

Veteran Community Partnerships (VCPs) are organized, collaborative partnerships that bring U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) staff and community organizations together. VCPs' mission is to empower collaborative action between VA and community partners to develop and expand personalized options for Veterans.

VCPs are co-chaired by a VA staff member and community partner representative who each have shared responsibility, meet monthly with other VA and community partners, and are passionate about serving the Veteran and transitioning military community. A VCP is designed to build relationships, exchange information, offer education about resources, and collaborate to reduce barriers to Veterans' care. VCPs promote seamless care transitions and improves Veteran choice in their access to care, services and benefits through organized VA and community partnerships. By leveraging the expertise of community partners together with VA staff, VCPs can improve the health and well-being of Veterans, their families, and caregivers.

- One-third of Veterans are enrolled in Veterans Health Administration (VHA) for their health care.
- 70% of enrolled Veterans receive health care services from both VA and the community.
- Two-thirds of Veterans receive their health care primarily in the community.

To meet the needs of all Veterans, it is critical for VA, community health providers, and agencies to build and nurture partnerships. VCPs provide the structure to create comprehensive systems of support—one community at a time.



Veterans Health Administration Veteran Community Partnerships

Serving Veterans through
Innovative Strategic Partnerships



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Veteran Community Partnerships

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Veteran Community Partnerships
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For more information contact:
VCP@va.gov, or visit
va.gov/healthpartnerships/vcp.asp.

“At this moment when our country must come together, caring for you—our country’s Veterans and your families—is a mission that can unite us all.”

—Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs



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Veterans Health Administration
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Why are partnerships and community resources so important for Veterans?

VCPs address Veterans' needs and expand VHA's ability to deliver the best possible care for Veterans. VHA's guiding principle for creating public-private partnerships is to augment VA services and care that meet the needs of Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors.

To provide more options and choices for Veterans, VCPs:

- Develop and foster strong relationships with community agencies and providers, such as [community mental health and social service groups](#).
- Enhance and improve access to care, services and benefits such as [palliative and hospice care](#), food distribution and benefits counseling.
- Promote seamless transitions by bringing VA and community health care providers together to share information and coordinate care.
- Educate the community and VA providers by hosting a [variety of events](#) and using varied [communication methods](#).
- Support caregivers and families with resources and benefit information.
- Measure results through shared reporting in the [VCP database](#).

VCP efforts aim to increase Veterans' access to health care through:

- > **INNOVATION:** VCPs use grassroots approaches to reduce Veterans' barriers to care, services and benefits. One example is when a VCP learned about a younger Veteran whose injuries resulted in placement into a long-term care facility. The VCP stepped in to assist with his transition to his home so he could be with

his wife and children. The family was linked to the Caregiver Support Program in the VA and additional community programs, including emotional support resources for family members of injured Veterans.

- > **FLEXIBILITY:** VCPs transitioned indoor activities to outdoor or drive-through events to ensure Veterans, families and caregivers received the information they needed during the coronavirus pandemic.
- > **NURTURED COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:** VCPs bring VA and communities together through building relationships and developing connections, which leads to collaboration and improved access for all.
- > **IMPROVED ACCESS TO CARE:** VCP leaders identify barriers in their communities and find ways to reduce or eliminate them. One VCP found that Veterans were having difficulty getting admitted to a local long-term care facility. The VCP arranged a meeting with facility leadership and key stakeholders and now Veterans who choose that facility are being admitted.

VCPs explore new avenues to support Veterans' health care. They exchange information, provide outreach and education events, conduct needs assessments, develop action plans, create tools, share resources, report outcomes and more.

VCP is a national initiative that ensures all Veterans and their caregivers have access to, and a wide range of choices among, the services that allow Veterans to stay in the places they call home. VCPs are comprised of Veterans and their caregivers, VA staff, community health care providers and organizations and agencies working together to foster seamless access to care and support services within VA and the community.

Please contact the office at VCP@va.gov, or visit va.gov/healthpartnerships/vcp.asp for more information.

