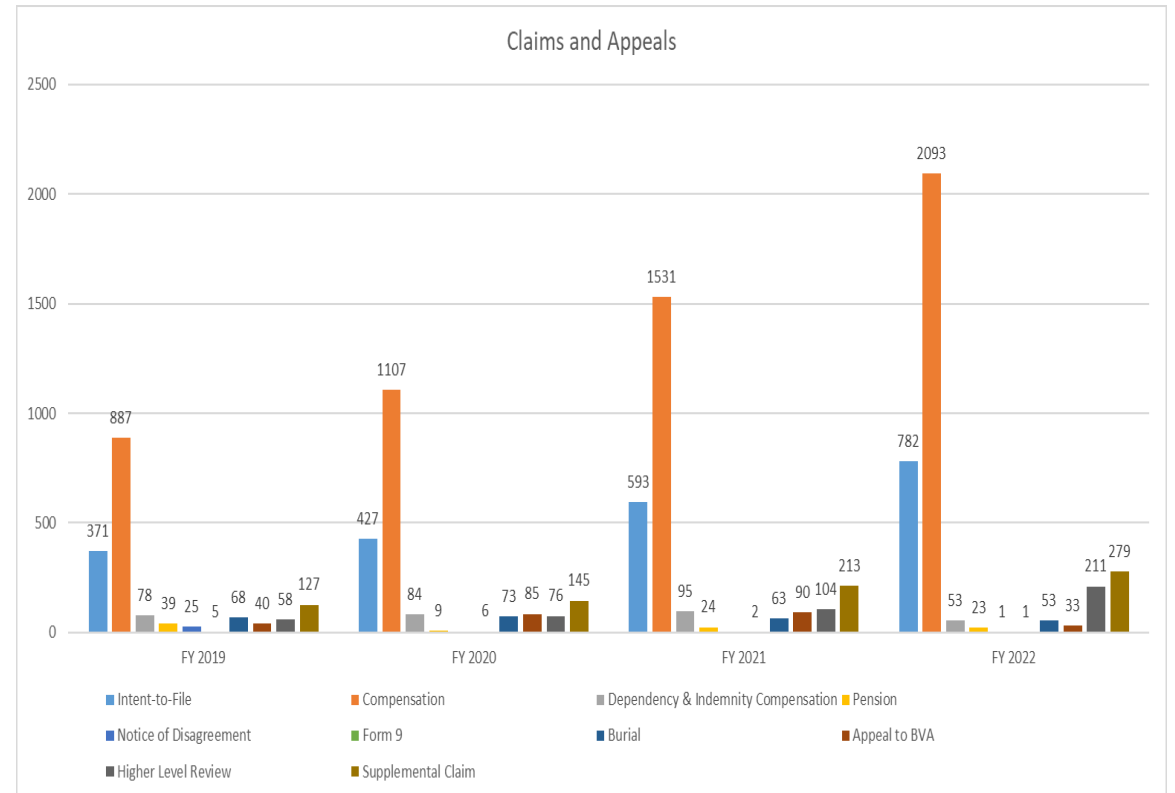
# Financial Assistance

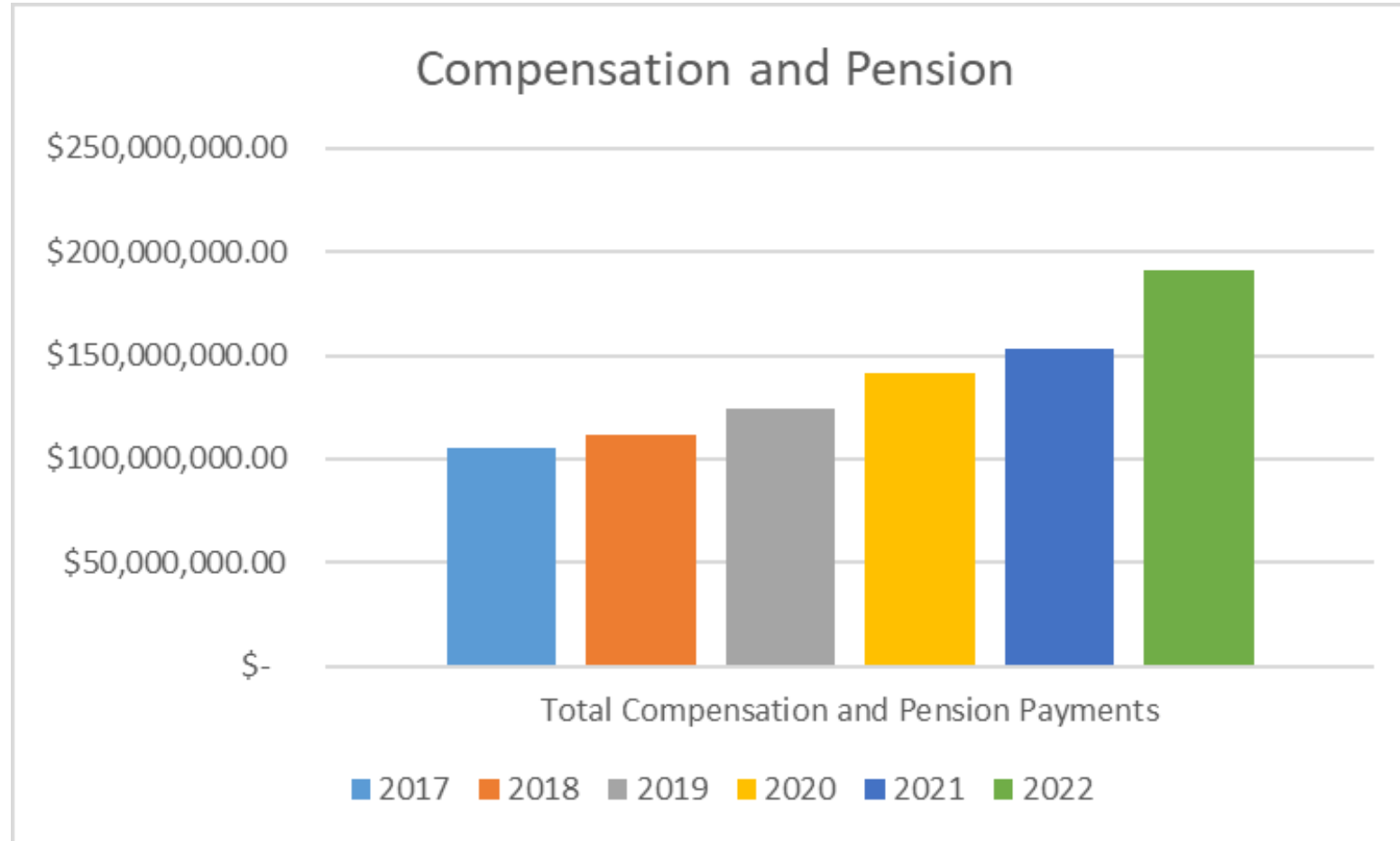


- **Advocating on behalf of Veterans involves assisting in the filing of claims for compensation, pension, school, and insurance, to local, state, and federal agencies that includes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Social Security Administration, adjudicating appeals for Veterans denied by representing those Veterans at the Board of Veterans Appeals, the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.**

