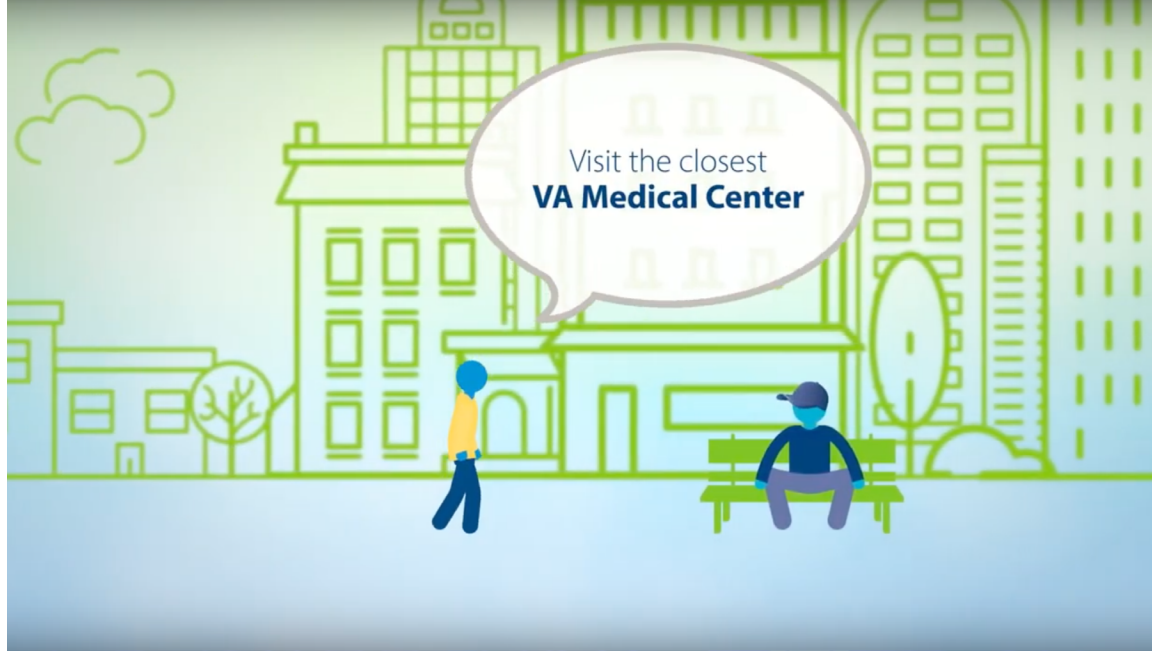


VHA Homeless Programs Office

Working Together to Help Veterans Exit Homelessness

HOW TO HELP HOMELESS VETERANS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



VA Homeless Programs Office Premieres New Video

People often ask, “What should I do if I know or encounter a Veteran who is homeless or at imminent risk of losing their housing?” In the short animated video, [How to Help Homeless Veterans](#), viewers learn simple steps they can take to help transform the lives of Veterans who lack stable housing. We encourage VA staff, partner organizations, and anyone else interested in helping Veterans to share the video broadly on their digital channels.

The video emphasizes that a visit to a [VA medical center](#) or a call to VA’s National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at (877) 4AID-VET or (877) 424-3838 can put homeless Veterans and those at risk of homelessness on the path to stable housing. The narration includes firsthand accounts of three Veterans—two men and one woman—who successfully exited homelessness after someone encouraged them to contact VA for help. The video reminds viewers that VA has staff and resources in every community for Veterans who are facing a housing crisis.

How to Use the Video

VA STAFF

- Include the video in your internal and external newsletters
- Include a link to the video in emails to partners, service providers, and associates

VA PARTNERS

- Include the video in your internal and external newsletters
- Provide a link to the video in your e-mails
- Share the video on your company and personal social media channels

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

- Share the video with your neighbors, customers, friends, and family on social media
- Show the video at your house of worship, community meetings, and libraries
- Share the video with hospitals, clinics, and first responders

Examples of Social Content to Include with the Video

- **Facebook:** You can help prevent and end Veteran homelessness in your community. Learn about the important steps you can take when you suspect a veteran lacks stable housing: <https://www.va.gov/homeless/stakeholders.asp>
- **Twitter:** You can help prevent and #EndVeteranHomelessness in your community. Learn about the important steps you can take when you suspect a Veteran lacks stable housing: <https://www.va.gov/homeless/stakeholders.asp>



Support Efforts to Prevent and End Veteran Homelessness This Holiday Season

The holiday season is an especially fitting time to spread cheer by making a difference in the lives of individuals, such as homeless Veterans, who lack the necessities of life. Below are four ways to support VA’s efforts to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans:

Volunteer for the upcoming 2020 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. During the last 10 days of January, many communities across the United States will conduct a point-in-time count of their local homeless population. The results will be used to estimate overall homelessness and homelessness among several subpopulations, including Veterans. In addition to tallying the number of people who lack stable housing during the count, volunteers will also share information about local homelessness programs and resources. If you are interested in participating, contact your local [homelessness Continuum of Care \(CoC\)](#) to find out if volunteers are needed.

