



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**VA Pittsburgh named “LGBTQ Healthcare Equality Leader”
by HRC Foundation’s Healthcare Equality Index**

For the seventh year in a row, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System was named an “LGBTQ Healthcare Equality Leader” by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation (HRC). The designation came in the 12th edition of the [Healthcare Equality Index \(HEI\), released Friday.](#)

VA Pittsburgh is one of only four facilities in the Pittsburgh region to earn the “LGBTQ Healthcare Equality Leader” designation, and the only system that serves Veterans exclusively.

“We believe every Veteran should feel confident in the care they get from our providers and that they feel comfortable in our facilities – no matter what,” said Healthcare System Director Donald Koenig. “We have two very dedicated LGBT Veteran Care Coordinators who not only ensure the best care and outreach for LGBT+ Veterans in our region, but the best medical and communication training for our staff.”

Veterans Health Administration systems, like VA Pittsburgh, are well represented in the index. Ninety-eight VA facilities nationally earned leader or top performer designation, out of a total of 680 facilities that actively participated and another 1,000 evaluated by HRC.

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About VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System is one of the largest and most progressive VA health care systems in the nation. More than 3,700 employees serve approximately 80,000 Veterans every year, providing a range of services from transplant medicine to primary care. It is also a center of research and learning, with more than \$30 million in research projects and a robust training program for residents and students. The system is a leader in virtual care delivery through telemedicine. Medical centers are in Oakland and O’Hara Township. Outpatient clinics are in Beaver, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland counties in Pennsylvania and Belmont County in Ohio.

Veterans can check on their eligibility and enrollment by calling 412-822-2040. Visit pittsburgh.va.gov and facebook.com/vaphs.