# Advocacy

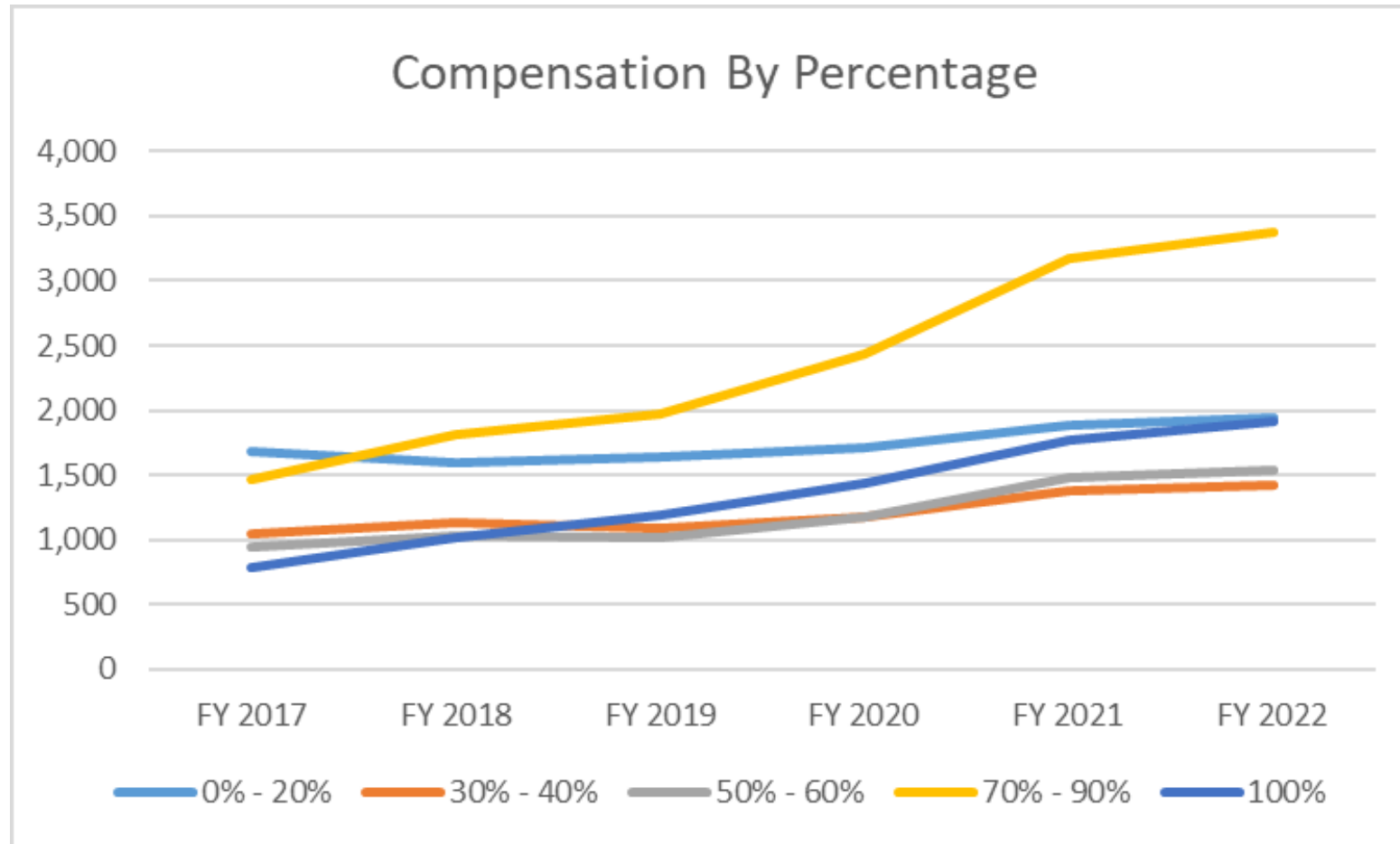
- The advocacy work in front of the US Department of Veterans Affairs continued to show increases with the Commission increasing claim submissions nearly double what was filed in fiscal year 2020.
- This represents the second fiscal year in a row to nearly double advocacy work done over previous years.
- Even with the drastic increase in claims, appeals, and other benefit applications filed, the Commission still saw an effective rate of 80 percent.



