

LEGAL SERVICES FOR HOMELESS VETERANS AND VETERANS AT-RISK FOR HOMELESSNESS (LSV-H) GRANT PROGRAM

PARTNERING WITH YOUR LOCAL VA: A GRANTEE QUICK GUIDE



Legal challenges can be stressful for Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness—and can stand in their way of accessing stable housing.

As a grantee of VA's Legal Services for Homeless Veterans and Veterans At-Risk for Homelessness (LSV-H) grant program, your organization can help Veterans overcome legal issues so they can become safely and permanently housed or maintain their housing if it is unstable.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

The grant program supplies funding to partners that can provide free legal services to eligible Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This funding allows you to assist with:



Housing,

including eviction defense or landlord-tenant and foreclosure cases



Family law,

including child support, child custody, divorce, estate planning, and family reconciliation



Income support,

including access to public benefits



Criminal defense

for issues related to homelessness, such as outstanding warrants, fines, driver's license revocation, citations, or expunging or sealing a criminal record



Protective orders

and other legal matters related to domestic or intimate partner violence



Upgrade to military discharge



Access to health care



Employment law



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ESTABLISHING A RELATIONSHIP WITH VA

By partnering closely with your local VA medical center (VAMC), you can easily receive referrals from them and take full advantage of your grant funding. This will allow you to assist even more Veterans and give back to those who bravely served our nation.

If you already have a contact at your local VAMC and your current process works well, there's no need to change it. If you haven't established this yet, follow these steps to ensure you are making the most of your relationship with VA:

- 1. Identify Your Local VAMC(s):** Find the VAMC that serves your area by visiting www.va.gov/find-locations. You can enter the names of the cities you cover into the search. Select "VA Health" as the facility type. Please note that if you serve a broad geographic area, more than one VAMC may serve the area.
- 2. Get Connected:** Decide who will be your organization's point of contact (POC) with the VAMC, then email the LSV team at lsvgrants@va.gov. They will provide the contact information for the VAMC's homeless programs leader. Reach out to introduce yourself and request a POC at the facility.
- 3. Schedule a Meeting:** Once the VAMC POC has been identified, set up an initial meeting by email, phone, or in person. Review the information that will be helpful to share with your local VAMC.
- 4. Develop a Plan:** Discuss what services you offer, how referrals will be made, and what opportunities exist to coordinate outreach.
- 5. Implement and Monitor:** Revisit the plan regularly. Set up recurring check-ins with the POC to confirm the referral process is flowing smoothly. Review ways to enhance or clarify processes.

MORE INFORMATION

- Find your local VAMC at www.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp.
- Visit the Legal Services for Veterans (LSV) website at www.va.gov/homeless/lsv.asp to learn more about the LSV-H grant program.
- Learn more about VA's homeless programs at www.va.gov/homeless.



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