

#BeThere



The mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (CFBNP) is to engage, educate and inform faith-based and community organizations about the VA tools and resources that will equip them to better serve the Veterans, their families, survivors, caregivers, and other beneficiaries within their organizations.

To learn more about what VA programs are available and how they may help, please visit the following websites:

VA website

www.va.gov

CFBNP Website:

www.va.gov/cfbnp/

Suicide Prevention

www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/

Sign-up to join and start a Veteran Ministry or Welcome Center

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVA/signup/19966>

Sign-up for VA CFBNP Updates and Monthly Webinars

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVA/signup/17850>

Veteran Welcome Kit

www.va.gov/welcome-kit



Choose VA

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of Veterans Affairs

How to Start a Veterans Ministry or Welcome Center



A quick start guide brought to you by
VA Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (CFBNP)

• Educate • Engage • Inform

The VA Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (CFBNP) can help your faith-based and/or community organization by:

- Collaborative brainstorming and coordination of training sessions for clergy, congregations, and community groups/members.

Examples include:

- Recognizing and addressing the spiritual and emotional needs of returning Veterans.
- Assisting families after the transition from active-duty Servicemember to Veterans status.
- How to reach Veterans in specific demographics or with special needs.

Your faith-based and/or community organization can help Veterans in the following ways:

- Provide Veterans with transportation to medical appointments.
- Help recently housed Veterans obtain furniture and housing supplies.
- Educate yourself, Veterans, and others about VA benefits and services and how a Veteran can apply for them.
- Learn the signs of a Veteran or a Veteran's family member in distress.
- Encourage Veterans to use the VA services he or she has earned.
- Volunteer with the VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement.
- Visit a hospitalized Veteran.
- Provide drop-off child care services for a Veteran family with young children.
- Establish a Veterans Ministry or Welcome Center.

5 STEPS TO START A VETERAN MINISTRY or WELCOME CENTER

Step 1: Identify the number of Veterans in your organization

- Set-up recruiting tables before and after service/event (awareness and sign-up)
- Create a tracking system to identify veteran population within organization

**Step 2: Create a Veteran Ministry or Welcome Center group
Mission/Vision statement**

**Step 3: Elect Veteran group leadership council officers
(President, Vice President, Secretary, etc.)**

Step 4: Hold monthly meetings with officers and members

Step 5: Develop a strategic plan for the upcoming year

- Weekly/monthly group, activities, trips, seminars, etc.
- Connect with local VA Medical Center (VAMC)

Goals:

1: Recognize Veterans in your organization:

- Recognize Veterans during primary service/event during month of November
- Host formal banquet during the month of November in honor of your Veterans

**2: Partner with the VA Center for Faith-Based and
Neighborhood Partnerships (CFBNP)**

- Host an annual collaborative outreach event
- Request current VA resources and information

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