

VHA National Center for Healthcare Advancement and Partnerships and the Veteran Sponsor Partnership Network

How service members and Veterans can re-enter civilian life with better outcomes

The Veteran Health Administration (VHA)'s **Veteran Sponsor Partnership Network (VSPN)** initiative, led by the VHA [National Center for Healthcare Advancement and Partnerships \(HAP\)](#), is based on the model of the [DOD sponsorship program](#). Thanks to the community partners and volunteers in the VSPN, service members and Veterans can be paired with a sponsor in the community they and their family move to after they conclude their military service. Keep reading to learn more about how service members and Veterans are matched with sponsors, and how community organizations, volunteers, and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) are working together to support them.

What is the VSPN?

HAP created the VSPN initiative to leverage the power of non-monetary partnerships to help service members, Veterans, and their families access VA services and community resources, such as employment opportunities, education benefits, housing assistance, and more. Joining the initiative means:

- Having a direct line to experts in the community and in VA who care about your health and success as you exit the military and begin a new phase of your life
- Getting personalized support navigating resources and benefits that can help you achieve your goals as you transition into a new civilian community



How does it help service members and Veterans?

- Early research has shown that engaging in VHA care with community-based interventions and sponsorship programs can help Veterans achieve better outcomes across social determinants of health, experience less difficulty when transitioning back into civilian communities, and reduce risk factors related to Veteran death by suicide. Sponsors, community organizations, and VA staff help deliver quality benefits, whole health care, and accessible services the way Veterans want to receive them to improve experiences, well-being, and outcomes.

Who is eligible to be paired with a sponsor?

Any service member or Veteran who is transitioning to a civilian community within the United States can sign up to be paired with a volunteer sponsor. If you do not yet know which community in the U.S. you are moving to, you can be paired with a sponsor to help guide you through the process of finalizing a location.

What are the benefits for all Veterans?

- Receive individualized, accessible support from local volunteers and VA experts to achieve your post-military goals around employment, housing, health care, and more.
- Meet a friendly face at a new location. Sponsors can provide personal experience and recommendations (like housing options or the best places for kids) to help you and your family settle into your new home.
- Connect with VA as well as community resources through sponsors who can explain what benefits are available to help you and your family and how to access them.

How do I get a sponsor and resources from VSPN community partners?

- Connect with a community partner that manages sponsors. You can find several that have partnered with VHA at va.gov/HEALTHPARTNERSHIPS/vspn.asp
- While still on active duty, communicate with your sponsor virtually to learn what national and local VA resources are available to you.
- Meet face-to-face with your sponsor once you are in your post-military home.
- Develop a Transition Action Plan with your sponsor to smooth reentry to civilian life. Communicate regularly with your sponsor about those goals and what you need.
- Whether you have a sponsor or not, you can reach out to a VSPN community partner and/or VA with any additional requests for resources or help with acute care or crisis management.

Innovative strategic partnerships facilitated through HAP

The mission of VHA HAP is to ensure partnerships and health care advancements support Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors across social determinants of health.

To learn more about the VSPN, please visit: va.gov/HEALTHPARTNERSHIPS/vspn.asp

To learn more about VHA partnerships, please visit: va.gov/healthpartnerships.



Disclaimer: Sponsors are not managed by VA. Individuals who wish to become a sponsor do so by signing up as a volunteer with a non-VA organization. VA does not endorse and is not responsible for sponsors or organizations that manage sponsors. The appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute an endorsement by VA of the linked websites, or the information, products, or services contained therein.

