

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



**VETERAN COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS**

OVERVIEW



Background

- There are over 22 million Veterans in the U.S.
- 8 million Vets enrolled; 45% over age 65
- Elderly Veterans tend to have:
 - More interacting diagnoses and medications
 - More functional dependence
 - More caregiver needs and challenges
- 70% of VA patients over age 65 use one or more other healthcare services—*yet there is no systematic linkage among providers/services, which leads to:*
 - Discontinuities in care and documentation and
 - Redundant and missed services



Veteran Community Partnerships

Vision

- All Veterans and their caregivers will have access to, and choices among, the services that allow our Veterans to stay in the place they call home.

Mission

- To foster Veterans seamless access to, and transitions among, the full continuum of non-institutional, extended care and support services in VA and the community.

“Serving those who served for us”



What is a VCP?

Veteran Community Partnerships (VCP) are formalized partnerships through which local VA facilities connect with state and local community service agencies in an effort to:

- **Enhance** and improve access to and quality of care
- **Promote** seamless transitions
- **Educate** community agencies & VA providers
- **Support** caregivers
- **Develop and foster** strong relationships between VA and community agencies and providers



Who is Involved?

VA Medical Center Partners:

- Hospice and Palliative Care
- VA Voluntary Service
- OIF/OEF program
- Social Work Service
- Nursing Service/Community Health
- Mental Health Service
- Geriatrics and Extended Care
- Office of Public Affairs
- Homelessness
- Veteran Experience Office

Community Partners:

- Veterans
- Veterans Services Organizations
- Hospice-Veteran Partnerships
- Community, county, and state human services agencies
- Aging network
- Caregivers
- Caregiver coalitions
- Academic institutions
- Service Organizations
- Faith-based organizations
- Non-profits
- Charitable organizations
- Philanthropic organizations
- Hospice organizations
- Home care agencies
- Respite organizations
- Disability groups

VCP roster/locations are available at:
www.va.gov/healthpartnerships/vcp.asp



VCP National Advisory Council

- **Administration for Community Living***
- **Disabled American Veterans***
- **LeadingAge***
- **National Alliance for Caregiving***
- **National Association of Area Agencies on Aging***
- **National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization***
- **VHA Hospice-Veteran Partnership Workgroup**
- **VHA Office of Care Management and Social Work**
- **VHA Office of Community Engagement**
- **VHA Offices of Geriatrics and Extended Care**
- **VHA Office of Nursing Service**
- **VHA Offices of Primary Care Services**
- **VHA Office of Rural Health**

** ex officio members*



Activities of VCPs

- **Conduct assessments** to determine the unique needs of Veterans within communities
- **Exchange information between VA and community agencies** in an effort to keep both informed of local and VA resources, strengths, and potential growth areas
- **Educate community agencies** about specific veteran-related issues and benefits
- **Conduct community outreach educational programs** for veterans groups/community agencies to provide information on the VA continuum of care, available resources, and options
- **Hold local/regional/statewide educational events** for both community and VA stakeholders to provide information on the continuum of care options and VA healthcare system
- **Create/disseminate educational tools** that partners can access for the most current and complete information on resources for veterans, in VA and in the community...*And more!*



