

Ending Veteran Homelessness: Key Resources

INTRODUCTION

In 2009, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) declared their commitment to end and prevent Veteran homelessness. Communities throughout the nation have made tremendous progress since then. States and localities are developing systems to move every identified Veteran who is in need and is willing to accept help into permanent housing. The national picture is also improved—the most recent “snapshot” of homelessness on a given night in America shows that homelessness among Veterans has declined significantly.

As Americans, we can see that it’s possible to end homelessness among Veterans, and we must not let up until all Veterans have access to permanent housing, employment opportunities and other services and supports.

Every community can play a role. Use this document to learn what VA and its partners are doing to end and prevent Veteran homelessness. For more information and resources, visit

www.va.gov/homeless and www.va.gov/homeless/get_involved.asp.

ASSISTING HOMELESS AND AT-RISK VETERANS

VA and its federal and community partners strive to meet the needs of Veterans by providing services that help them secure permanent housing and achieve their full potential.

This comprehensive continuum of housing solutions, supportive services, community employment and health care has an enormous impact.

However, no one entity or program can end and prevent homelessness among Veterans alone.

COLLABORATING TO DO MORE

That’s why collaborative community efforts are needed to address the many causes of homelessness and other challenges that lead to housing instability.

Community-based allies can leverage the following VA resources—and their own assets—to expand Veterans’ access to affordable housing, meaningful employment, household items, transportation resources and other services.

Together, we can end and prevent homelessness among Veterans.

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Key Resources

in Ending and Preventing Homelessness Among Veterans

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT-VA SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (HUD-VASH)

Rental assistance plus supportive services equals housing success for Veterans. That sums up HUD-VASH, a program combining HUD housing vouchers with VA supportive services to help Veterans who are homeless, and their families, find and sustain permanent housing.

Through local public housing authorities, HUD provides eligible homeless Veterans with vouchers for privately owned housing. VA case managers provide these Veterans with supportive services to help them maintain housing in the community.

More Information:

www.va.gov/homeless/hud-vash.asp

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERAN FAMILIES (SSVF)

For very low-income Veterans, SSVF provides case management and supportive services to prevent the imminent loss of a Veteran's home or identify a new housing situation for the individual and his or her family.

More Information:

www.va.gov/homeless/SSVF.asp

HOMELESS VETERAN COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (HVCEs)

Employment is a key element in helping Veterans transition permanently out of homelessness or avoid it altogether. And it's now easier than ever for business and industry to find, interview and hire job-ready Veterans exiting homelessness.

That's because VA has deployed more than 150 community employment coordinators (CECs), based at most VA Medical Centers across the country, to collaborate with employers ready to hire Veterans exiting homelessness. CECs can be recruiters' connection to potential Veteran new hires for jobs in a wide variety of sectors.

More Information:

www.va.gov/homeless/employment_programs.asp

HEALTH CARE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS (HCHV)

How does VA reach and serve Veterans who are homeless or at risk? Largely through the HCHV program, which uses outreach, case management and residential treatment services to help Veterans move to stable housing.

HCHV staff are clinically trained specialists—also based at most VA Medical Centers—who partner with the community to locate Veterans living in unsafe situations and connect them with VA services, including a safe place to stay, health care and case management.

More Information:

www.va.gov/homeless/hchv.asp



HOMELESS PROVIDERS GRANT AND PER DIEM (GPD) PROGRAM

The GPD program is an important tool in ending Veteran homelessness because it gives communities a way to provide homeless Veterans with temporary housing and supportive services until they can move to permanent housing.

VA funds an estimated 600 agencies that provide over 14,500 beds—including short-stay bridge housing—for eligible Veterans. Grantees work closely with VA Medical Center staff and collaborate with community-based organizations to connect Veterans with employment, housing and additional social services to promote housing stability.

More Information:

www.va.gov/homeless/gpd.asp

VETERANS JUSTICE OUTREACH (VJO) AND HEALTH CARE FOR REENTRY VETERANS (HCRV) PROGRAMS

Veterans with a history of legal and justice involvement can face severely limited housing options, which can perpetuate homelessness.

To help communities address these issues, VA created VJO and HCRV. VJO aims to prevent homelessness by helping justice-involved Veterans who have mental health, substance use and other clinical issues get access to services and community resources. HCRV specialists work with Veterans to ease their transition from prison back into the community. Find these specialists at just about every VA Medical Center. (Note that VA cannot provide legal services to Veterans.)

More Information:

VJO: www.va.gov/homeless/vjo.asp

HCRV: www.va.gov/homeless/reentry.asp

LEARN MORE

- Get more detailed information about VA's programs for Veterans who are homeless or at risk at www.va.gov/homeless.
- Ask specific questions about how to get involved in ending and preventing homelessness among Veterans by emailing VA's homeless Veterans' outreach team at HomelessVets@va.gov.
- If you encounter Veterans who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless, encourage them to call or visit their local VA Medical Center (www.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp), where VA staff are ready to assist. Veterans and their families can also access VA services by calling **1-877-4AID-VET** (1-877-424-3838).