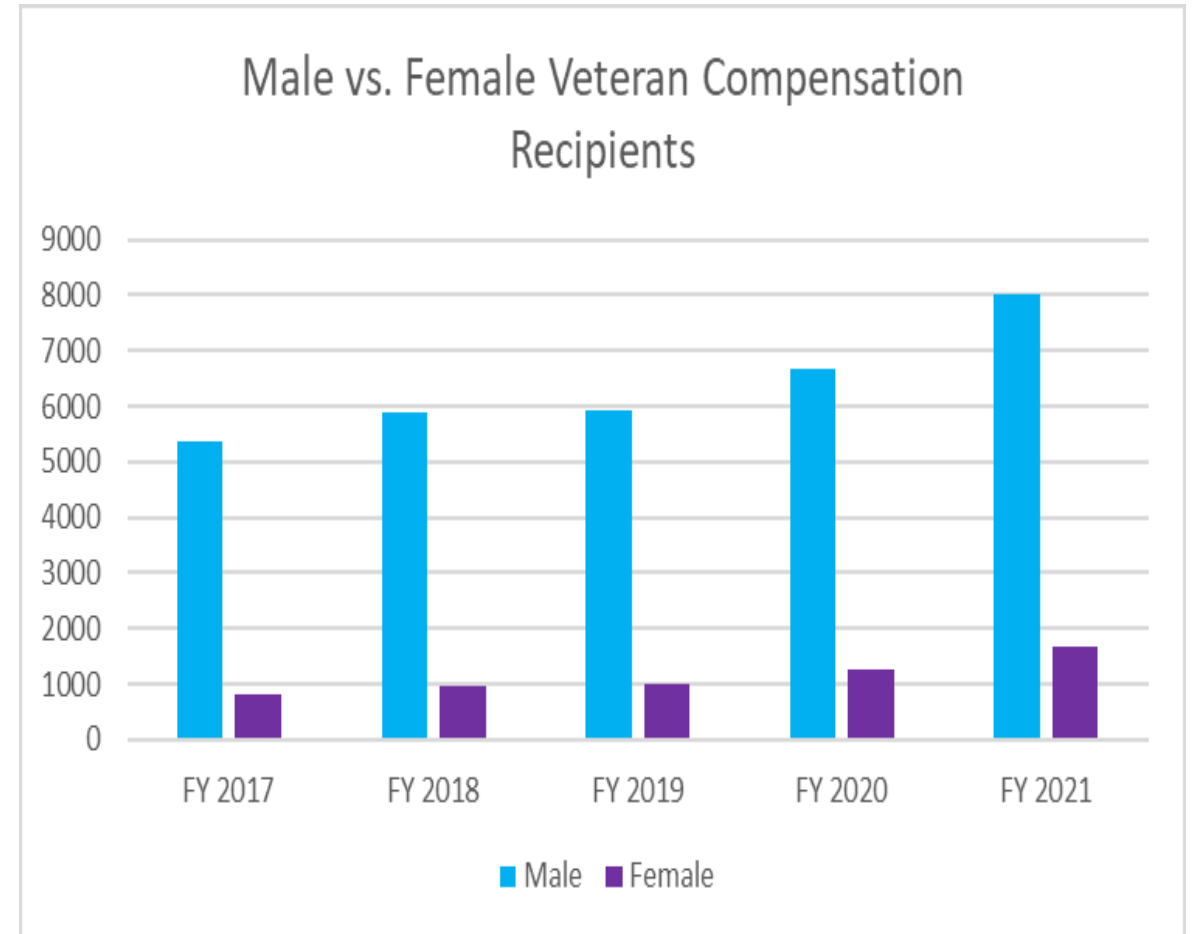
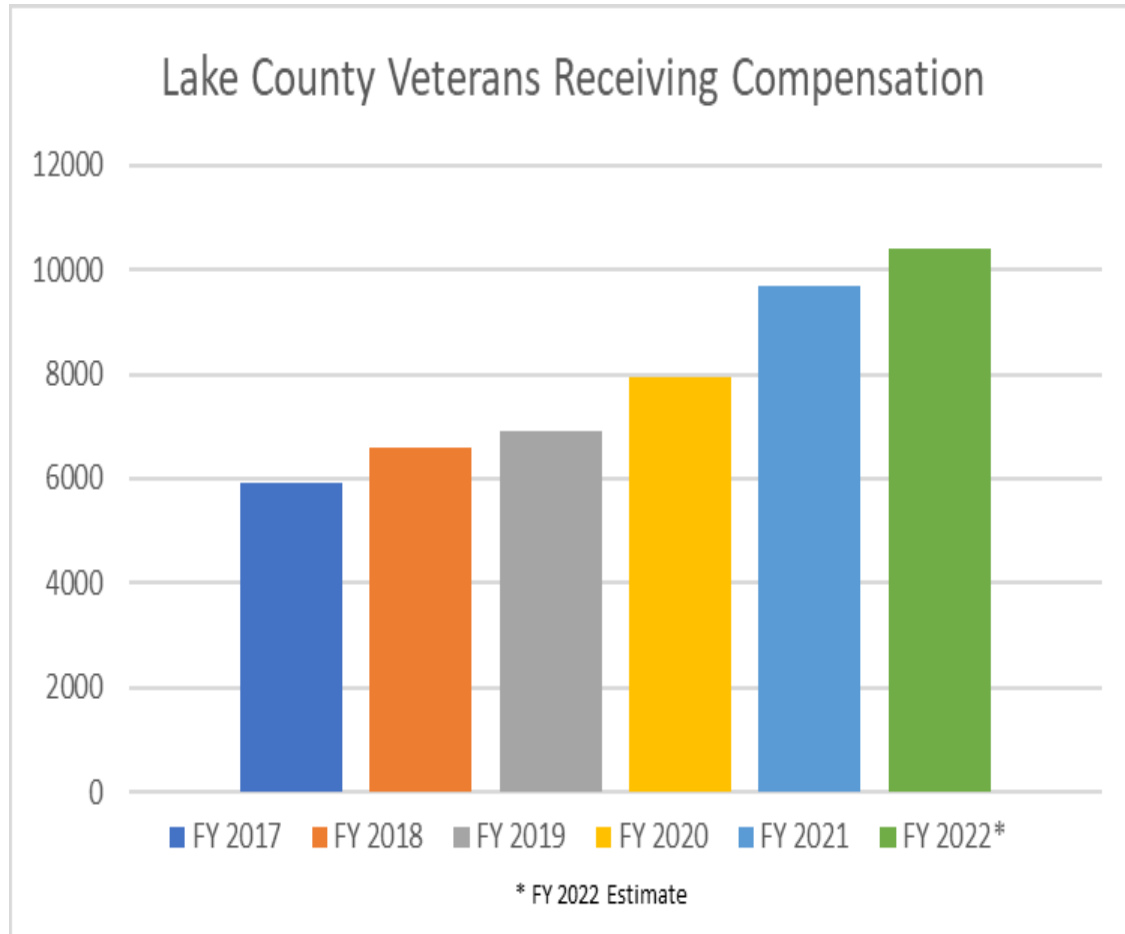




# Advocacy



# Advocacy



- **VACLC continued its work and close relationships US Congressional Representatives and their staffers.**
  - **In February VACLC traveled to Washington, D.C. to advocate for the Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022 (Pub. L. 117-168).**
- **The Commission continued its close working relationship with the Illinois Senators and Representatives from both parties**
  - **This led to the successful passage of several legislative initiatives, including:**
    - **P.A. 102-0732**
    - **P.A. 102-0895**
    - **HB2369 (Currently awaiting the Governor's Signature)**

# Partnerships

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- **US Senate and House Offices**
- **Illinois State Legislators**
- **Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs**
- **Allen J. Lynch, MoH Veterans Foundation**
- **Lake County Responds for Veterans**
- **Veterans Path to Hope**
- **Midwest Veterans Closet**
- **Prairie State Legal Services**
- **Lake County Sheriff**
- **Illinois Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve**
- **Illinois Department of Employment Security**
- **Lake County Health Department**



**Questions**