



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Fact Sheet

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Media Relations

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Homeless Veteran Community Employment Services (HVCES)

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has made ending homelessness among Veterans a top priority. This unprecedented campaign has dramatically decreased homelessness and increased successful outcomes for Veterans and their families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. VA remains committed to the goal of ending Veteran homelessness. VA and our Federal, state, local, and non-governmental partners recognize that ending Veteran homelessness is not a single event in time, but rather is a deliberate effort towards achieving the goal, and then continued follow-on efforts to make sure that the goal is maintained.

Employment is one of the key elements in helping Veterans transition permanently out of homelessness or to avoid it all together. Employment provides an improved quality of life, increased self-confidence and independence, opportunities for socialization, and a decreased reliance on institutional care. As part of efforts to end homelessness among Veterans, VA has enhanced employment services and opportunities for homeless Veterans through implementation of Homeless Veterans Community Employment Services (HVCES). A primary goal of HVCES is to ensure that a range of employment-related services are accessible to Veterans who are unemployed, underemployed, or at risk of becoming unemployed, in order to mitigate factors related to a current episode of homelessness and/or to prevent a future episode of homelessness. Homeless Veterans Community Employment Services complement existing medical center-based employment services.

In fiscal year (FY) 2014, in order to help improve employment outcomes and reach the most difficult to serve homeless Veterans, VA funded the hiring of Community Employment Coordinators (CEC) at each VA medical center (VAMC) under the framework of HVCES. In addition, the Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) and Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Programs funded Employment Specialists at a limited number of VAMCs. Employment Specialists were funded based on the needs of the local VAMC.

Two of the key staff positions in HVCES are:

- **Community Employment Coordinators (CEC)**

The CEC is a change champion who promotes the development of community employment opportunities and partnerships to end Veteran homelessness. The CEC works closely with VA employment programs such as Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) and Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)/Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment. They also liaise with Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) and Grant and Per Diem (GPD) grantees that target employment; other Federal

agencies including the Department of Labor’s Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP); and local community, non-profit, and faith-based organizations that provide employment services to homeless Veterans.

The CEC is a central figure (liaison, advocate, technical advisor) in the development of employment services for homeless Veterans at the local VAMC. They are responsible for the ongoing orientation of homeless program providers regarding the role of employment in housing stability as well as oversight regarding employment outcomes for Veterans receiving homeless services. CECs also assist staff in providing direct assistance to Veterans in order to connect them with appropriate VAMC and/or community-based employment services leading to competitive employment.

• **HCHV and HUD-VASH Employment Specialists**

The HCHV and HUD-VASH Employment Specialists are responsible for assessing the vocational needs of homeless Veterans as well as providing direct services and referrals to include, but not be limited to:

- Access to job listings
- Resume preparation
- Benefits counseling
- Job negotiations regarding reasonable accommodations
- Assistance with completion of job applications
- Coordination and transportation to interviews
- Interview skills training
- Job development
- Job placement and
- Ongoing support for job retention

The HCHV and HUD-VASH Employment Specialists are direct service providers and work closely with the local CECs. They are embedded into the Homeless Program team and often work collaboratively with other VA employment programs such as the CWT Program.

HVCES Program Highlights:

- In FY 2016 approximately 7,500 Veterans exited homeless residential programs with employment (GPD, CWT/TR, and DCHV). This represents a 5% increase over FY 2015 employment rates.
- In addition, employment rates for Veterans housed through HUD-VASH exceeded the national target by 4%.

Employment Rates			
	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16
GPD, DCHV, and CWT/TR at Exit - National Targets	42%	45%	50%
Grant & Per Diem (GPD)	46%	51%	53%
Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV)	30%	34%	37%
Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence (CWT/TR)	46%	50%	54%
HUD-VASH Employment Rate	n/a	n/a	39%

For more information on HVCES, please visit:
<https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/HVCES.asp>

Contact Us

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

More detailed information on all of VA's Programs for Homeless Veterans can be found on the internet at www.va.gov/homeless.

If you, or a Veteran you know, are at risk of homelessness contact VA's National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at **1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838)** to speak to a trained VA responder.

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