

Veterans Health Administration GIS & Web Portal Development



THE CHALLENGE

The Planning Systems Support Group (PSSG) is a field unit of the Office of the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health (ADUSH) for Policy and Planning within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). The ADUSH and PSSG have a goal of supporting the decision making process for improving health care access and services to US Veterans by relying on timely, relevant and thorough information analysis. This goal has been difficult to achieve given the complexity and tremendous amounts of data that they must work with to make successful decisions.

THE SOLUTION

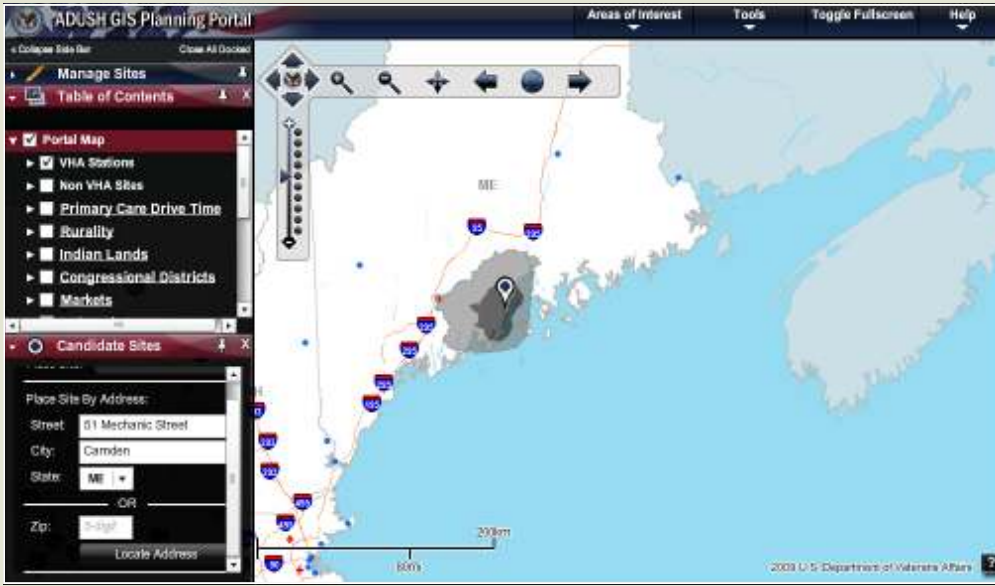
Geographic Information Systems (GIS) methods and practices have proven to play a significant factor in producing compelling information visualization summaries of complex and vast amounts of data in ways meaningful to decision makers. The VHA contracted PenBay to identify needs, review and assess the systems and processes in place associated with the PSSG's GIS activities, and offer a high-level roadmap for a successful GIS implementation strategy.

Once the GIS consulting and needs analysis phase was completed, PenBay engaged in GIS and web portal development with IT engineering and technical services to

The Veterans Health Administration operates the largest integrated health care system in the US and one of their specific goals is to deliver high quality health care to the veteran community with the help of timely, relevant and thorough information analysis.



VHA HEALTH CARE ACCESS
PLANNING PORTAL SHOWING
LOCATIONS OF SITES NATIONWIDE



GIS ALLOWS FOR MORE
EFFECTIVE SITE SELECTION
OF VETERANS HEALTH CARE
FACILITIES

integrate advanced spatial and geographic analysis with population-based health care resource planning, especially as it relates to rural veteran's health care initiatives. This project will greatly increase the ability of the agency to identify resource requirements and allocate those resources to better meet local health care needs, providing timely access to care for veterans across the country.

Using their combined skill and resources, the PenBay Team employed geospatial tools for planning and decision support, including expertise in GIS systems engineering, spatial application and database development, systems integration, user training and technical support services.

The PenBay Team has worked with VHA to deliver:

- A scalable enterprise GIS infrastructure
- A user friendly, high performance web portal
- Standard operating procedures for the smooth processing of key datasets

“ PenBay delivered an extraordinarily powerful, intuitive and well-documented product on time and within budget and did so in spite of numerous unanticipated barriers. ”

Contracting Officer's Technical Representative
Mark Guagliardo, PhD

- TeleAtlas StreetMap Premium-based data and network analysis tools
- A VHA product “brand”
- Key program management planning documents
- Services of a professional GIS analyst to support ongoing needs

PenBay has received a follow on contract to this project with the goal of improving the quality, relevance and timeliness of healthcare planning intended to provide significant enhancements to the systems and capabilities delivered to date by PenBay to include:

- Reducing computational time required for travel time analysis as well as incorporating an option of "multiple site opportunities"
- Enhancements that will improve visualization of map layers
- Capability of allowing concurrent evaluation of the impact of multiple sites
- Enhanced planning tools
- Documentation of all data, systems and processes as well as training for VHA staff on the use and maintenance of the delivered systems and processes

These tasks have put ADUSH and PSSG on a strong footing to sustain its operations and deliver upon its existing commitments to VHA and its stakeholders. The success of these activities also provided an opportunity for VHA to feel confident about promoting its products and services to the planning community.



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