



The VA Community Living Centers, formerly known as nursing homes, provide short-stay and long-stay nursing home care to Veterans who are medically and psychiatrically stable. The mission of VA Community Living Centers (CLC) is to restore the Veteran to highest practicable level of well-being, maximum function and independence, prevent decline in health, and provide comfort at the end of life in a home environment.

SERVICES PROVIDED

VA CLCs may provide the following services: skilled nursing care, rehabilitation, mental health recovery care, dementia care, hospice and palliative care, continuing care, respite care, and geriatric evaluation and management. The majority of the VA CLCs are located on or near the campus of VA medical centers. Not all VA CLCs provide all services, so please contact your local VA medical center for more information.

VETERAN-CENTERED CARE

VA CLCs are committed to providing Veteran-Centered Care. Each Veteran's plan for care is designed around the Veteran's needs, preferences, and life-long habits. VA CLCs serve Veterans from all generations and pay special attention to ensure age, culture, and generation specific needs and interests are incorporated into the plan of care. Care is provided so that the Veteran is respected, treated with dignity, and invited to be a participant in his or her own care. The foundation of the VA CLC care is the relationship and trust between the Veteran and his or her VA caregivers. The goal of care is to nurture the Veteran's mind, body, and spirit while providing state of the art health care and services in a home environment conducive to healing.

CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

VA CLCs strive to create an environment that resembles "home" as much as possible and are at the forefront of a trend to "de-institutionalize" nursing home care in America. VA CLCs use the term Cultural Transformation to describe the significant changes made in recent years. Some of these changes include:

- ♥ Expanding food and nutrition options
- ♥ Respecting Veteran sleep and wake cycles
- ♥ Inviting Veterans to decorate and personalize their bedrooms
- ♥ Providing a variety of age specific activities for meaningful use of time
- ♥ Consistently assigning the same caregivers to the same Veterans
- ♥ Encouraging cats, dogs, and other friendly animals to visit or live in the CLC
- ♥ Using Wii games and other activities to assist with rehabilitation
- ♥ Planning celebrations, dances, and parties for special occasions
- ♥ Using cutting-edge design for new construction and renovations
- ♥ Providing private bedrooms when possible
- ♥ Creating family friendly spaces for visiting
- ♥ No limits on visiting hours

ADMISSION CRITERIA

To be admitted into a VA CLC, a Veteran must be enrolled in the VA health care system, eligible for nursing home care, and the VA CLC must be able to provide the needed services. The Veteran must be medically and psychiatrically stable. Special consideration may be made for Veterans for whom community placement may be difficult.