

VHA and MAZON:
A Jewish Response to Hunger Partnership

Information Sheet



The National Center for Health Care Advancement and Partnerships (HAP) achieves the VHA's mission to honor America's Veterans by supporting the field to cultivate public private partnerships (P3) and explore emerging therapies when other treatments have not been successful. HAP supports small scale healthcare advancement initiatives (HAIs) that enable the implementation of field-based impactful partnership projects aligned with HAP's pillars and VA/VHA strategic plan.

Food Insecurity

Feeding Hunger reports that up to [24% of active-duty Service members and their families experience food insecurity](#) in the U.S. The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines food insecurity as limited or uncertain access to enough food for an active, healthy life. Addressing food insecurity requires collective efforts and strategic partnerships to ensure that Veterans are not burdened by the weight of hunger.



Partnership Overview

Since 2020, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) has partnered with [MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger \(MAZON\)](#) to ensure that Veterans have reliable access to food. Facilitated by the National Center for Healthcare Advancement and Partnerships (HAP), the partnership works to eliminate barriers to the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#), an effective defense against hunger. The partnership also aims to educate Veterans about the resources and benefits available to them, reduce the number Veterans who may be at risk of food insecurity, and provide educational resources for Veterans and their families.

- VHA and MAZON regularly conducts information-sharing activities alongside [VHA's Ensuring Veterans Food Security Workgroup](#).
- The partnership developed a pilot program on SNAP outreach for Veterans that can be replicated.

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VHA Partnership Roles and Resources

VHA supports and encourages Veterans' food security by providing resources that focus on how to find, select, and prepare [sufficient, safe, and nutritious food](#). These resources include nutrition tips for Veterans experiencing homelessness or those without access to food delivery services.

- [VHA Nutrition and Food Services Office](#) offers meal planning worksheets and nutrition tips to support the health and wellness of Veterans and their families.
- VHA offers information about [food resources to aid Veterans in accessing healthy food](#).
- VHA provides information about budget-friendly and healthy options for each food group.



MAZON Roles and Resources

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger is a national advocacy organization dedicated to ending hunger in the U.S. The organization raises awareness about [community and government resources](#) and advocates for food security among Veterans and other groups. MAZON also offers numerous resources to support Veterans.

- [A dedicated webpage](#) tailored to Veterans that amplifies the stories and experiences of Veterans impacted by food insecurity.
- An [online training course](#), in partnership with the PsychArmor Institute, to equip providers working with Veterans with solutions for food insecurity.
- MAZON's "[This is Hunger](#)" project highlights stories of Veterans to dispel myths, stereotypes, and stigma about who struggles with hunger and why.
- Educational resources to support the development of the VHA Food Security Toolkit.

Innovative Strategic Partnerships Facilitated through HAP

HAP's mission is to serve as a trusted resource and a catalyst for the growth of effective partnerships at the national, state, and community level. HAP advances the health and well-being of Veterans through exploration of innovative, safe, and ethical emerging therapies.

To learn more about VHA partnerships, visit <https://www.va.gov/healthpartnerships/>.

To learn more about MAZON, visit <https://mazon.org/>.

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