

VA Homeless Veterans Programs

VISN 8



Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Outreach

- VA HCHV outreach teams go into the local community to find homeless veterans in: shelters, parks, under overpasses and bridges, homeless camps, also walk-in's to HCHV community based offices.
- Eligible homeless vets and vets at risk of homelessness are enrolled into VA services and assessed for specific needs.
- Referrals are made to VA and community services including: food, clothing, job training, voc rehab services, CWT/IT, employment, shelter, VA SUD/MH tx, primary care, VA GPD transitional housing.
- HCHV programs in all Network Medical Center Service Areas
- Performance Measure 1b, access to care, SUD/MH assessment within 60 days of HCHV intake.

Healthcare for Re-Entry Veterans Program (HCRV)

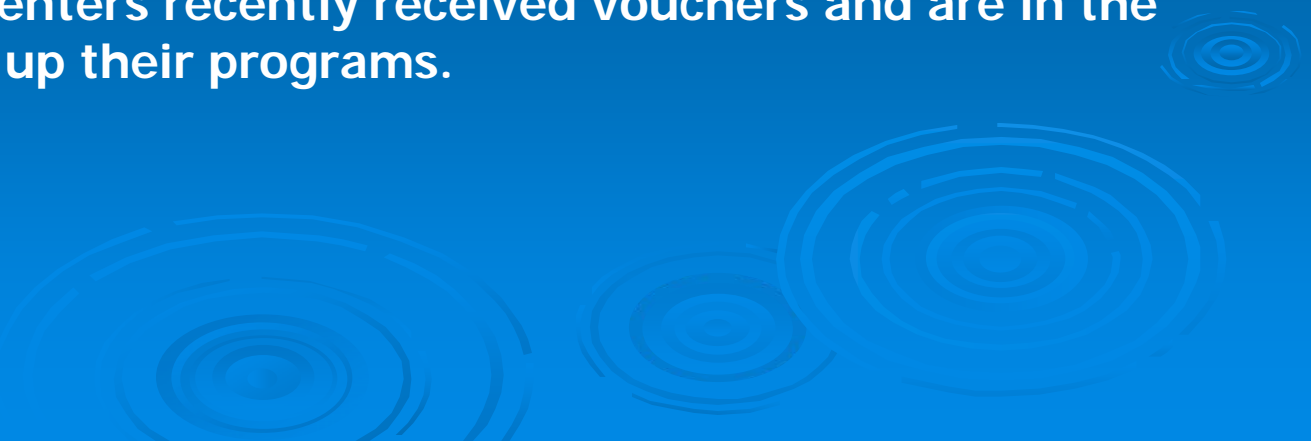
In FY 2007, VHA allocated funding to each VISN for an Incarcerated Veterans Re-Entry Specialist who will be the VA regional point of contact and provide the following services to incarcerated veterans:

- Outreach and pre-release assessments
- Referrals and linkages to medical, psychiatric, and social services, including employment services
- Short term case management assistance
- Resource Guide Book developed for incarcerated vets in pre-release programs in facilities within VISN 8

Incarcerated Veterans Re-entry Specialist

Taylor Alyea (352) 376-1611 ext. 7461

VA Supported Housing (VASH)

- VA and HUD partner to provide Section 8 housing and Case Management to homeless veterans with chronic mental illness.
 - Veterans must have intake from HCHV program and evaluation from VASH Coordinator.
 - Active Programs in Tampa and Miami.
 - Other VA Medical Centers recently received vouchers and are in the process of starting up their programs.
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VA Grant and Per Diem Program

- Offered annually since 1994 by the VA HCHV programs to fund community agencies providing services to homeless veterans.
- Promote development & provision of supportive housing and/or supportive services to help homeless veterans achieve residential stability, increase skill levels and/or income, with increased self-determination.
- Eligible programs must provide supportive housing (up to 24 months), or service centers that provide: vocational training, education, case management, crisis intervention, counseling ect.
- Two levels of funding: The Grant Component and the Per Diem Component.

VA Grant and Per Diem Program

Grants:

- VA funds up to 65% of the cost of construction, renovation, or acquisition of a building for use as a service center or transitional housing for homeless veterans.
- Renovation of VA properties is allowed, acquisition of VA property is not.
- Recipients must obtain 35% matching funds from other sources.
- Grant funding not to be used for operational / salary costs.
- Periodically, funding for vans has been offered through this program to assist community provider GPD grant recipients in transporting their veteran residents to: appointments, employment, training, recreation ect.

VA Grant and Per Diem Program

Per Diem:

- Priority to grant recipients.
- Non-grant programs may apply for Per Diem under a separate announcement, when published in the Federal Register for “Per Diem Only”.
- Can be used for operational costs, including salaries.
- Maximum amount payable is \$31.30.
- Veterans can be asked to pay up to 30% of adjusted income.

VA Grant and Per Diem Program

National:

- Over 8,000 beds in projects across the country.

VISN 8:

- Over 500 beds in 21 projects from Thomasville, Ga. to Key West, and Puerto Rico. 452 operational beds and 59 in development.

