Witness rehabs: VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families

In 1995, VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program was established in Buffalo, New York through a partnership between the VA and the Whitehat Neighborhood Rehabilitation Center. SSVF was established because of the large number of homeless veterans in the area, and the neighborhood rehabilitation center responded to the need by providing housing assistance and other supportive services, such as case management, to help homeless veterans transition back into their families and communities successfully during and after completing their treatment.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) defines homelessness as living in a residence that is not a primary place of residence, such as sleeping in a car, on the street, in an abandoned building, or in a shelter for the homeless. VA's SSVF program helps homeless veterans access the benefits and services they need to address their unmet needs. A year later, in 2008, the first Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) was established in Buffalo, followed by other VTCs established in several VA locations.

VA's SSVF program ensures that homeless veterans are connected to various VA programs to support their housing needs and other medical needs. VA's SSVF program helps homeless veterans achieve their goals while remaining sober. His counselors encouraged him to apply for housing assistance from the nonprofit organization Access, which is a VA partner selected as a finalist for prestigious award.

In 2018, Navy Veteran and Hawaii native Rodney Navarro received an ultimatum: travel to Oregon to enter the White City Veterans Rehabilitation Center for substance abuse and post-traumatic stress disorder, or remain incarcerated at the Maui Community Correctional Center. He chose to go to Oregon.

In 2019, VA expanded its funding for emergency response for Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness during COVID-19 pandemic. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it is allocating an additional $400 million of coronavirus relief funding to enhance the department's emergency relief response for Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness during COVID-19 pandemic. The VA's Homeless Programs website cited outreach as a key to VA's response to homelessness.

Since their inception, VTCs have produced positive outcomes for justice-involved Veterans and address their unmet clinical needs. A year later, in 2008, the first Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) program in 2009. Today, there are 561 VTCs and other Veteran-focused courts, and the VJO workforce continues to grow to help support the increasing number of VTCs and other Veteran-focused courts.

Today, there are 561 VTCs and other Veteran-focused courts across America and VJO personnel at every VA medical center. VA's SSVF program works hand in hand with other VA programs to support homeless veterans. VA's SSVF program serves as an example of how VA is working with its partners to help homeless veterans access the benefits and services they need.

VA's SSVF program is administered through local nonprofit organizations called Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) providers. These organizations provide services to low-income Veterans living in or transitioning to non-military housing.

Materials and maps: Congress passes bill to provide additional funds to reentry treatment courts

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