



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# Fact Sheet

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## Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Homeless Programs Office (HPO) Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Fact Sheet

The United States (U.S.) Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) remains committed to preventing and ending Veteran homelessness. We can and will get there.

The effort to prevent and end Veteran homelessness is a partnership of federal, state, and local government, and most importantly, the local community. No one agency or group can end Veteran homelessness alone. VA works with communities to help them develop the best solutions for them and their Veterans.

VA and our federal, state, and local partners, as well as non-governmental partners, recognize that ending Veteran homelessness is not a single event in time; instead, it is a deliberate effort made to achieve the goal with continued follow-up efforts ensuring that progress toward achieving the goal is upheld.

Our goal is to develop a systemic end to Veteran homelessness, which means communities across the country:

- Have identified all Veterans experiencing homelessness.
- Can provide shelter immediately to any Veteran experiencing unsheltered homelessness who wants housing.
- Provide service-intensive transitional housing in limited instances.
- Have the capacity to help Veterans swiftly move into permanent housing.
- Have resources, plans, and systems in place should any Veteran become homeless or be at risk of homelessness in the future.

The overarching objective is to ensure every Veteran has permanent, sustainable housing with access to high-quality health care and other supportive services and that Veteran homelessness in the future is prevented whenever possible.

### State of Homelessness

Significant progress has been made to prevent and end Veteran homelessness. On November 3, 2022, VA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) announced preliminary results of the 2022 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count showing an 11% decline in Veteran homelessness since early 2020, the last time a full count was conducted. The data show that on a single night in January 2022, 33,129 Veterans were experiencing homelessness in the United States – down from 37,252 in 2020. This represents a 55.3% reduction in Veterans experiencing homelessness since 2010. Of the Veterans

counted, 19,572 experienced sheltered homelessness and 13,564 experienced unsheltered homelessness.

In addition to the national snapshot provided by the preliminary results of the 2022 PIT Count, since 2015, 83 communities and 3 states (Virginia, Connecticut, and Delaware) have effectively ended Veteran homelessness, based on criteria established by VA, HUD, and USICH. To see the current list of communities that have achieved an effective end to Veteran homelessness based on these guidelines, go to [www.va.gov/HOMELESS/endingVetshomelessness.asp](http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/endingVetshomelessness.asp).

This progress illustrates what can be achieved when government agencies partner with citizens and community leaders to tailor the delivery of services to meet the needs and expectations of the community.

### **Preventing and Ending Veteran Homelessness Is Possible**

We need continued leadership, collaboration, commitment, and a sense of urgency from communities nationwide to achieve this goal. No one entity can prevent and end homelessness among Veterans.

There has been unprecedented support from every branch of government, state and local leaders, and agencies to provide the funding and human resources needed to end Veteran homelessness. Communities continue to align those resources with the most effective practices, including Housing First, to ensure rapid, safe, and stable housing for Veterans who need it.

Progress comes when community leaders implement proven practices that reduce homelessness among Veterans nationwide and end it community by community. Practices developed and implemented locally that are common among communities that have achieved an effective end to Veteran homelessness include:

- Use Housing First practices and approaches across every aspect of services for homeless Veterans.
- Essential to success, Housing First is a proven model that increases the chance that a Veteran will be housed and decreases emergency room costs for Veterans. It is a humane, dignified way to help Veterans achieve the stable, permanent housing they deserve.
- Identify all homeless Veterans by name shared on a comprehensive list of Veterans experiencing homelessness country-wide.
- Use and share data to find and serve every Veteran who needs homeless services.
- Create coordinated assessment and entry systems to ensure Veterans seeking help are matched with appropriate—people and services at every level to create integrated systems of care.
- Set concrete and aspirational monthly and quarterly goals while engaging the community and associated systems to meet them. This requires the direct involvement of community leaders and focused political strategies. Also, benchmark progress against specific criteria is measured.