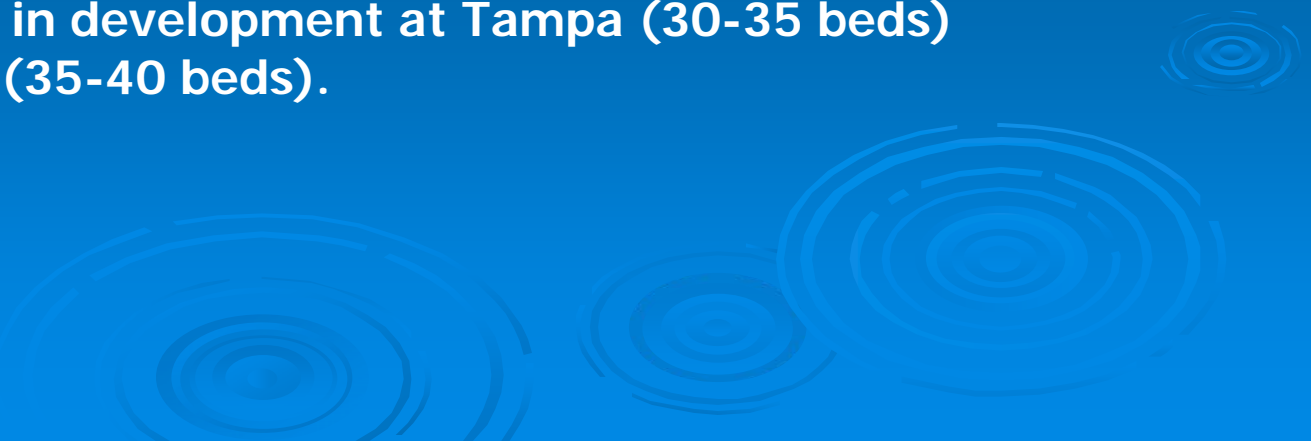
Homeless Women Veterans Program (HWVP)

- Special Population focus GPD transitional housing project
- One project in the Network – Tampa
- Women's issues / counseling
- Vocational training / employment counseling / job placement
- Coordinate services with Women's Health Program at VAMC.

Homeless Veterans Dental Program (HVDP)

- Established in 1992, this program was designed to increase the accessibility of quality dental care to homeless veterans.
- Dental problems such as pain and/or missing teeth barriers to seeking and obtaining employment.
- Help insure the success in VA-sponsored and VA partnerships with homeless rehabilitation programs Nationally.
- Limited eligibility for homeless vets in certain VA-sponsored rehabilitation programs (GPD and DCHV)
- National program office at Bay Pines VAMC.

Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV)

- Provides biopsychosocial treatment and rehab to homeless veterans.
 - Average length of stay 4 months.
 - Conduct outreach and referral; vocational counseling and rehabilitation; and post-discharge community support.
 - Operational DCHV programs at Bay Pines (25 beds) and Orlando (20 beds).
 - DCHV programs in development at Tampa (30-35 beds) and Gainesville (35-40 beds).
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Contract Residential Programs

- Contracted between local VA Medical Centers and Community Providers
- Programs in WPB and NF/SG

Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education, and Networking Groups (CHALENG)

The legislation guiding this initiative is contained in Public Laws 102-405, 103-446 and 105-114.

The specific legislative requirements relating to Project CHALENG are that local medical center and regional office directors:

- Assess the needs of homeless veterans living in the area
- Make the assessment in coordination with representatives from state and local governments, appropriate federal departments and agencies and non-governmental community organizations that serve the homeless population
- Identify the needs of homeless veterans with a focus on health care, education and training, employment, shelter, counseling, and outreach

CHALENG cont.

- **Assess the extent to which homeless veterans' needs are being met**
- **Develop a list of all homeless services in the local area**
- **Encourage the development of coordinated services**
- **Take action to meet the needs of homeless veterans**
- **Inform homeless veterans of non-VA resources that are available in the community to meet their needs**
- **Annual Report**

Stand Down

Stand Downs are typically one to three day events providing services to homeless veterans such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, VA and Social Security benefits counseling, and referrals to a variety of other necessary services, such as housing, employment and substance abuse treatment.

Stand Downs are collaborative events, coordinated between local VAs, other government agencies, and community agencies who serve the homeless.

Each VA Medical Center is expected to participate in at least one stand down in their service area annually.

The first Stand Down was organized in 1988 by a group of Vietnam veterans in San Diego. Since then, Stand Downs have been used as an effective tool in reaching out to homeless veterans, reaching more than 200,000 veterans and their family members between 1994-2000.

VISN 8 HCHV Coordinators

- NF/SG - Vianne Marchese (352) 379 – 7461
- Bay Pines - Catherine Alexander-Ponder
(727) 398 – 6661 ext. 4711
- Tampa - Wendy Hellickson (813) 979 – 3559
- Orlando – Heather S. Gallagher (321) 397-6614
- West Palm Beach – Carla Dasilva (561) 422-7503
- Miami - - Beth Wolfsohn HCHV Progs. Mgr. (305) 541-5864
- San Juan – Daniel Aponte-Ramos (787) 641-7582
ext. 12327

Homeless Domiciliary Managers

- **NF/SG – David Scoates (352) 379 – 7461**
- **Bay Pines – George Rohrmann (727) 398-6661 ext. 4999**
- **Tampa – Gary Kropp (813) 631-7135 ext. 4336**
- **Orlando – Steven Shea (321) 397-6088**

VISN 8 Grant and Per Diem Liaisons

- NF/SG – Donna Liggins (904) 739-1872 x 211
- Bay Pines – Nikki Barfield (727) 398-6661 x 7546
- Tampa - Emily Seales (813) 631-7135
- Orlando – Michelle G. Taylor (321) 397-6615
- West Palm Beach – Sherilda Lyons (561) 422-6427
- Miami – Richard Sullivan (305) 541-5864 x 110
- San Juan – Daniel Aponte- Ramos (787) 641-7582
x 12327

Homeless Veterans Dental Program

Elizabeth Nunez, DMD (727) 398-6661 ext. 4908

Carol Yakimo, RDH (727) 398-6661 ext. 4324

VISN 8 Network Homeless Coordinator

Dan Robbin (305) 541-5864 x136
daniel.robbin@va.gov

VA Homeless Programs on the Web

www1.va.gov/homeless/