

# Serving American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

Homeless Programs Office  
Veterans Health Administration (VHA)  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)



# Urban Indian Outreach

- VA is developing outreach to Urban Indian Organizations (UIO) to ensure awareness of the services VA provides to **Veterans experiencing homeless or at risk of homelessness**.
- VA, Indian Health Service, and UIOs will work together to **schedule in-person meetings** to talk about local needs, resources, and processes to access care.
- By developing mutually beneficial relationships, we hope to **specifically provide services to American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Veterans (AI/AN/NH)** undergoing homelessness/houselessness in their communities.
- **VA intends to make these resources better known and accessible to AI/AN/NH Veterans.**



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# Veterans Affairs Homeless Programs

- VA supports Veterans experiencing homelessness and at risk of homelessness.
- VA homeless programs provide:
  - Access to emergency and transitional housing.
  - Access to permanent housing, with case management supports to sustain housing.
  - Employment and income assistance.
  - Access to health care.
  - Access to legal assistance.
  - Outreach to Veterans in jails, prisons, and court systems.
- See the [print-ready brochure](#) on these programs designed for Native American Veterans.



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# How to Access VA Homeless Programs

- **Take action:**

- If you are a Veteran who is homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless, **call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans** at (877) 4AID-VET (877-424-3838) for assistance.
- You can also call or visit your [local VA Medical Center](#) or [Community Resource and Referral Center](#), where VA staff are ready to help.
- Explore [www.va.gov/homeless](http://www.va.gov/homeless) to learn about [VA programs](#) for Veterans who are homeless and share that information with others.
- Work with VA to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in your community. Learn how you can help by [visiting our Stakeholders page](#).
- Listen to our [podcast](#), Ending Veteran Homelessness, for monthly updates on resources and services. Subscribe today on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), and your podcatcher of choice!
- Download [posters, brochures, and other materials](#) to reach out to Veterans and help VA end homelessness.



# Stand Downs



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- VA works with communities and local government individuals to hold “Stand Down” events.
- Stand Downs can be one to three days, depending on resources/needs/community decisions.
- Offers Veterans experiencing homelessness access to programs and resources to help resolve their homelessness.
- Often have services such as haircuts, meals, and clothing giveaways (dependent on donations).
- Visit our [Stand Down page](#) to see upcoming events.



# Goals

- **Goals focused on housing retention and meeting tenancy.**
  - VA staff and Veterans discuss the Veterans' needs.
  - Veterans determine their own goals.
  - VA staff help the Veteran to achieve their goals by:
    - Providing assistance, support, and resources.
    - Providing education on tenancy rights and responsibilities.
    - Helping with money management/budgeting.
    - Assisting with increasing income to the maximum possible.
    - Assisting with access to health care according to the Veteran's preferences (e.g., traditional healing, health care providers, etc.) from a holistic focus.
    - Revisiting goals and effectiveness of the Veteran's plan to achieve those goals.



# VA Homeless Programs Are Inclusive Services



Photo by [Petty Officer 2nd Class Anita Chebahtah](#)

- Participation does not require:
  - Minimum income.
  - Pre-Sobriety.
  - Pre-treatment.
  - VA's Health Care eligibility.
- Some programs house the Veteran with their family household.
- VA staff are expected to learn about the culture of those they are working with and be respectful of the culture, spirituality, and healing practices of the tribal communities they serve.



# VA Housing Resources

- VA programs connect to housing resources for Veterans experiencing homelessness.
  - **Emergency Housing**
    - The [Healthcare for Homeless Veterans \(HCHV\)](#) program offers outreach, case management and residential treatment services to help Veterans transition from living on the street or in institutions to stable housing situations. Connects Veterans with VA bridge housing, health care and case management services that promote safe, stable living arrangements. HCHV care includes contract residential services (CRS).



# VA Housing Resources

## – Transitional Housing

- VA's [Grant and Per Diem \(GPD\)](#) program is VA's largest transitional housing program for Veterans experiencing homelessness.
- Since 1994, the GPD Program has awarded grants to community-based organizations to provide transitional housing with wraparound supportive services to assist vulnerable Veterans move into permanent housing. The grants are designed to meet Veterans at various stages as they move to stable housing.
- GPD offers six different transitional housing models, including Bridge Housing, Clinical Treatment, Low Demand, Hospital to Housing, Service Intensive, and Transition in Place.



# VA Housing Resources



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## – Permanent Housing

- The [Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing \(HUD-VASH\)](#) program provides **permanent supportive housing** with rental assistance from HUD and **case management** and supportive services from VA to promote housing stability.
- VA's [Supportive Services for Veteran Families \(SSVF\)](#) offers grants awarded to selected private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives that will assist very low-income Veteran families residing in or transitioning to permanent housing. Grantees provide a range of supportive services to eligible Veteran families that are designed to promote housing stability.



# Tribal HUD-VASH



- **Housing and Urban Development – Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)**
  - Tribal HUD-VASH is a small demonstration program in place since 2016 based on the original HUD-VASH program.
  - Offers permanent supportive housing to American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans.
  - Currently limited to 29 tribes and their VA partners as determined by the HUD-awarded grants for rental assistance.
  - The tribe or tribal housing authority provides the rental assistance side of the program.
  - The VA provides case management and supportive services to support Veterans and their households with housing stability.