- Synchronize programs to coordinate outreach and target the right type of resource for Veterans at the right time.
- Make sure outreach and engagement efforts are coordinated across service providers, law enforcement personnel, prisons and jails, hospitals, libraries, and job centers to proactively seek out Veterans needing assistance with housing.
- Focus on creating connections from homeless services, housing organizations, and VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) to workforce investment boards and employers so that Veterans are quickly connected to jobs.

## **Budget**

The VHA HPO Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 budget comprises a \$2 billion Specific Purpose (SP) budget and over \$738 million in Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation or VERA Sustainment funds for a total funding of \$2.7B billion. This SP amount supports over 6,300 specific purpose positions in the field, nearly 100 HPO staff, and over \$1 billion in contracts and grants.

## **VHA Homeless Programs**

*All data on this fact sheet are as of the end of FY 2022 (i.e., September 30, 2022) unless otherwise stated. Data for some programs are reported only by calendar year (CY).*

### **Community Resource and Referral Centers (CRRCs)**

CRRCs are a collaborative effort of VA, communities, service providers, and agency partners. CRRCs are located strategically selected areas to provide a refuge from the streets and a central location to engage homeless Veterans in services. When Veterans enter these centers, they are referred to physical and mental health care resources, job development programs, housing options, and other VA and non-VA benefits. For more information, please visit [www.va.gov/homeless/crrc-list.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/crrc-list.asp).

Program highlights, FY 2022:

- There were over 68,300 served by 32 CRRCs.

### **Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV)**

The DCHV program provides time-limited residential treatment to homeless Veterans with mental health and substance use disorders, co-occurring medical concerns, and psychosocial needs such as homelessness and unemployment. For more information, please visit [www.va.gov/homeless/dchv.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/dchv.asp).

Program highlights, FY 2022:

- The DCHV program provided services to over 3,600 unique Veterans.

- The DCHV program offered over 1,700 operational beds at 44 sites supporting homeless Veterans.

Homeless women Veterans:

- Of those served in DCHV, more than 250 unique Veterans or 6.9%, were women.

### **Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV)**

The central goal of the HCHV program is to reduce homelessness among Veterans by connecting homeless Veterans with health care and other needed services. This program provides outreach, case management, and HCHV Contract Residential Services (CRS), ensuring that chronically homeless Veterans, especially those with serious mental health diagnoses or substance use disorders, can be placed in VA or community-based programs that provide quality housing and services that meet their specialized needs. For more information, please visit [www.va.gov/homeless/hchv.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/hchv.asp).

Program highlights, FY 2022:

- Over 4,000 Veterans exited HCHV CRS programs to permanent housing.
- The average length of stay in an HCHV CRS program is 78 days. 57% of Veterans exiting CRS programs engage in VA mental health services, and 73% receive ongoing VA medical services.
- HCHV supported 190 Stand Downs providing outreach to over 38,321 Veterans.
- HCHV provided outreach services to over 21,500 total Veterans.
- HCHV provided case management services to over 8,800 Veterans.

Homeless women Veterans:

- Of those served in HCHV CRS, 661 or 6% were women.
- Of those served in HCHV outreach, 2,511 or 12% were women.
- Of those served in HCHV case management, 918 or 10% were women.

### **Health Care for Reentry Veterans (HCRV)**

The HCRV program is designed to address the needs of incarcerated Veterans when it comes to re-entering their community. The goals of HCRV are to prevent homelessness; reduce the impact of medical, psychiatric, and substance use problems on community readjustment; and decrease the likelihood of re-incarceration for those leaving prison. For more information, please visit [www.va.gov/homeless/reentry.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/reentry.asp).

Program highlights, FY 2022:

- The HCRV program served over 6,500 Veterans.

Homeless women Veterans:

- Of those served in HCRV, 176 or 3% were women.

