



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System

News Release

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 18, 2024

VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System to conduct virtual Veteran town hall for Mahoning and Trumbull Counties

Veterans can ask VA employees questions concerning their health care.

CLEVELAND – VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System will host a virtual town hall covering Veteran healthcare expansion and eligibility while also answering benefit questions from 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20.

VA [expanded health care eligibility](#) for millions of Veterans nationwide, years earlier than called for by the PACT Act. As of March 5, all Veterans exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving in the military and meeting specific requirements became eligible to enroll directly in VA health care. This means all Veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror or any other combat zone after 9/11 can enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA disability benefits. Additionally, Veterans who have never deployed but were exposed to toxins or hazards while training or on active duty in the United States are also eligible to enroll. VA also [recently expanded health care to all World War II Veterans](#).

The town hall will review reasons to reconsider VA enrollment – including the fact VA hospitals outperformed non-VA hospitals on all 10 core patient satisfaction metrics — including overall hospital rating, communication with doctors, communication about medication, willingness to recommend the hospital, and more in [Medicare's latest nationwide survey of patients](#). VA health care has also consistently outperformed non-VA care in [peer-reviewed studies](#), [overall quality ratings](#) and [affordability](#) for Veterans.

The town hall will be an audio/phone-dial-in event with visuals available within a simultaneous Facebook Live event. Participants are encouraged to **call 855-962-0953** early to be assured of one of the 10,000 slots available for the call, and to follow along at www.facebook.com/ClevelandVAMC.

VANEOMS serves more than 140,000 Veterans enrolled across 21 counties in northeast Ohio and seeks to have all eligible Veterans enroll for primary and specialty care from the Cleveland VA Medical Center and/or the 13 other clinic locations including clinics serving Mahoning and Trumbull Counties located in Youngstown and Warren.



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This town hall is an example of how the VA continues aggressively reaching out to Veterans to encourage them to come to VA for the healthcare benefits they have earned. VA encourages all Veterans, family members, caregivers and survivors to [learn more about VA to understand how VA fits into their lives](#), and apply for their world-class [health care](#) and [earned benefits](#) today. Veterans in Stark, Wayne and Ashland counties will be called to be advised of the town hall in advance.

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This is a call for Veterans, their family members and caregivers. It is not intended for the press. If you have media questions regarding this event, please contact Sarah Amato, VA acting public affairs officer, at 216-618-3998 or email Sarah.Amato@va.gov.

ABOUT VA NORTHEAST OHIO HEALTHCARE SYSTEM: Focusing on treating the whole Veteran through health promotion and disease prevention, VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System provides comprehensive, seamless health care and social services for nearly 140,000 Veterans across Northeast Ohio. With 17 locations of care, including 12 outpatient clinics, two community resource and referral centers, a psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery center, a chronic dialysis center, and an outpatient surgery center, VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System's quality services are easily accessible to Veterans in 21 counties. VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System also contributes to the future of medicine through education, training, and research programs.

For more information about programs and services offered by VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System, visit www.cleveland.va.gov or follow us on Facebook @ClevelandVAMC.