

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.



Executive Director's Message | Veterans' Stories | Resources
COVID-19 Response | Staff Spotlight | Fact of the Month

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

June is a month of special observances that connect to the VHA [Homeless Programs Office's](#) (HPO) mission to support Veterans experiencing homelessness—posttraumatic stress (PTSD) Awareness Month, Pride Month, and Juneteenth. Many Veterans who are homeless are living with PTSD, are members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT), and related identity communities, and/or are Black Americans. HPO is dedicated to serving these populations with innovation, thoughtfulness, and an acute understanding of their unique needs.

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

Around HPO

[Central Virginia VA Health Care System helps community reach "Functional Zero"](#)

To be certified as a Functional Zero community, organizations and local governments have created and sustained a support system that ensures fewer Veterans are experiencing homelessness than can be housed in a month.



[Veterans Justice Outreach Program offers hope and connectivity to justice-involved Veterans](#)

After his release from incarceration, Army Veteran Reginald Newkirk found stable housing with assistance from the [Veterans Justice Outreach Program](#) and its resources for Veterans experiencing homelessness.

[Webinar on converting motels and hotels into affordable housing](#)

In this webinar on June 17 from 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm, experts from across the country will talk about their motel/hotel conversion programs: what it took politically and practically, what policy changes were needed, and what opportunities lie ahead to use additional federal resources for this purpose. [Register here.](#)



[Kansas City VA partners with community to vaccinate Veterans at homeless project](#)

Recently, the [Kansas City VA Medical Center](#) joined forces with the [Veterans Community Project](#) (VCP) to vaccinate Kansas City area Veterans in a rapidly changing vaccination landscape.

[VA's HUD-VASH program partners with pet organizations to help Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness](#)

During National Pet Month and beyond, VA is working with multiple pet organizations to ensure that Veterans experiencing homelessness or housing instability have the support that they need to keep their pets healthy, safe and well cared for.



HPO Resource Quick Links

- [Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans \(DCHV\) Program](#) uses modern, advanced medical techniques in a residential setting for 24/7 support that enables Veterans to live independent, fulfilling, and healthy lives.
- [Health Care for Homeless Veterans \(HCHV\) Program](#) offers outreach, exams, treatment, referrals, and case management to homeless Veterans at more than 135 sites where trained, caring VA specialists provide tools and support necessary to get life on a better track.
- [Readjustment Counseling Service's Vet Center Programs](#) feature community-based locations and outreach activities that help to identify and match homeless Veterans with necessary services.
- [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing](#) (HUD-VASH) is a collaborative program between HUD and VA that combines HUD housing vouchers with VA supportive services to help Veterans who are homeless and their families find and sustain permanent housing.
- [Enhanced-Use Lease](#) (EUL) Program is a VA portfolio management tool that allows certain land and buildings to be leased to eligible private entities for approved supportive housing and related projects for homeless and at-risk Veterans.
- [Supportive Services for Veteran Families](#) (SSVF) provides case management and supportive services to prevent the imminent loss of a Veteran's home or 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.
- As part of funds allocated in the American Rescue Plan, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has [announced the first tranche](#) of Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) [awardees, totaling \\$1.1 billion. Download list of EHV awardees.](#)



HPO COVID-19 Response and Updates

"As of May 31, 2021, **72,554** Veterans currently participating in VHA specialty homeless programs, or who have experienced or were at risk of homelessness in the past 12 months, have received the COVID-19 vaccine.

Everyone always has the right to ask questions about any vaccine or treatment. The best person to discuss concerns with is a health care provider.

HPO Fact of the Month

Did you know?

Veterans who were of younger age or who were unmarried at the time of onset of an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) diagnosis were found to be at a greater risk of experiencing homelessness, according to research published in May 2021 ([Incidence of Homelessness among Veterans Newly Diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias](#)). This Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month (June), VA is proud to contribute to the important conversation about brain health by highlighting the [care for Veterans with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia](#) throughout the full range of VA health care services and the research that continues to identify places VA can innovate and provide support—including for those at-risk of and experiencing homelessness.