



VETERAN COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIPS

# Veteran Community Partnership (VCP) Program FACT SHEET

## **Why VCP?**

The passage of the MISSION Act established an imperative for VHA to engage and build relationships with community partners. Veteran Community Partnerships (VCPs) augment the programs and services available through VA by expanding the collaborative efforts in the community. About two thirds of Veterans are not enrolled in VA and only access community resources for their health care needs; those who do receive VA health services also access non-VA services. VA and non-VA providers and agencies must establish and nurture partnerships to create a comprehensive system of support for Veterans, families and caregivers. VCP provides a mechanism to integrate knowledge and action for the combined mutual benefit of all involved.

## **What is a VCP?**

VCPs are organized partnerships that bring together VA staff and community organizations to build relationships, exchange information, educate each other and the public on resources available to Veterans and collaborate to reduce barriers that impede Veterans access to care or services. These coalitions improve Veteran choice, quality, services and access for Veterans, their families and caregivers. VCPs promote seamless care transitions while strengthening VA and community relationships.

## **What does a VCP look like?**

VCPs are unique according to the diverse needs and resources within their communities. They are developed and sustained based on local resources and strengths. Leadership is shared between the VA and community partners to facilitate involvement of all partners.

## **What activities do VCPs do?**

VCPs exchange information, provide outreach and education events, conduct needs assessments, develop action plans, create tools, share resources, report outcomes and more.

## **Who should be involved in a VCP?**

VA staff members who recognize the need for community involvement to improve access to care and services for Veterans and work with community partners as part of their regular duties make ideal VCP members. This may include, but is not limited to, social workers, nurses, chaplains, outreach coordinators, staff from Public Affairs, Community Care, Vet Centers and more.

Community partners are representatives from local or state for- or non-profit agencies or organizations and individuals who support the Veteran and military community and want to work with the VA and Veterans to assist. Ideal community partners include, but are not limited to: Veteran Service Officers, health and human services agencies, aging agencies, hospice agencies, home health agencies, hospitals and clinics, mental health agencies, food banks, funeral homes, homeless shelters, Veterans, family members or caregivers, colleges and universities, transportation services and more.