



## **VA and Communities Working Together**

**Veteran Community Partnerships (VCP)** is a national VA initiative to ensure that all Veterans and their caregivers will have access to, and choices among, the services that allow our Veterans to stay in the places they call home.

**VCPS are coalitions** of Veterans and their caregivers, Department of Veterans (VA) facilities, community health providers, organizations, and agencies working together to foster on behalf of Veterans seamless access to, and transitions among, the full continuum of non-institutional extended care and support services in VA and the community.

### **Working together: What this means and why it's important**

- Veterans and their families deserve the best quality end-of-life care and services.
- Many health care organizations, agencies and providers in each community are caring for Veterans, whether they are aware of it or not.
- VA contacts and information help communities better serve Veterans.
- Most Veterans are not enrolled in the VA healthcare system and many may not be aware of their VA benefits.
- Given that the low ratio of VA facilities to community providers, most community providers and VA staff do not have one-on-one relationships with each other.
- VCP offer the most efficient and effective way to serve Veterans and meet their needs across the continuum of care.
- Having established relationships through VCP increases Veterans' access to quality health care in their community and VA.
- VCP facilitate communication, collaboration and coordination of care and benefits for Veterans across VA and community care settings.
- VCP is initially coordinated by the VA then becomes the responsibility of both the VA and the community once formalized.
- VCP activities may include participating information meetings, workgroups, and outreach or educational events.

Don't confuse "partnering" with "contracting". Partnering means community and VA staff work and collaborate together to serve Veterans. Contracting is a formal business relationship that allows VA to pay for outside services which is not a part of VCP.

Ultimately, the goal is to honor Veterans' preferences for their healthcare which can best be accomplished by VA and communities working together.

More information about VCP can be found at [www.va.gov/healthpartnerships/vcp.asp](http://www.va.gov/healthpartnerships/vcp.asp).