

# VHA and American Kidney Fund Partnership

Supporting Veterans diagnosed with chronic kidney disease

## Partnership Overview

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the nonprofit American Kidney Fund (AKF) formed a partnership in 2020 to increase awareness of the risk factors of kidney disease and provide resources to affected Veterans, their caregivers, families, and survivors.

## Kidney disease affects 1 in 6 Veterans

which is a higher rate than the general U.S. population. More than 40,000 Veterans receiving care through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have been diagnosed with kidney failure.



## Benefits for All Veterans

Through this partnership, both VA and AKF will promote resources to help Veterans live healthier lives through early identification of the disease, strategies to slow down the disease's progression, and referral for appropriate treatment, including care provided by VA. The partnership, managed by the National Center for Healthcare Advancement and Partnerships (HAP), also will provide information about VA benefits that Veterans may be eligible to receive.

### VA Resources:



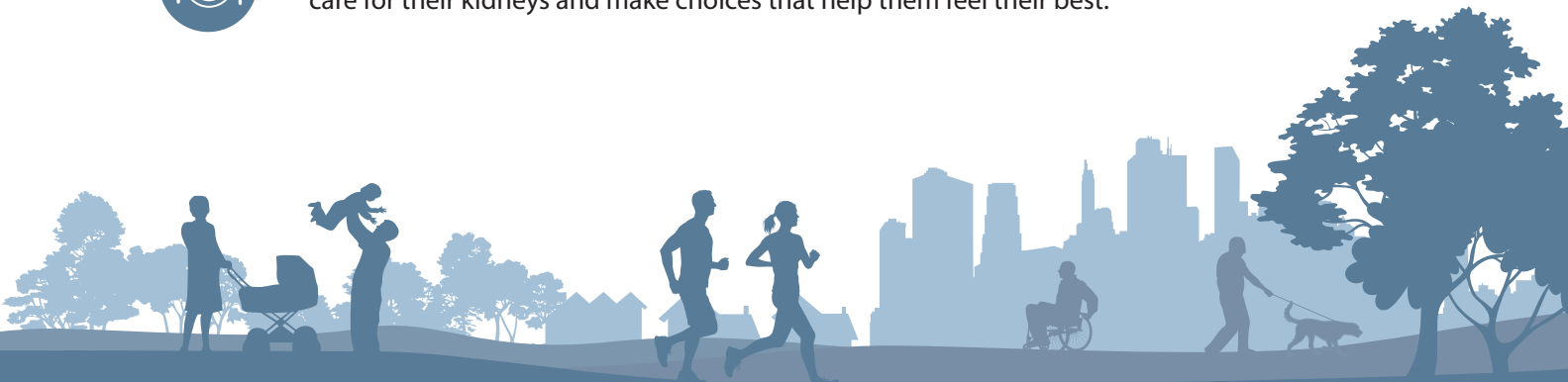
**VHA's National Kidney Program** improves the quality and consistency of care for Veterans with kidney disease by providing services to VA medical centers across the country.



The **MobileKidney mobile app** helps Veterans track their personal health information and learn more about kidney health.



**VA's eKidney Clinic** provides information and tools that enable Veterans to care for their kidneys and make choices that help them feel their best.



## American Kidney Fund Resources:

- **Financial support** through grants or financial assistance programs:
  - Safety net grants help with expenses not covered by insurance such as transportation and co-payments.
  - Disaster relief grants help Veterans replace medications, housing, or personal essentials lost in natural disasters.
  - Post-transplant testing assistance covers innovative blood tests that track the health of a transplanted kidney.
- **Kidney Kitchen** provides guides and recipes that empower Veterans with kidney disease to eat healthy.
- **Educational webinars** raise awareness about kidney disease and **American Kidney Fund Ambassadors** ensure that every Veteran has access to quality health care.



## Partnership Goals

The success of the partnership is measured by the number of Veterans who receive information about VA benefits, eligibility, and enrollment through AKF events or by applying for an AKF grant. VA will also provide AKF access to its publicly available educational resources.

## 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 and as a facilitator/access point for public and private entities interested in partnering with VHA to benefit Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors.

To learn more about VHA partnerships, please visit: [va.gov/healthpartnerships](https://va.gov/healthpartnerships).