

# VHA Homeless Programs Office

*Working Together to Help Veterans Exit Homelessness*

## NATIONAL HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK



### Introduction

During [National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week](#) (Nov. 16 – 24), we are all reminded of the close association between food insecurity and homelessness. VA is committed to helping address both of these potentially life-threatening conditions among Veterans. In addition to administrating [evidence-based programs](#) that have contributed to a 50% decline in Veteran homelessness between 2010 and 2019, VA also operates nearly 20 food pantries at VAMCs across America to help meet the nutritional needs of Veterans who do not have enough to eat. VA also offers a variety of programs to address many of the root causes of food insecurity such as insufficient income and employment instability. Despite VA's efforts, which include providing food to vulnerable Veterans in many communities and helping homeless and at-risk Veterans and their family members exit or avoid homelessness, more work remains to ensure every Veteran has enough food and a place to call home.

In this edition of the VHA Homeless Programs newsletter, we highlight promising practices that are helping to accelerate progress in reducing Veteran homelessness in communities across the U.S. This edition also includes information about an upcoming webinar in which presenters will highlight some of the unique challenges homeless women Veterans face and the work underway by VA to mitigate those challenges. The calendar of events includes details about local activities such as Veteran Stand Downs in which the general public can volunteer to help Veterans who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

### Homeless Programs Major Updates

- In observance of National Veterans and Military Families Month, we are kicking off a series of blog posts featuring success stories about Veterans who have exited homelessness as a result of our programs and collaborations with federal, state, and local partners. Check out the first blog post [here](#) about Beyond the Yellow Ribbon (BYR)—a Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs program created to connect Veterans, service members and military families with federal, state and local resources and services. Visit VA's blog site, [VAntage Point](#), throughout the month to read more stories about initiatives like BYR.
- On November 12, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released its annual Point-in-Time Count results for 2019, which revealed that Veteran homelessness in the U.S. declined by 2.1% between 2018 and 2019. Read HUD's full news release about the results [here](#).
- The VHA Homeless Programs Office has established a work group to examine innovative and promising practices to help VA staff and partner organizations accelerate progress in reducing homelessness and food insecurity among Veterans. Below are some recent publications.
  - [VA Palo Alto Health Care System – Permanent Supportive Housing Veterans with a History of Sexual Offense](#)
  - [Northeast Ohio VAHS – Naloxone Kits in Homeless Programs](#)
  - [VA Loma Linda HCS – Critical Time Intervention-style Employment Services](#)
  - [Effective Implementations of Project CHALENG](#)
  - [McAllen VA and Food Bank partner to fight hunger](#)
  - [Texas VA partners with local Food Bank to fight hunger](#)

To learn about the ways you can help homeless Veterans in your community, check out the ["How to Help Homeless Veterans" video](#). In the video, you will learn the steps you can take to help Veterans who lack stable housing. You will also hear from formerly homeless Veterans about their positive experiences with VA in helping them exit homelessness.

Last month, the 5th Annual Inland Empire Veteran Stand Down hosted more than 35 organizations and provided services to more than 200 Veterans in different stages of need. Read more about the event [here](#).

### On the Calendar

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events about homelessness among Veterans.

- On November 20, we will host a webinar in partnership with Women Veterans Alliance on VA services available to women Veterans experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. Click [here](#) to register.
- Remember to visit [VA's Homeless Programs Events page](#) for more information on local Stand Down schedules and other upcoming events taking place during Veterans Month or Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.
- For more information about stand downs scheduled during or after National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, visit <https://www.va.gov/homeless/events.asp> or contact a local [VA medical center](#).

### Spread the Word

Please use the social content below to share information with your followers about ways to help prevent and end homelessness among Veterans. Also, follow VA's various social platforms and retweet or repost homelessness content.



#### Facebook Posts

During National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, learn about VA's outreach programs, upcoming events, and ways you can get involved in helping Veterans who are experiencing homelessness: [www.va.gov/homeless/events.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/events.asp)



#### Tweets

During #NationalHungerAndHomelessnessAwarenessWeek, learn about VA's outreach programs, upcoming events, and ways you can get involved: [www.va.gov/homeless/events.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/events.asp) #EndVeteranHomelessness

### Communicate with Us

We value your input and feedback about this newsletter and VA's efforts to prevent and end Veteran homelessness. Please email us at [HomelessVets@va.gov](mailto:HomelessVets@va.gov) to share your thoughts, story ideas and questions. You may also use the "Contact Us" button on our [website](#). If you are or know a Veteran who is homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness, visit your [local VAMC](#) or call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838) to seek help.