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# 29 Tribal Grantees and Their VA Partners

Tribe	Parent VA MC/HCS
All Village Council Presidents	Alaska VA HCS (Anchorage)
Cook Inlet	Alaska VA HCS (Anchorage)
Tlingit and Haida	Alaska VA HCS (Anchorage)
Tohono O'odham	Southern AZ VA HCS
San Carlos Apache	Phoenix VAMC
White Mountain Apache	Phoenix VAMC
Hopi	Northern AZ VA HCS
Navajo	Northern AZ VA HCS
Fort Hall (Shoshone and Bannock)	Salt Lake City VA HCS
White Earth	Fargo VA HCS
Leech Lake	St. Cloud VA HCS
Blackfeet	Montana VA HCS
Apsalooka (Crow)	Sheridan VAMC
Lumbee	Fayetteville (NC) VAMC
Turtle Mountain	Fargo VA HCS

Tribe	Parent VA MC/HCS
Zuni	New Mexico VA HCS
Cherokee	Eastern OK VA HCS (Muskogee)
Choctaw	Eastern OK VA HCS (Muskogee)
Muscogee (Creek)	Eastern OK VA HCS (Muskogee)
Osage	Eastern OK VA HCS (Muskogee)
Cheyenne/Arapaho	Oklahoma City VA HCS
Warm Springs	Portland VAMC
Oglala (Pine Ridge)	Black Hills VA HCS
Sicangu Lakota Oyate (Rosebud)	Black Hills VA HCS
Standing Rock Sioux	Black Hills VA HCS
Spokane	Spokane VA HCS
Colville	Spokane VA HCS
Yakama	Walla Walla VAMC
Oneida of Wisconsin	Milwaukee VAMC



# Employment

- **VA Employment Resources:**

- VA's [Veterans Benefits Administration \(VBA\) has Vocational Rehabilitation for Service-Connected Veterans](#) who have become disabled due to an injury or illness while serving in the military.
- VA's **Compensated Work Therapy (CWT)** is clinical vocational rehabilitation program that provides evidence based and evidence informed vocational rehabilitation services; partnerships with business, industry and government agencies to provide Veteran candidates for employment and Veteran labor, and employment supports to Veterans and employers.
- VA's **Homeless Veterans Community Employment Services (HVCES)** to improve employment outcomes for Veterans who have experienced homelessness with Community Employment Coordinators, part of the VHA homeless program teams, providing a bridge to community employment resources and employers ready to hire Veterans exiting homelessness.
- VA's Homeless Programs have employment specialists who help Veterans obtain employment, working with community employers to offer opportunities for Veterans to reenter the workforce.
- VA's Homeless Programs staff also help Veterans access mainstream employment resources, such as one-stop employment centers and Department of Labor Veterans employment programs.



# Income

- VA Homeless Programs staff help Veterans to apply for disability and other benefits:
  - Veterans Benefits Administration
    - Service-connected benefits.
    - Non-service-connected Benefits for Veterans serving during wartime eras.
  - Social Security Administration
    - Disability benefits.
  - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
  - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - Other resources available through federal/state/local governments.



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# Legal Services

- VA's [Veterans Justice Programs](#) (VJP) support Veterans engaged with the criminal justice system. VJP includes outreach in a variety of settings including those in jails and courts. VJP provides prevention-focused assistance, including engaging Veterans with Veterans Treatment Courts and other Veteran-focused court systems. Veterans Treatment Courts are based on the drug and mental health courts that have existed for nearly 30 years.
  - VJP also has new grants to fund organizations that provide legal assistance to Veterans experiencing homelessness.
- VA Homeless Program staff help Veterans access legal aid and other pro-bono legal assistance.
- SSVF also has legal assistance resources that help Veterans navigate Fair Housing and other housing laws.



# Other Services

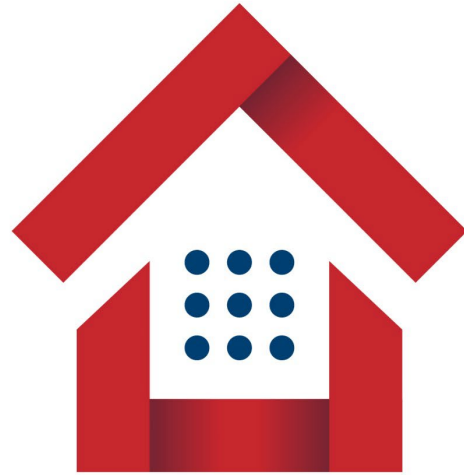


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- VHA Homeless Programs provides a variety of other services, including help with:
  - Finding landlords and helping the Veteran to look at available housing.
  - Negotiating with landlords.
  - The lease-up process, including funding for the security deposit.
  - Managing personal finances.
  - Assisting the Veteran's household members to obtain needed resources.
  - Transportation needs.
  - Housing needs such as furniture, linens, dishes, and more.
  - Obtaining medical care and coordination across different medical providers.



# To Get Help for a Veteran Experiencing Homelessness



National Call Center  
for Homeless Veterans

**877-424-3838**

*va.gov/homeless*

- The Call Center can provide immediate resources, but the local VA facility will need to reach out for more permanent assistance, usually within a few days.
- Be sure to provide a phone number or location to speak with the Veteran for follow-up.



# Questions, Comments, and Discussion



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# Resources

- [VA Homeless Programs](#)
  - [VA Programs For Homeless Veterans - VA Homeless Programs](#)
  - [Upcoming Events - VA Homeless Programs](#)
  - [How You Can Help - VA Homeless Programs](#)
  - [Homeless Veterans Outreach Tools - VA Homeless Programs](#)
  - [Resources for Native American Veterans Brochure](#)
  - [VA Homeless FAQs - VA Homeless Programs](#)