

Federal Veterans Resources Guide

2010

Prepared by the Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc.

TAC is experienced at using federal resources targeted to veterans and administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to create housing and service solutions to meet the needs of veterans, including homeless veterans and veterans with disabilities.

This guide highlights some of the key VA programs, initiatives and resources designed to address and prevent homelessness among veterans. It also provides links to veteran's resources available through other federal agencies including the U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Health and Human Services (HHS) and Labor (DOL).

Federal Veterans Resources Guide

Table of Contents

[U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs \(VA\) - Key Programs, Initiatives & Resources](#)

- [Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence Program](#)
- [Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans](#)
- [Grant and Per Diem Program](#)
- [Health Care for Homeless Veterans](#)
- [HUD-VA Supported Housing \(VASH\) program](#)
- [Mission Homeless](#)
- [Supportive Services for Veteran Families](#)
- [Health Care for Re-entry Veterans](#)
- Other VA Initiatives and Resources
 - [National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans](#)
 - [Project CHALENG](#)
 - [Stand Down](#)

Other Federal Resources for Veterans

[Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\) Veteran Resources](#)

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Veteran Resource Center (HUDVET)

U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Service (DOL/VETS)

Homeless Veterans Technical Assistance

Find out more about [TAC's Homeless VA Technical Assistance Initiative](#)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers a variety of programs and initiatives specifically designed to help homeless veterans live as self-sufficiently and independently as possible. The VA is the only Federal agency that provides substantial hands-on assistance directly to homeless persons. The VA's major homeless-specific programs constitute the largest integrated network of homeless treatment and assistance services in the country.

For More Information:

[VA Homeless Veterans Home Page](#)

COMPENSATED WORK THERAPY

Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) is VA vocational rehabilitation program that assists veterans that are work ready locate employment. In some locations, CWT is also known as Veterans Industries. Typically CWT programs are located within VA medical centers in most large metropolitan areas and many smaller communities.

There are 5 different types of CWT Programs for Veterans (not available at all CWT location):

1. Incentive Therapy
2. Sheltered Workshop
3. Transitional Work and Vocational Assistance
4. Supported Employment and Post-Employment Supports
5. Transitional Residence

CWT/Transitional Residence

The CWT/Transitional Residence (TR) program allows disadvantaged, at-risk, and homeless Veterans live in CWT/TR community-based supervised group homes while working for pay in VA's Compensated Work Therapy Program. This program differs from other VA-operated residential bed programs in that participants contribute (using their CWT earnings) to the cost of operating and maintaining their residences and are responsible for planning, purchasing, and preparing their own meals.

The TR program provides a rehabilitation-focused residential setting for veterans recovering from chronic mental illness, chemical dependency, and homelessness. TR provides a bridge between hospitalization or intensive outpatient treatment and successful community reintegration.

For More Information:

[VA Information on CWT](#)

[CWT Locations](#)

DOMICILIARY CARE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

The Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV) Program provides residential treatment and rehabilitation to homeless Veterans on VA medical center grounds to eligible disabled veterans who do not need hospitalization or nursing home care. There are more than 1,800 beds available through the program at 34 sites. The program provides residential treatment to more than 5,000 homeless veterans each year. The average length of stay is 4 months. Domiciliaries conduct outreach and referral; admission screening and assessment; medical and psychiatric evaluation; treatment, vocational counseling and rehabilitation; and post-discharge community support.

For More Information:

[VA Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans Information](#)

GRANT AND PER DIEM PROGRAM

The VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program provides capital grants and per diem operating resources to public and non-profit entities to provide housing and services to homeless veterans. The purpose of the program is to promote the development and provision of supportive housing and/or supportive services for homeless veterans with the goal of assisting homeless veterans to achieve residential stability, increase their skill levels and/or income, and obtain greater self-determination.

