



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Fact Sheet

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Media Relations

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Homeless Veterans Community Employment Services (HVCES)

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has made ending Veteran homelessness a top priority.

This unprecedented effort has dramatically decreased homelessness and increased successful outcomes for Veterans, and their families, who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. VA and our federal, state, local, and non-governmental partners recognize that ending Veteran homelessness is not a single event in time, but rather a deliberate, continuing effort.

In fiscal year (FY) 2014, VA enhanced employment services for Veterans by implementing Homeless Veteran Community Employment Services (HVCES). The mission of HVCES is to provide employment services and resources to Veterans participating in Veterans Health Administration (VHA) homeless programs to increase access to permanent housing and improve housing stability.

Employment [decreases the risk of suicide, provides an improved quality of life, fosters self-confidence and independence, and promotes community integration.](#)

HVCES staff are embedded in homeless programs within VA medical centers (VAMCs), complementing existing medical center-based employment services and providing a bridge to employment opportunities and resources in the local community.

HVCES vocational development specialists and vocational rehabilitation counselors function as community employment coordinators (CECs) and employment specialists. CECs are funded at each VAMC. In addition, the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing](#) (HUD-VASH) program has funded employment specialists at a limited number of VAMCs based on local needs.

HVCES provides a range of site-specific employment services. There are no eligibility requirements for Veterans to receive assistance from HVCES other than participation in a VHA homeless program. HVCES staff ensure a range of employment services are accessible to Veterans who have experienced homelessness. These Veterans may need individualized support to overcome barriers that prevent them from returning to work, such as a poor work history, lack of transportation and appropriate clothing, history of justice involvement, and co-occurring substance use and/or mental health issues.

HVCES staff are tasked with:

- Working with VA homeless program and employment services staff, including [VHA Vocational Rehabilitation Services/Compensated Work Therapy \(CWT\)](#) and the

[Veterans Benefits Administration's \(VBA\) Vocational Readiness and Employment \(VR&E\)](#), to identify employment resources available to serve homeless and at-risk Veterans, including chronically homeless Veterans.

- Collaborating with [U.S. Department of Labor](#) programs such as [Veterans' Employment and Training Services \(VETS\)](#), [Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program \(HVRP\)](#), and [Senior Community Services Employment Program \(SCSEP\)](#) as well as locally determined community and state partners to provide Veterans with training and support services that are not available within VHA.
- Engaging employers to develop new job opportunities for Veterans who have experienced homelessness.
- Ensuring ongoing support services are available to homeless Veterans once they return to work and helping employers address any issues with workplace adjustment.

FY24 HVCES Highlights:

- Approximately 5,400 Veterans exited homeless residential programs with competitive employment (i.e., [Grant and Per Diem \(GPD\)](#), Low-Demand Supportive Housing (LDSH), and HCHV Contract Residential Services (HCHV-CRS)).
- More than 12,828 Veterans were employed at the exit from all VHA homeless programs and services.
- Employment rates for Veterans housed through HUD-VASH and who exited the GPD program exceeded national targets.
- There were more than 13,000 newly documented, unique instances of employment for Veterans engaged in or who exited from VA homeless programs or services.

Get more information on HVCES: www.va.gov/HOMELESS/HVCES.asp

Locate the HVCES CEC in your area: www.va.gov/HOMELESS/cec-contacts.asp

Listen to the *Ending Veteran Homelessness* podcast series:

www.spreaker.com/show/vha-homeless-programs-ending-veteran-h

Contact Us

Find the VA facility nearest to you: www.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp

Get more detailed information on VA's programs for homeless Veterans: www.va.gov/homeless

If you or a Veteran you know are at risk of homelessness, please contact VA's National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at **1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838)** to speak to a trained VA responder.