

The Homeless Programs Office newsletter contains news and information about Veteran homelessness. Share this newsletter with others so they too can stay up-to-date.



# VHA Homeless Programs Office

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*Veterans who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness are strongly encouraged to contact the [National Call Center for Homeless Veterans](#) at (877) 4AID-VET (877-424-3838) for assistance. To minimize the risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19, only Veterans who do not have access to a phone are to visit their closest VA medical center without calling in advance.*



## Message from Monica Diaz, Executive Director, VHA Homeless Programs Office

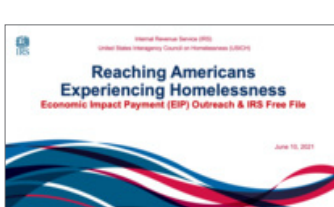
This month, we are sharing critical information about [Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams \(HPACTs\)](#), an innovative treatment model being implemented at VA medical centers across the country. HPACTs are essential to our efforts to end Veteran homelessness. Additionally, this newsletter provides information about the anticipated impact of the local and national eviction moratoria end date later this summer, as well as information on how we will meet this reality head-on by leveraging the strategies outlined in our [Strategic Plan](#).

[Read Monica's full message.](#)

## Around HPO

### VA Puget Sound brings COVID-19 vaccines to Veterans experiencing homelessness or housing instability

In late 2020, [VA Puget Sound Health Care System's](#) HPACT contacted community partners to help get the COVID-19 vaccine directly to Veterans in need, such as those experiencing homelessness or those experiencing housing instability. [Read more.](#)



### Webinar: how to help stimulus checks reach people experiencing homelessness

Many people experiencing homelessness lack a permanent mailing address and/or bank account, making it difficult for the government to send their Economic Impact Payments (EIPs), otherwise known as stimulus checks. Fortunately, it's not too late to help them claim their stimulus checks. [Watch the webinar to learn how.](#)

### VA researchers use novel approach to gain insight into suicide risk factors

Dr. Robert Graziano is a postdoctoral fellow in clinical psychology at the Durham VA Health Care System in North Carolina. He led a study on the risk factors among Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans for suicidal ideation, or thoughts of dying by suicide, using an emerging approach in mental health research called network theory. [Read more.](#)



### A new IRS tool now makes it easier for people experiencing homelessness to access stimulus checks

The [Non-filer Sign Up Tool](#) addresses a major obstacle to accessing payments for people experiencing homelessness, as well as those in housing programs. Learn more about using the Non-filer Sign Up Tool. [Learn more about using the Non-filer Sign Up Tool.](#)

### ICYMI: Facebook Live event discussing PTSD

If you missed our most recent Facebook Live event discussing causes and symptoms of PTSD, the connection between PTSD and homelessness, and how to help Veterans with PTSD who may be experiencing or at risk of homelessness, don't worry. [Visit the National Center for PTSD's Facebook page to view the recorded discussion.](#)



## HPO Resource Quick Links

- VA awards \$418 million in grants to help Veterans and families at risk of homelessness. [Read more.](#)
- Help stimulus checks reach people experiencing homelessness. [Watch the webinar to learn how.](#)
- Immediate assistance is available for Veterans experiencing homelessness during a historic heat wave. [Read more.](#)
- VA's [Center for Minority Veterans](#), is seeking nominations of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment as a member of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans. Nominations for membership on the committee must be received no later than 5 p.m. EST on July 15. [Read more about applying.](#)
- [Supportive Services for Veteran Families](#) provides case management and supportive services to prevent the imminent loss of a Veteran's home to identify a new, more suitable housing situation for the individual and his or her family; or to rapidly re-house Veterans and their families who are homeless and might remain homeless without this assistance.

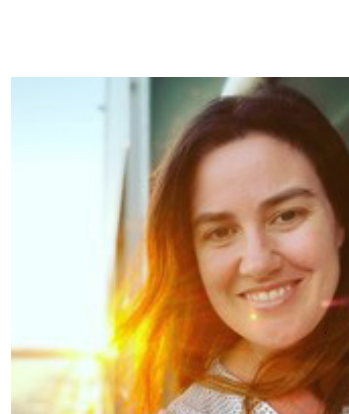


## HPO COVID-19 Response and Updates

Many Americans, including Veterans, are at a higher than usual risk of homelessness as temporary bans on evictions and other tenant and homeowner protections implemented during the pandemic are set to expire. In addition to the multiple ways VA already helps borrowers avoid foreclosure, VA is implementing a short-term mortgage repayment assistance program via the VA Partial Claim Payment program, to bring certain borrowers current on their mortgage as they resume regular mortgage payments.

## HPO Staff Spotlight: Morgan Fitzpatrick

When Morgan Fitzpatrick joined VA Puget Sound Health Care System in September 2020, she expected to split her time working with the HPACT in Seattle and the then soon-to-be opened Edmonds Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC). When the CBOC's opening was delayed, she jumped at the opportunity to work with Dr. Laxminarsimha Reddy, director of VA Puget Sound's HPACT, spearheading a campaign to vaccinate homeless Veterans against COVID-19. In addition to working with VA's community partners to reach and coordinate a variety of services for Veterans facing housing instability, Ms. Fitzpatrick helps to raise awareness about the important role VA's General Medical Services, HPACT program, and CBOCs play in the continual delivery of efficient, coordinated, compassionate primary care. [Read the full interview.](#)



## HPO Fact of the Month

### Did you know?

July is Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. According to the [American Psychiatric Association](#), people who identify as being two or more races (24.9%) are the most likely to report mental illness within the past year, beyond people identifying as American Indian/Alaska Natives (22.7%), white (19%) and Black (16.8%). In addition, people who identify as members of minority groups are less likely to receive mental health care. In 2015, 48% of white individuals received mental health services, compared to 31% of Black and Hispanic people, and 22% of Asian people. Read more stats about minority health at the [American Psychiatric Association's official site](#). You can also explore the [National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month page](#) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health.