• There are over 22 million Veterans in the U.S.
• ~9 million Vets enrolled; 47% over age 65
• Elderly Veterans are “10 years older” than age-matched non-Veteran counterparts
  – More interacting diagnoses, drugs
  – More functional dependence
  – More caregiver needs and challenges
• 70% of VA patients over age 65 use one or more other healthcare services—yet there is no systematic linkage among providers/services
  – Discontinuities in care and documentation
  – Redundant and missed services
Vision

- All Veterans and their caregivers will have access to, and choices among, the services that allow our Veterans to stay in the place they call home.

Mission

- To foster Veterans seamless access to, and transitions among, the full continuum of non-institutional extended care and support services in VA and the community.

“Serving those who served for us”
Veteran Community Partnerships (VCP) are formalized partnerships through which local VA facilities connect with state and local community service agencies in an effort to:

- **Enhance** and improve access to and quality of care
- **Promote** seamless transitions
- **Educate** community agencies & VA providers
- **Support** caregivers
- **Develop and foster** strong relationships between VA and community agencies and providers
Who is Involved?

VA Medical Center Partners:
- Hospice and Palliative Care
- VA Voluntary Service
- OIF/OEF program
- Social Work Service
- Nursing Service/Community Health
- Mental Health Service
- Geriatrics and Extended Care
- Office of Public Affairs
- Homelessness
- Veteran Experience Office

Community Partners:
- Veterans
- Veterans Services Organizations
- Hospice-Veteran Partnerships
- Community, county, and state human services agencies
- Aging network
- Caregivers
- Caregiver coalitions
- Academic institutions
- Service Organizations
- Faith-based organizations
- Non-profits
- Charitable organizations
- Philanthropic organizations
- Hospice organizations
- Home care agencies
- Respite organizations
- Disability groups

VCP roster/locations are available at: www.va.gov/healthpartnerships/vcp.asp
VCP National Advisory Council

- Administration for Community Living*
- Disabled American Veterans*
- LeadingAge*
- National Alliance for Caregiving*
- National Association of Area Agencies on Aging*
- National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization*
- VHA Hospice-Veteran Partnership Workgroup
- VHA Office of Care Management and Social Work
- VHA Office of Community Engagement
- VHA Offices of Geriatrics and Extended Care
- VHA Office of Nursing Service
- VHA Offices of Primary Care Services
- VHA Office of Rural Health

* ex officio members
Activities of VCPs

- **Conduct assessments** to determine the unique needs of Veterans within communities
- **Exchange information between VA and community agencies** in an effort to keep both informed of local and VA resources, strengths, and potential growth areas
- **Educate community agencies** about specific veteran-related issues and benefits
- **Conduct community outreach educational programs** for veterans groups/community agencies to provide information on the VA continuum of care, available resources, and options
- **Hold local/regional/statewide educational events** for both community and VA stakeholders to provide information on the continuum of care options and VA healthcare system
- **Create/disseminate educational tools** that partners can access for the most current and complete information on resources for veterans, in VA and in the community...*And more!*
“We have humanized VA in this area and torn down many walls and built bridges because of our Veteran Community Partnership. I have more people calling from community organizations to refer Veterans who have never enrolled and accessed their VA benefits. And I have more information about community organizations that can provide quality services for our Veterans and caregivers if not available at VA.”

- VCP Coordinator
VCP Resources: Toolkit, Reports, Etc.

More information and resources are available at:
www.va.gov/healthpartnerships/vcp.asp