



Jim Doyle, Governor  
John A. Scocos, Secretary

STATE OF WISCONSIN, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

30 West Mifflin Street, P.O. Box 7843, Madison, WI 53707-7843  
PHONE: (608) 266-1311 1-800-947-8387 (WIS VETS)  
WEB SITE: <http://dva.state.wi.us>  
E-MAIL: [Headquarters@dva.state.wi.us](mailto:Headquarters@dva.state.wi.us)  
FAX: (608) 264-7616

## Attention Newsroom—News Release

June 10, 2005  
For Immediate Release

Contact: Andrew Schuster 608-267-1797  
or Kathleen Scholl 608-267-3582

### **Federal Grants awarded for state Veterans Homes at King and Union Grove** ***\$5.5 million for food service renovations***

(MADISON) — Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Secretary John A. Scocos announced today that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs awarded WDVA two federal grants for renovating food service facilities to utilize a new cook-chill method of preparing and serving meals to residents at the Wisconsin Veterans Homes at King and Union Grove.

In letters this week from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Deputy Secretary Gordon H. Mansfield, federal VA assistance totaling close to \$5.5 million was awarded to renovate the Food Service Facility at the Home in King, and the Dietary Facility at the Southern Wisconsin Center in Union Grove. The grant awards provide for reimbursement to the state for up to 65 percent of total actual costs of construction for each facility.

"Wisconsin is proud of our programs to ensure our state's veterans receive the benefits, services, and care they have earned and deserve," said Secretary Scocos. "These federal grants will help ensure a cook-chill food service system that will increase efficiency and reduce operational costs, while providing superior food quality to veterans and their spouses who are residents of the homes."

Currently, both state veterans homes utilize a cook-serve technology of food production. At King, all food is prepared and served from the Home's food service facility located in the Central Services Building constructed in 1965. Food is trayed, transported, and served immediately after being prepared.

"The renovation of the food service facility at King involves redesigning the kitchen with a more efficient work flow, and will update refrigeration, mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems to meet food sanitation and building codes," said Scocos. "Food prepared at the King Home will also be supplied to residents of the Union Grove Home. The federal grants will assist the department in renovating food service facilities at both locations to produce meals using new technology for over 870 residents at King and Union Grove Homes."

Kitchen remodeling similar to the renovations at King are estimated to take from 15 to 21 months.

Estimated cost savings of the new cook-chill method are \$500,000 per year.

#