### **Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams (HPACTs)**

HPACTs provide a coordinated “medical home” designed around the unique needs and distinct challenges homeless Veterans face both accessing and engaging in health care. At selected VA facilities, Veterans are assigned to an HPACT that includes a primary care provider, nurse, social worker, homeless program staff, and others who offer medical care, case management, outreach, housing assistance, and social services. The HPACT provides and coordinates the health care that Veterans may need while helping them obtain and stay in permanent housing. For more information, please visit [www.va.gov/homeless/h\\_pact.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/h_pact.asp).

Program highlights, FY 2022:

- Nationally, over 22,100 homeless and at-risk Veterans were assigned to an HPACT model of care; about 30,100 were served annually. Over 85 HPACT teams and providers were operating at 56 VAMCs, Community-based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC), and CRRCs across the country. In addition, 25 HPACT teams were awarded a Mobile Medical Unit MMU equipped to provide health care and supportive services in the community to Veterans experiencing homelessness.
- Program evaluations:
  - HPACT program demonstrates substantial reductions in emergency department visits and hospitalizations.
  - The HPACT team model of care facilitates accelerated placement into permanent housing. Veterans in HPACTs were housed in permanent housing 81 days faster than those not enrolled in an HPACT.
  - HPACT care more effectively engages Veterans in ambulatory care.
  - The average HPACT patient costs approximately \$9,379/year less to care for than a homeless Veteran enrolled in a PACT, primarily driven by fewer hospitalization in VA and the community.
  - After six months of care within an HPACT, Veterans show a 19% reduction in Emergency Department use and a 35% reduction in inpatient hospitalizations.
  - Enrollment in an HPACT results in significantly higher patient satisfaction, reversing previously negative interactions with VA primary care.
  - HPACT patients are likelier than PACT patients to report positive experiences with access, communication, office staff, and providers.

Homeless women Veterans:

- Of those served in HPACT, 1,316 or 6% were women.

### **Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (GPD)**

The GPD Program is VA’s largest transitional housing program for Veterans experiencing homelessness and is permanently authorized under Public Law 109-461. Since 1994, the GPD Program has awarded grants to community-based organizations to provide transitional housing with wraparound supportive services to assist vulnerable Veterans to move into permanent housing. The grants are designed to meet Veterans at various stages as they move to stable housing. Community-based organizations receiving GPD grants offer focused transitional housing services through various housing models targeted to different populations and needs of Veterans. The GPD

program plays a vital role in the continuum of homeless services by providing supportive services to those Veterans who would otherwise be among the unsheltered homeless population. GPD programs result in Veterans achieving residential stability, increasing their skill levels or obtaining greater self-determination. For more information, please visit <http://www.va.gov/homeless/gpd.asp>.

Program highlights, FY 2022:

- VA's largest transitional housing program with over 12,000 beds nationwide.
- Over 18,200 Veterans entered GPD transitional housing.
- Nearly 24,000 Veterans were served by GPD grants.
- Over 10,000 homeless Veterans exited GPD to permanent housing.
- Through the GPD program VA awarded approximately 230 new grants to community organizations totaling approximately \$175 million for projects starting in FY 2022. VA distributed three types of grants: Capital, Case Management and Special Needs.

Homeless women Veterans:

- Of those served in GPD, 1,527 or 6% were women.

### **Homeless Veterans Dental Program (HVDP)**

Providing dental care has significantly improved outcomes related to stable housing, employment and financial stability for Veterans experiencing homelessness. The HVDP helps increase the accessibility of quality dental care for eligible Veteran patients enrolled in VA-sponsored and VA partnership homeless rehabilitation programs. For more information, please visit [www.va.gov/homeless/dental.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/dental.asp).

Program highlights, FY 2022:

- Over 9,965 Veterans were provided dental care through the HVDP.

Homeless women Veterans:

- Of those served in HVDP, 710 or 7% were women.

### **Homeless Veterans Community Employment Services (HVCES)**

The mission of HVCES is to provide employment services and resources to Veterans participating in VHA homeless programs to increase access to permanent housing and improve housing stability. In addition, employment decreases the risk of suicide, and provides an improved quality of life, increased self-confidence and independence, opportunities for socialization, and reduced reliance on institutional care.