Feedback about VCP

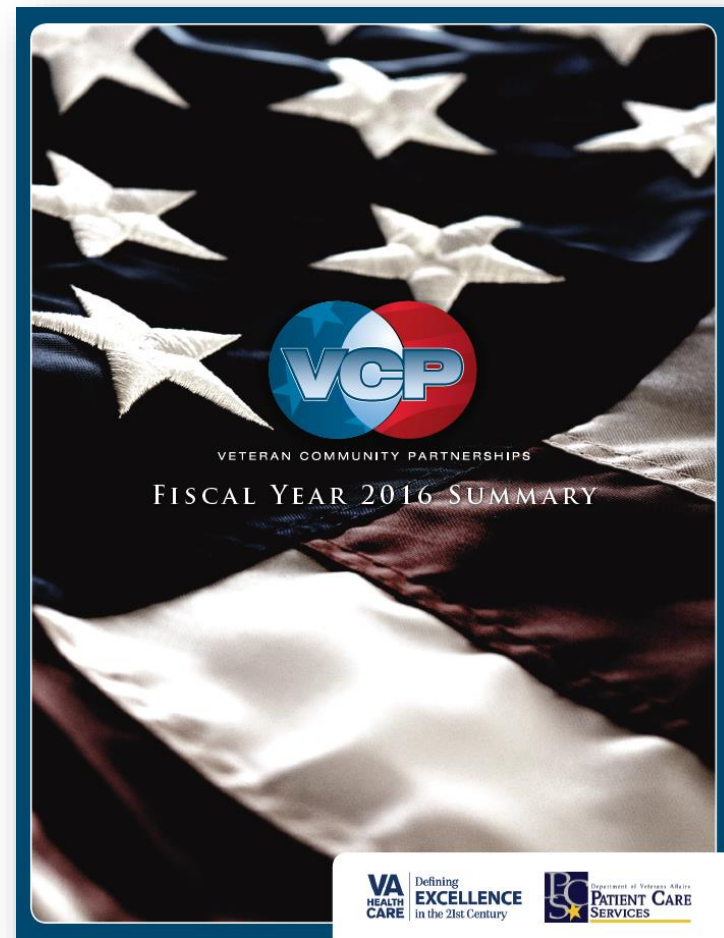
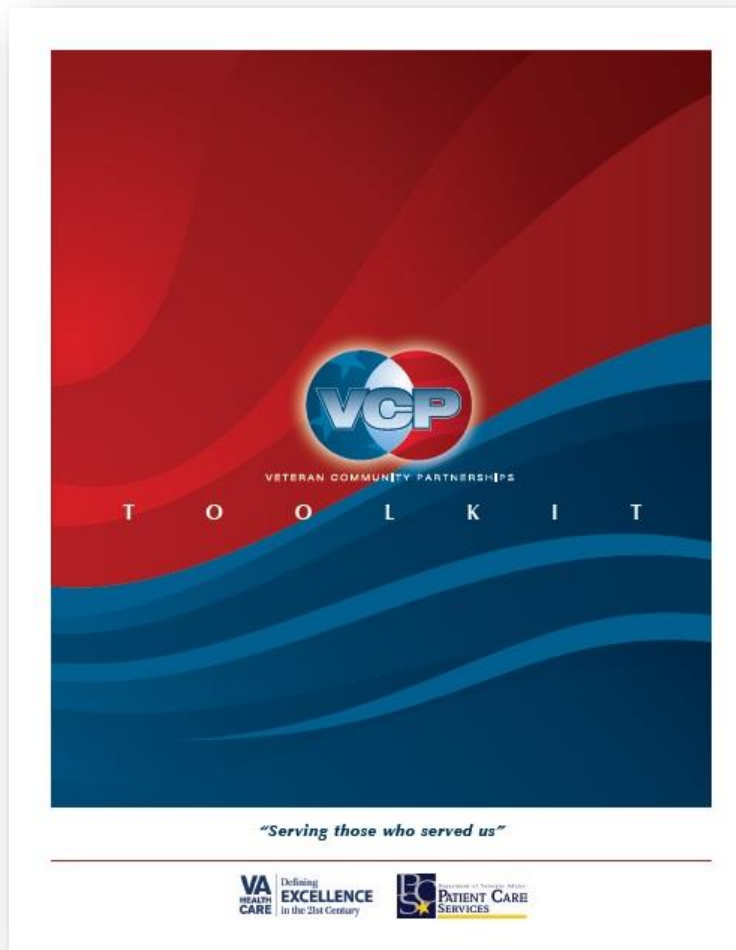
“We have humanized VA in this area and torn down many walls and built bridges because of our Veteran Community Partnership.

I have more people calling from community organizations to refer Veterans who have never enrolled and accessed their VA benefits. And I have more information about community organizations that can provide quality services for our Veterans and caregivers if not available at VA.”

- VCP Coordinator



VCP Resources: Toolkit, Reports, Etc.



More information and resources are available at:
www.va.gov/healthpartnerships/vcp.asp