

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# News Release

Office of Public Affairs  
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420  
(202) 461-7600  
[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 7, 2018

## VA Commits \$17 Million to Expand Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program

*Services address healing from physical, psychological and social effects of violence.*

**WASHINGTON** — The U.S Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is taking action to address [Intimate Partner Violence](#) (IPV) by earmarking \$17 million in funds to support Veterans in need.

The funds will strengthen IPV Assistance Programs in VA facilities nationwide.

“VA recognizes that intimate partner violence is a health issue faced by many Veterans and their families,” said Acting VA Secretary Peter O’Rourke. “We are giving careful attention to this program, ensuring it is integrated into clinical care and workplace safety. Both are important to the safety of Veterans and VA employees who report experiencing violence.”

IPV affects millions of Americans. The term "intimate partner violence" describes physical, sexual or psychological harm by a current or former partner or spouse. This type of violence can occur among heterosexual or same-sex couples.

Awareness and identification of intimate partner violence among Veterans has increased. [Research](#) suggests Veterans may be at greater risk than their civilian counterparts, given the unique stressors posed by military life.

VA’s IPV Assistance Program focuses on the individual and works on developing a culture of safety. This holistic approach involves understanding, recognizing and responding to the effects of all types of trauma. The ultimate goals are to end violence, prevent further violence and promote healthy relationships.

The Veterans Health Administration launched the IPV Assistance Program in January 2014 and has since established IPV Assistance Program Coordinators at more than 115 VA facilities to offer assistance to Veterans, their partners and VA staff. [Program Coordinators](#) use resources from mental health, primary care, women’s health, Veterans justice outreach and employee occupational health and assistance programs.

The IPV program also offers intervention through VA and community partnerships that address housing, education and employment needs. This additional funding will allow VA to expand the program to all VA medical centers and build greater awareness of IPV as a serious health issue.

###