How Partner Collaborations Can Make a Difference

Working together, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and community partner organizations can meet homeless and at-risk Veterans’ needs for affordable housing, job placement, employment skills training, and household essentials. Below are brief descriptions of the most common ways VA and community partners collaborate to end Veteran homelessness. Contact us at homelessvets@va.gov or visit VA’s Homelessness website at https://www.va.gov/Homeless/ to get involved or to request more information.

HOUSING PARTNERSHIPS

Landlords, property management companies, and/or apartment buildings and complexes agree to:

- Provide homeless or at-risk Veterans with affordable housing options by accepting Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers as rent payments
- Set aside housing units for low-income Veterans and their family members in existing and new housing developments

In many cases, housing partners may receive benefits, such as steady rent payments through HUD-VASH, reliable tenants, and more.

EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIPS

Businesses and employment organizations typically agree to:

- Work with VA’s Community Employment Coordinators (CECs) to recruit, interview, and hire job-ready Veterans
- Provide job training
- Create positive work environments that promote Veterans’ success

Benefits employers may receive as a result of collaborating with VA might include faster placement of the right Veteran for the job, greater job engagement due to VA’s supportive services and initial screening of potential applicants and an increased profile in the community based on the promotion of on-the-job success stories.
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
VA recognizes that by tapping into our community partners’ unique abilities and organizational goals, we can maximize the effectiveness of the assistance being provided and improve the outcomes of Veterans exiting homelessness. This can be done in the following ways:

• Household donations: Collecting household essentials that are donated to Veterans
• Security deposit donations: Collecting funds for security deposits, which VA cannot supply, so Veterans can move into their new home through HUD-VASH
• Outreach: Assisting VA in bringing awareness of Veteran homelessness and critical needs gaps throughout communities

The benefit of leveraging an organization’s resources, assets, mission, commitment, and dedication to end and prevent Veteran homelessness is that community awareness and involvement will grow and more can be done to help Veterans exiting homelessness lead independent lives.

How to Get Involved
To learn more about how housing, employment, and community collaborations can help effectively end Veteran homelessness or to get involved, please send an email to homelessvets@va.gov or visit VA’s Homelessness website at https://www.va.gov/Homeless/.

A phone call away.
If a Veteran you know is homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless, refer him or her to their local VA medical center where staff is ready to assist, or urge them to call 1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838). Trained, supportive professionals are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to connect Veterans with the care they need to get back on their feet.