HVCES staff are embedded in homeless programs within the VAMCs, complement existing medical center-based employment services, and are a bridge to employment opportunities and resources in the local community. HVCES is staffed by Vocational Development Specialists who function as Community Employment Coordinators (CEC) and Employment Specialists, and CECs are funded at each VAMC.

HVCES provides a range of site-specific employment services rather than being a

discrete program. There are no eligibility requirements for Veterans to receive assistance from HVCES other than participation in a VHA homeless program. For more information, please visit [www.va.gov/homeless/employment\\_programs.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/employment_programs.asp).

Program highlights, FY 2022:

- Approximately 5,600 Veterans exited homeless residential programs with competitive employment (i.e., GPD, Low-Demand Supportive Housing (LDSH), and HCHV– Contract Residential Services (HCHV-CERS)).
- More than 11,800 Veterans were employed at exit from all VHA homeless programs and services.
- Employment rates for Veterans housed through the HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program and who exited the GPD program exceeded national targets by 5% and 7%, respectively.
- There were 13,171 newly documented, unique instances of employment for Veterans engaged in or exited from VA homeless programs or services.

Homeless women Veterans:

- Of those served in HVCES, 1,445 or 14% were women.

### **Housing and Urban Development–VA Supportive Housing (HUD- VASH)**

This collaborative program between HUD and VA provides homeless Veterans with a HUD Housing Choice rental voucher and VA case management and supportive services so that Veterans can gain housing stability and recover from physical and mental health problems, substance use disorders, and other issues contributing to or resulting from homelessness. HUD-VASH subscribes to the principles of the Housing First model of care. Housing First is an evidence-based practice model demonstrating that rapidly moving individuals into housing and then wrapping supportive services around them as needed helps homeless individuals exit homelessness and achieve housing stability, improving their ability and motivation to engage in treatment. The program aims to help Veterans and their families gain stable housing while promoting full recovery and independence in their community.

In FY 2022, HUD-VASH expanded services for aging and disabled Veterans by promoting using HUD-VASH vouchers in residential settings (e.g., Medical Foster Homes, Community Residential Care, and Assisted Living Facilities) designed to meet their specific care needs. For more information about these partnerships, please visit [HUD-VASH and Geriatrics and Extended Care Partnership - VA Homeless Programs](#).

For more information about HUD-VASH, please visit [www.va.gov/homeless/hud-vash.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/hud-vash.asp).

Program highlights, FY 2022:

- Vouchers active: 101,738
- Vouchers in use: 88,105
- Veterans housed: 80,501
- Vouchers issued to Veterans seeking housing: 6,057

- Vouchers reserved for Veterans undergoing Public Housing Agency (PHA) Validation: 1,547
- Active vouchers available: 13,633

Homeless women Veterans:

- Of those served in HUD-VASH, 11,402 or 12% were women.

### **National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (NCCHV)**

The NCCHV — which can be reached at 1-877-424-3838 — was founded to ensure that homeless Veterans and Veterans at risk of becoming homeless have free, 24/7 access to VA staff. The call center is intended to assist homeless and at-risk Veterans and their families; VAMCs; Federal, state, and local partners; community agencies; service providers; and others. For more information, please visit <https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/NationalCallCenter.asp>.

Program highlights, FY 2022:

- The NCCHV received over 177,000 total calls.
- VAMC homeless program staff have responded to over 95,900 referrals from the call center.

### **Project CHALENG (Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups)**

This project brings together consumers, providers, advocates, local officials, and other concerned citizens to identify the needs of homeless Veterans and work to meet those needs through planning and cooperative action. Local CHALENG meetings represent important opportunities for VA and public and private agency representatives to meet and develop meaningful partnerships to serve homeless Veterans better. For more information about the project and the full details of the top ten unmet needs for Veterans and the participants' demographics, please visit [www.va.gov/homeless/chaleng.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/chaleng.asp).

