

The Homeless Programs Office newsletter contains news and information about Veteran homelessness. Share this newsletter with others so they too can stay up-to-date.



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*Veterans who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness are strongly encouraged to contact the [National Call Center for Homeless Veterans](#) at (877) 4AID-VET (877-424-3838) for assistance. To minimize the risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19, only Veterans who do not have access to a phone are to visit their closest VA medical center without calling in advance.*



### Message from Monica Diaz, Executive Director, VHA Homeless Programs Office

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention instituted a [new, limited moratorium](#) that halts evictions for people who live in counties with substantial or high levels of community transmission of the coronavirus. Although these renter protections cover communities across the country, millions of Americans, including Veterans, are still at risk of a housing crisis. To ensure that Veterans and their families remain safely housed during the coronavirus pandemic and beyond, the [VHA Homeless Programs Office](#) (HPO) continues to work closely with community partners to identify Veterans experiencing housing crises and connect them with appropriate VA and non-VA resources. VA's goal remains ensuring that every Veteran and Veteran family has a stable place to call home.

[Read Monica's full message.](#)

## Around HPO



### [New Eviction Moratorium through October 3, 2021](#)

On August 3, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced a [limited eviction moratorium](#) for renters living in communities where there is [substantial or high transmission](#) of COVID-19, covering an estimated 80 percent of all U.S. counties and 90 percent of all renters. Covered renters are protected for up to two months, from August 3 through October 3.

### [Veterans have options as foreclosure, evictions bans set to expire](#)

Despite the bans on evictions, many Americans, including Veterans, across the country still need assistance to remain in their homes and pay for utilities and other housing-related services. The VA has set up a webpage detailing several resources and services available for Veterans who are at an increased risk of eviction due to the limitations of the temporary renter protections.

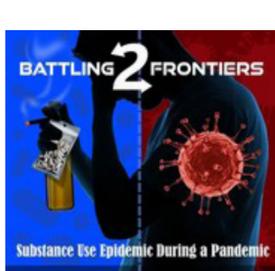


### [Questions about COVID-19 vaccine, "You Asked, We Answered"](#)

We've received many questions from Veterans, family members and caregivers about COVID-19 vaccines. The "You Asked, We Answered" series addresses questions that matter to Veterans and those they care about.

### [VA mandates COVID-19 vaccines among its medical employees including VHA facilities staff](#)

VA is taking this necessary step to keep the Veterans it serves safe. Secretary Denis McDonough announced he will make COVID-19 vaccines mandatory for Title 38 VA health care personnel — including physicians, dentists, podiatrists, optometrists, registered nurses, physician assistants, expanded-function dental auxiliaries and chiropractors.



### [New podcast series is focused on advancing awareness, access to naloxone and aftercare to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with opioid use disorder.](#)

Dr. Michal Wilson, Medical Advisor, VHA Homeless Programs Office, moderates a series of podcasts featuring various subject matter experts from VHA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Emergency Medicine, Pharmacy Academic Detailing Services and Veteran first responders.

## HPO Resource Quick Links

- The [Rental Assistance Finder](#) was designed by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to help renters and landlords find their local program and apply for assistance.
- The [United States Interagency Council on Homelessness \(USICH\)](#) has a step-by-step guide for people at risk of eviction. [Read more.](#)
- [VA's Partial Claim Payment program \(VAPCP\)](#) can temporarily defer repayment of mortgage principal to help eligible Veterans remain in their homes.
- Veterans who have fallen behind or are at risk of falling behind on their mortgage payments should contact [VA's Home Loan Center](#) at (877) 827-3702 for help.
- VACO Presents: Homeless Evidence and Research Synthesis forum - Where are we with Housing First? Please join us Monday, August 16, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. EST. [Register here.](#)
- [The National Alliance to End Homelessness](#) is pleased to announce the [2021 National Virtual Conference on Ending Homelessness](#) will take place September 21-24. [Register Here.](#)
- On Tuesday, September 21, 1 - 2:00 p.m. EST, the Exploration-Innovation-Technology (E.I.T.) Forum, a new webinar series from the National Center on Homelessness among Veterans and the VHA Innovation Ecosystem will provide a platform to showcase and foster innovative approaches to health care for Veterans, will begin. [Register here.](#)
- [Supportive Services for Veteran Families](#) provides case management and supportive services to prevent the imminent loss of a Veteran's home to identify a new, more suitable housing situation for the individual and his or her family; or to rapidly re-house Veterans and their families who are homeless and might remain homeless without this assistance.

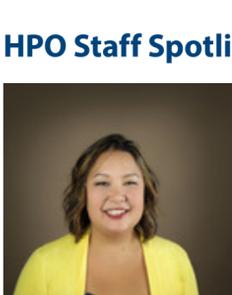
## HPO COVID-19 Response and Updates



As the Delta variant of COVID-19 continues to spread, VA is taking this necessary step to keep Veterans, their family members, and their caregivers safe. Did you know that spouses and caregivers of Veterans and CHAMPVA recipients can also get a COVID-19 vaccines at VA? [Click here to learn more.](#)

Everyone always has the right to ask questions about any vaccine or treatment. The best person to discuss concerns with is a health care provider.

## HPO Staff Spotlight: Desiree Erway



Veteran Affairs' [National Call Center for Homeless Veterans](#) receives more than 10,000 calls per month. With the new eviction moratorium in place, it's critical for VA to use this time to help Veterans get connected to the resources they need to avoid eviction. The call center is a resource that can be contacted at 877-424-3838, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The agents who answer the calls assist Veterans and their families who are experiencing housing instability by directing them to the most appropriate supportive services and resources. Call center agent, Desiree Erway, is happy to provide this support. Below, she shares details specific to her work at the National Call

Center for Homeless Veterans, an inside look at the work being done daily, and her personal connection to the work that she does.

[Read the full interview.](#)

## HPO Fact of the Month

### *Did you know?*

This August, many are preparing to go back to school. Did you know that VA offers substantial education and training benefits? VA education benefits help Veterans, service members, and their qualified family members with needs like paying college tuition, finding the right school or training program, and getting career counseling. Visit VA's very own [education and training benefits page](#) to explore and manage your Veteran education benefits.