Capital Grants

Non-profit organizations and local governments are eligible to apply for Capital Grant funds that are made available each year through a competitive Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). Eligible applicants can apply for capital grants to:

- Acquire, Rehabilitate or Newly Construct Transitional Housing (up to 24 months stay). By statute, GPD funds may not be used for permanent housing.
- Acquisition, Rehabilitation or New Cons Acquire, Rehabilitate or Newly Construct Services Centers offering services such as case management, education, crisis intervention, counseling, services targeted towards specialized populations including homeless women Veterans (NOTE: Service Centers have not been funded since 2001).
- Procure vans to provide transportation & outreach for the purposes of providing supportive services.
- Expand existing transitional housing or service centers.

There is a 35% cash or cash equivalent for GPD capital funds. Applicants can also apply for per diem funds at the same time and do not need to submit a separate application.

Per Diem

Priority in awarding Per Diem funds goes to recipients of Capital Grants. However, agencies that have not received Capital Grant funds may apply for Per Diem under a separate NOFA when published in the Federal Register announcing the funding for "Per Diem Only." Operational costs, including salaries, may be funded by the Per Diem Component. For supportive housing, the maximum amount payable under the per diem is \$34.40 per day per Veteran housed.

For More Information:

[VA Grant & Per Diem Home Page](#)

[TAC's VA Technical Assistance Initiative](#)

HEALTH CARE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

The VA's Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Program operates at 133 sites, where extensive outreach, physical and psychiatric health exams, treatment, referrals and ongoing case management are provided to homeless veterans with mental health and/or substance abuse issues. This program assesses more than 40,000 veterans annually.

For More Information:

[List of Health Care for Homeless Veterans Programs by State](#)

MISSION HOMELESS

Mission Homeless was implemented to help the VA more effectively leverage its underutilized property on VA medical and National Cemetery campuses to build needed homeless housing facilities through the Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) program. Through the EUL program, properties are leased for the purpose of creating housing for homeless veterans. The EUL proceeds from the projects are reinvested to enhance services provided to the Veterans.

On May 5, 2008 the Secretary approved 49 sites for EUL development under this initiative. A second round of properties will be identified by the VA over the next year.

For More Information:

[VA Mission Homeless Information](#)

[Mission Homeless Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[TAC's VA Technical Assistance Initiative](#)

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERAN FAMILIES

VA was recently authorized to develop the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program, which will provide supportive services to very low-income Veteran families in or transitioning to permanent housing.

Funds will be granted to private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives that will assist very low-income Veteran families by providing a range of supportive services designed to promote housing stability. Eligible services include:

- Health care services
- Daily living services
- Personal financial planning services
- Transportation
- Legal services
- Child care
- Housing counseling

Grants will enable non-profits to provide outreach, case management services, and limited financial support. In addition to these services, non-profits will help Veterans meet a broad range of needs by providing or facilitating access to other benefits and services.

Sometime in 2010, the VA expects to announce a notification of funding availability (NOFA) that will offer non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives the opportunity to apply for grants to assist these very low-income Veterans.

For More Information:

[VA Supportive Services for Veteran Families \(SSVF\) Program Fact Sheet](#)

[Keep up to date on this new program](#)

[TAC's VA Technical Assistance Initiative](#)

HEALTH CARE FOR RE-ENTRY VETERANS

The VA's Health Care for Re-entry Veterans (HCRV) Program is designed to address the community re-entry needs of incarcerated Veterans. HCRV's goals are to prevent homelessness, reduce the impact of medical, psychiatric, and substance abuse problems upon community re-adjustment, and decrease the likelihood of re-incarceration for those leaving prison.

HCRV services include:

- Outreach and pre-release assessments services for Veterans in prison
- Referrals and linkages to medical, psychiatric, and social services, including employment services upon release
- Short term case management assistance upon release

Each Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) has a Health Care for Re-entry Veterans Specialist who is the VA regional point of contact for incarcerated Veteran services. Each state also has a Health Care for Re-entry Veterans Specialist who is the designated point of contact for incarcerated Veteran services in the state.

For More Information:

[HCRV State Points of Contact](#)

[State-Specific Re-entry Resource Guides](#)

[Other Re-entry Veterans Resource Links](#)