Program highlights, CY 2021 (CHALENG data for CY 2022 will be available on the website in June 2023).

- In 2021, 4,149 individuals completed a CHALENG Participant survey. This included 1,773 homeless Veterans and 2,376 providers (VA staff, state and public officials, community leaders, and volunteers).
- Eight of the top ten unmet needs were the same according to Veteran responses and provider responses: Housing for Veterans who need to register as sex offenders and Legal Assistance in seven areas: court fees/court fines, credit issues/debt collection, expunging criminal records, child support, family law, discharge upgrade appeals, and tax issues.
- Six of the top ten met needs were also the same according to Veteran responses and provider responses: medical services, mental health services, case management, food, tuberculosis testing, and substance abuse treatment.
- Consistent with 2020 data and the previous 20 years of CHALENG data, in 2021,



unmet needs are primarily services that VA cannot provide directly. This underscores the importance of collaboration to meet the needs of homeless Veterans to end Veteran homelessness successfully.

### **Stand Downs**

Stand Downs are typically one- to three-day events providing services to homeless Veterans such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, VA and Social Security benefits counseling, and referrals to various other necessary services, including housing, employment, and substance use treatment. Stand Downs are collaborative events coordinated among local VA sites, other government agencies, and community groups serving homeless people. For more information, please visit [www.va.gov/homeless/events.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/events.asp).

To see Stand Down program highlights, please refer to the HCHV program section on page 4.

### **Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)**

This program, authorized by Public Law 110-387, provides supportive services to very low-income Veteran families living in or transitioning to permanent housing. SSVF is designed to rapidly rehouse homeless Veteran families and prevent homelessness for those at imminent risk of becoming homeless due to a housing crisis. Funds are granted to private nonprofit organizations and consumer cooperatives, providing very low-income Veteran families with a range of supportive services designed to promote housing stability. To help families respond to affordable housing challenges, SSVF has expanded the use of Shallow Subsidy nationally to program participants. This expansion allows Veteran families to receive a fixed rental subsidy for up to two years to achieve long-term self-sufficiency through employment. Additionally, grantees in designated communities were provided new authorities to allow incentives to support placements into permanent housing. For more information and a list of SSVF grantee locations, please visit [www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf](http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf).

Program highlights, FY 2022:

- SSVF assisted over 105,170 individuals; with over 72,297 Veterans assisted.
- Over 19,500 children assisted in over 17,444 households served.
- Seventy-two percent of those discharged from the SSVF program obtained permanent housing.

Homeless women Veterans:

- Of those served in SSVF, 10,109 or 14% were women.

### **Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO)**

The purpose of the VJO program is to prevent homelessness and avoid the unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration among Veterans. This is accomplished by ensuring that eligible justice-involved Veterans encountered by police and in jails or courts have timely access to VHA mental health,

substance use, and homeless services when clinically indicated and other VA services and benefits as appropriate. For more information, please visit [www.va.gov/homeless/vjo.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/vjo.asp). Also, within the Veterans Justice Programs, the new Legal Services for Veterans (LSV) program will administer grants to eligible organizations to provide certain legal services to homeless and at-risk Veterans. The first LSV grants will be awarded in FY 2023. For more information, please visit <https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/lsv.asp>.

Program highlights, FY 2022:

- The VJO program provided services to over 39,500 justice-involved Veterans.
- VA supported 623 Veterans Treatment Courts and other Veteran-focused court programs.
- VA partnered with legal providers to offer 170 pro-bono legal clinics to Veterans on-site at VAMCs.

Homeless women Veterans:

- Of those served in VJO, 3,039 or 8% were women.