The 2019 PIT Count [revealed that](#) the number of Veterans who were homeless on a single night decreased by 2.1% between 2018 and 2019 and by nearly 50% between 2010 and 2019. Click [here](#) to learn more about the 2019 PIT Count results.

Volunteer for Stand Downs or other local homelessness events. Stand Downs are typically one- to three-day events during which VA staff and volunteers provide food, clothing and health screenings to homeless and at-risk Veterans. In addition, Veterans also receive referrals for health care, housing solutions, employment, substance use treatment, mental health counseling and other essential services. Click [here](#) to review the dates and points of contact for Stand Downs near you.

Donate. Financial contributions can make a huge difference to those exiting homelessness. Your donation will go toward essential living needs such as security deposits, cookware, bedding and other items to help Veterans exit homelessness and quickly reintegrate back into their communities. You can even specify how you would like your donation to be used. Donate online [here](#).

Hire Veterans. Despite possessing skillsets that are transferable to many different civilian career fields, Veterans who are or were previously homeless sometimes face difficulties securing stable employment. VA’s community employment coordinators (CECs) are available to assist organizations in recruiting, interviewing and hiring job-ready Veterans for entry and mid-level positions. If you are interested in hiring job-ready Veterans to work in your organization, [contact your local CEC](#).

We need your help to achieve our goal of ensuring that homelessness among Veterans is rare, brief and nonrecurring.

Below are three [VA blog posts](#) about organizations that have joined the fight to end Veteran homelessness:

- [The End Veteran Homelessness Challenge draws to successful conclusion with support from elementary schools across the country](#)
- [Homeless Veterans in Oklahoma City receive winter coats, boots and blankets](#)
- [Veterans Matter Program and VA announce milestone of helping 1,500 homeless Veterans secure stable housing](#)

More Information

- Discover more ways to assist Veterans who are experiencing homelessness this holiday season by visiting our [Get Involved](#) web page.
- Visit [this webpage](#) for information about the communities that have ended Veteran homelessness.
- Learn more about VA’s programs for homeless Veterans at [va.gov/homeless](#).
- Veterans who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless should contact their local [VA medical center](#) and ask to speak to a homeless coordinator, or call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838).

Homeless Program Updates

On December 5, 2019, a new Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) was published in the Federal Register. This NOFA provides funding opportunities to renew existing SSVF grants. This NOFA is competitive, and applicants are urged to closely review it and the associated materials found on the webpage <https://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/> before applying.

The principal goal of the NOFA is to provide support to those applicants who demonstrate the greatest capacity to end homelessness through the adoption of evidence-based practices likely to lead to reductions in homelessness as defined by USICH’s [Federal Criteria and Benchmarks](#) or, alternatively, [Community Solutions Functional Zero](#). Scoring criteria are described in 38 CFR 62.21, 62.23, and 62.24. Awards are for services to begin October 1, 2020. Applications are due no later than January 31, 2020, at 4pm EST. Email us at SSVF@va.gov if you have questions.

In FY2020, SSVF was awarded \$426 million for grants to non-profits in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands that support outreach, case management, and other flexible assistance to rapidly re-house homeless Veterans and help Veterans who are at-risk of homelessness from losing their housing. In addition to conducting outreach, SSVF grantees provide case management and assist eligible Veterans and their families with obtaining VA and other benefits, such as health care, fiduciary payee, financial planning, childcare, legal, transportation, housing counseling, and other services. In fiscal year 2019, SSVF grantees served more than 70,000 Veterans and their family members.

Communicate with Us

Solving homelessness among Veterans requires a collaborative approach with input and effort from stakeholders in every community. We want to hear your thoughts and ideas about VA’s programs and services for homeless and at-risk Veterans. We value your input, as we know we cannot do this important work alone. Please share your feedback using the “Contact Us” button on the [VA Homeless Program’s website](#).