### **Clinical Operations Business Intelligence (BI) Section**

BI's mission is to provide visibility and insights into homeless program operations to improve program performance, strategic management, and operational efficiency. BI leads and provides consultative support around developing strategies, data collection platforms, tools, and initiatives that support data-driven, enterprise-wide decisions and actions. The team also provides intensive guidance, consultation, and support to internal stakeholders at all levels of the organization (Veterans Integrated Services Network (VISN), VAMC, Program Offices, and leadership) and external stakeholders, including community and federal partners. Additionally, this team is responsible for national evaluation efforts, homeless program performance measurement, technical assistance, and operational analysis focused on improving homeless program service delivery, targeting, expedited access to services, and homeless program sustainment. For more information, please email [VHA10NC1HPOAnalyticsTeam@va.gov](mailto:VHA10NC1HPOAnalyticsTeam@va.gov).

Program highlights, FY 2022:

- The Homeless Operations, Management, and Evaluation System (HOMES) Support Team provided technical assistance and support to homeless program staff to address over 11,000 inquiries submitted to the HOMES Help Desk.
- Partnered with the National Archives and Records Administration to improve DD-214 process times for Veterans experiencing homelessness.
- Lead hiring initiative in partnership with Workforce Management and Consulting, VISN, partner offices, VAMCs, and VA leadership. This included supporting VAMCs with over \$6.4 million in Recruitment, Retention and Relocation (3R) incentives to assist with retaining or hiring highly qualified staff
- Developed the quarterly VISN hiring report to support homeless program staffing and retention efforts and inform 4207 legislative requirements. The report provides staffing information such as current vacancies across the VISN, turnover rates, length of vacancies, total funding, and HUD-VASH positions not

meeting legislative requirements. This report aids staff, VISN leadership and VAMC Homeless Program teams with understanding staffing recruitment and retention needs within their facilities.

- Successfully implemented and increased access to Telehealth within homeless programs by procuring and disseminating equipment for staff and Veterans, including procuring and disseminating over 72,000 disposable smartphones for Veterans and over 550 iPads to staff and community partners.
- In collaboration with the Behavioral Health Council, lead the transition to the new electronic health record (EHR) for the HPO, including the ongoing development of over 25 standardized forms and technical assistance updates to 7 program overviews to address Homeless Program documentation standards. Worked with field staff and partner offices to assess staffing needs related to implementing the new EHR in homeless programs and determined the need for a pilot program for eligibility specialists at 9 VAMCs.
- Produced At-A-Glance or AAG reports, which provided visibility into key metrics on Homeless program operations, supporting all Homeless Program offices and providing critical information to support media, congressional and White House requests for operational information.
- Developed the HUD-VASH Reconciliation Web Report in support of HUD-VASH data reconciliation efforts. The HUD-VASH Reconciliation Report provides insights into potential documentation concerns or issues on a Veteran's housing status and HUD-VASH participation. It is an integral tool that assists with the rapid identification of documentation discrepancies, supporting local reconciliation efforts and ensuring the accuracy of Veteran information.
- Developed the Homeless Program Trip Pack utilized by VA Senior Leadership when attending VAMC site visits. The trip pack provides a detailed overview of the VAMC, including VAMC Highlights, Reported Challenges and Barriers, Homeless Program Outcomes and Utilization, Permanent Housing Placement Outcomes, and Homeless Program Performance. From the report's development in May 2022 through the end of FY 2022, over 35 trip packs were updated and submitted for senior leadership site visits.
- Enhanced analysis of facility Operational Plans and disseminated VISN summary reports to provide visibility into approaches and barriers supporting the national challenge to house 38,000 Veterans in CY 2022. Served as subject matter experts and provided training around strategic planning guidelines and promising practices at the national, VISN and facility levels.
- Produced over 100 ad-hoc data requests solicited by Homeless Program leadership, field staff, and other internal and external stakeholders, providing specialized and personalized insights into homeless program operations and outcomes.
- Developed and maintained platforms and reporting services to meet specific program office requirements, such as the HUD-VASH Project Based Voucher Registry and GPD's Case Management Tracking Tool, to include the development of congressionally mandated reporting.
- Developed a Permanent Housing Placement Dashboard for leadership, VAMCs and VISNs to track and monitor progress toward meeting VA's CY 2022

commitment to permanently house 38,000.

### **National Center on Homelessness among Veterans (NCHAV)**

NCHAV works to promote recovery-oriented care for Veterans who are homeless or at risk for homelessness by conducting and supporting research; assessing the effectiveness of programs; identifying and disseminating best practices, and integrating these practices into policies, programs, and services for homeless or at-risk Veterans; and serving as a resource center for all research and training activities carried out by the Department and by other Federal and non-Federal entities concerning Veteran homelessness. NCHAV is active in research, model development, education and policy analysis.

For more information, please visit [www.va.gov/homeless/nchav/index.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/nchav/index.asp).

Program highlights, FY 2022:

#### **RESEARCH:**

- Creating the next generation of investigators with research expertise in Veteran homelessness through offering a postdoctoral fellowship program in collaboration with the VA Office of Academic Affiliations. Two fellows graduated in FY 2022. Graduate fellows move to federal and non-federal positions to further the VA's mission to address homelessness and improve Veteran health.
- Maintained a pool of 38 affiliated researchers. Through these partnerships, NCHAV helped facilitate several important operational projects on evictions, homeless prevention, and racial/ethnic disparities. These collaborations resulted in over 20 peer-reviewed publications this year.
- Generated over 14 peer-reviewed research publications on homeless among Veterans and 7 research briefs that enhance evidence-based knowledge of effective programs and services to address Veteran homelessness.
- Started a \$2 million pilot Money Management Intervention program with 13 SSVF grantees.
- Administered 4 intramural grants to research affiliates to examine racial disparities, spiritual well-being, chronic medical needs and social determinants of health among Veterans experiencing homelessness and at risk of experiencing homelessness.
- Presented 18 research-focused educational events, whose goals included translating research findings into practice, to national audiences of VA, federal partners, and community providers.
- Maintained a Veteran research engagement panel of 12 Veterans with lived experiences of homelessness to advise and provide input on ongoing research projects.

#### **EDUCATION & MODEL DEVELOPMENT:**

- Provided 14 national educational events on critical mission topics that over 3,900 participants attended.
- **Optimizing use of occupational therapy (OT) in HUD-VASH:** NCHAV partnered with the HUD-VASH Program and the Office of Rehabilitation and

Prosthetic Services to develop strategies to optimize the use of OT in HUD-VASH to improve services and outcomes for HUD-VASH's prematurely aging population. The initial phase of the model involves intake screening for early recognition of factors compromising housing success and timely referral to OT for evaluation and treatment.

- **Integrating models of trauma-informed care into homeless program services:** NCHAV and the HCHV National Program are collaborating to replicate two linked promising practices currently operating at the VA Boston Health Care for Homeless Veterans program -- the Care Coordination, Advocacy, Treatment, and Connections to Housing (CATCH) program and the Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) Integration initiative. Using a trauma-informed approach, CATCH serves Veterans experiencing homelessness who have high needs and treatment costs and face complex challenges in obtaining and retaining housing, often due to chronic serious mental illness or substance use. The TIC Integration Initiative is a training and technical assistance model for incorporating trauma-informed care principles into homeless programs at the VAMC level.
- **Developing and piloting standard best practices for outreach and engagement:** NCHAV is working with the HCHV National Program to pilot a 12-module workshop series to train outreach workers more effectively to reach and engage Veterans experiencing chronic homelessness or Veterans experiencing homelessness who are not seeking assistance and are "hidden" under bridges, in encampments or remote rural locations.

### **Contact Us and Additional Information**

To find the VA facility nearest you, please visit  
<http://www1.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp>.

More details on all of VA's programs for homeless Veterans are available at  
[www.va.gov/homeless](http://www.va.gov/homeless).

For information on HPO's Strategic Plan, please visit  
<https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/strategic-plan.asp>.

If you are at risk of becoming homeless — or know a Veteran who is — contact VA's National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 1-877-424-3838 to speak to a trained VA responder.