

## Resource: For Veterans who are experiencing homelessness

### 1. If you have lost your home and are in Dane County

Call the Madison VA Homeless Program **608-280-2095** and ask for OUTREACH (Heather or April will be happy to help you)

Location: 345 W Washington Ave Suite 501 Madison, WI 53703

***This number is the "Front Door" for all services through the VA, they will meet with you and assess and refer you to all of the programs you are eligible for like:***

- Employment Programs (CWT & HVRP)
- Healthcare Programs (will also help get your DD214)
- Get you connected to Primary Care if you are eligible
- Refer to Mental Health or Substance Abuse Treatment

### 2. If you have lost your home and are outside of Dane County

Call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 1-877-424-3838 and speak to a trained VA responder. The hotline and online chat are free and neither VA Registration or Enrollment in VA healthcare is required to use either service.

#### ***It's worth the call!***

***There are eligibility requirements for all programs, and OUTREACH will assess these when they meet with you. Here are some of the programs you may qualify for:***

**Compensated Work Therapy (CWT)** comprised of three unique programs which assist homeless Veterans in returning to competitive employment: Sheltered Workshop, Transitional Work, and Supported Employment. Veterans in CWT are paid at least the federal or state minimum wage, whichever is higher.

**Homeless Veteran Supported Employment Program (HVSEP)**: provides vocational assistance, job development and placement, and ongoing supports to improve employment outcomes among homeless Veterans and Veterans at-risk of homelessness. Formerly homeless Veterans who have been trained as Vocational Rehabilitation Specialists (VRSs) provide these services.

**The Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program** provides grants and per diem payments (as funding is available) to help public and nonprofit organizations establish and operate supportive housing and service centers for homeless Veterans.

**HUD-VA Supportive Housing (VASH) Program** is a joint effort between the Department of Housing and Urban Development and VA. HUD allocated nearly 38,000 "Housing Choice" Section 8 vouchers across the country. These vouchers allow Veterans and their families to live in market rate rental units while VA provides case management services. A housing subsidy is paid to the landlord on behalf of the participating Veteran. The Veteran then pays the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord and the amount subsidized by the program.

**The Acquired Property Sales for Homeless Providers Program** makes all VA foreclosed properties available for sale to homeless provider organizations-at a 20 to 50 percent discount-to shelter homeless Veterans.

**The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program** provides grants and technical assistance to community-based, nonprofit organizations to help Veterans and their families stay in their homes. Learn more about the SSVF program.

**VA's Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Program** offers outreach, exams, treatment, referrals, and case management to Veterans who are homeless and dealing with mental health issues, including substance use. At more than 135 HCHV sites, trained, caring VA specialists provide tools and support necessary for Veterans to get their lives on a better track.

**VA's Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams (H-PACTs) Program** provides a coordinated "medical home" specifically tailored to the needs of homeless Veterans that integrates clinical care with delivery of social services with enhanced access and community coordination. Implementation of this model is expected to address many of the health disparity and equity issues facing this population and result in reduced emergency department use and hospitalizations, improved chronic disease management, improved "housing readiness" with fewer Veterans returning to homelessness once housed.

**VA's Homeless Veterans Dental Program** provides dental treatment for eligible Veterans in a number of programs: Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation Treatment, VA Grant and Per Diem, Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence, Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (contract bed), and Community Residential Care. VA is working to expand dental care to all eligible Veterans within this program.

**Project CHALENG (Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups)** brings together providers, advocates, and other concerned citizens to identify the needs of homeless Veterans and work to meet those needs through planning and cooperative action. This process has helped build thousands of relationships between VA and community agencies so that together they can better serve homeless Veterans

**Veteran Justice Outreach** provides eligible, justice-involved Veterans with timely access to VA's mental health and substance use services when clinically indicated, and other VA services and benefits as appropriate.

**VA's Substance Use Disorder Treatment Enhancement Initiative** provides substance use services in the community to aid homeless Veterans' recovery.

**The Health Care for Re-Entry Veterans Program** helps incarcerated Veterans successfully rejoin the community through supports including those addressing mental health and substance use problems.

**The Readjustment Counseling Service's Vet Center Programs** feature community-based locations and outreach activities that help to identify homeless Veterans and match homeless Veterans with necessary services.

### **3. Peer Group Help**

#### **a. DRYHOOTCH –a safe place to hang out around other Veterans**

Dryhootch is a place where Veterans can gather informally in a coffee house; a safe, comfortable, drug-and-alcohol-free environment.

- Peer Support
- Addiction Services
- Family

- Readjustment

Address: 2825 University Ave Suite B (next to IHOP, near Madison VA) Madison WI 53705

**(608) 250-2540**

### **b. F.A.C.E.S. Veterans helping homeless Veterans and their Families**

Call (608)446-0667

e-mail: [smilinfacez2014@gmail.com](mailto:smilinfacez2014@gmail.com)

Services – Helping Our Veterans in Areas Like

- Permanent Housing
- Social Interaction
- Drug & Alcohol Addiction
- Job Search
- Disability Eligibility

## **4. Transportation**

**DryHootch Veterans Transport: 608-242-6489.** Veterans with any discharge and/or disability status receive rides to needed appointments and services. **Fares for routed services are \$1.00/ride;** co-pay of individual rides is based on ability to pay, but no-one is denied service based in inability to pay. The service has scheduled stops, but individuals may receive door-to-door service, based on need. Vehicles are accessible. Rides are scheduled through the DryHootch of America Madison office. Service area is Dane County and surrounding communities.

**Ride With Pride: For information: 608-266-4158.** Veterans with VA disability status or have a needs-based VA pension receive a Metro Transit Commute Card (a bus pass). There is no co-pay. Service is curb-to-curb. Metro mainline buses are accessible, but this is not a paratransit pass.

**Vets Helping Vets: For information: 608-238-7787.** Service is coordinated through RSVP. Veterans with any discharge and/or disability status receive rides to needed appointments and services. Donations are accepted but no one is denied service because of an inability to pay. The service is door-to-door, and drivers will assist passengers in getting to the correct location within the clinic or hospital. Rides are provided in the volunteers' own cars. These are individual, not routed group rides. Service is coordinated through RSVP. Service area is all of Dane County.

## **5. Legal Help (Free)**

### **a. Veteran's Service Office (For Concerns about your Benefits)-First Contact**

located in the City-County Building (210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Madison, WI 53703

**608-266-4158**

### **b. Veterans Law Center (VLC)**

- On the second Thursday of each month from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM at the City County Building located at 210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Madison, WI 53703
- On the fourth Thursday of each month from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM at Porchlight, Inc., which is located at 306 N. Brooks St. Madison, WI 53715
- On the fourth Friday of each month from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital, which is located at 2500 Overlook Terrace, Madison, WI 53705

***VLC operates on a walk-in basis, no appointment necessary.***

The Veterans Law Center (VLC) is a free walk-in legal clinic that serves low-income veterans and their families. Volunteer attorneys, along with paralegals and law students, provide brief legal advice, information and referrals on a variety of civil legal matters. Additionally, staff from the Dane County Veterans Service Office provides information about military benefits and other resources available to veterans.

The VLC provides brief legal advice, information and referrals on a wide variety of civil legal matters.

Volunteer attorneys, paralegals and law students at the VLC:

- Help identify the proper course of action in a legal matter
- Explain court rules and procedures
- Assist with the completion of court forms
- Provide referrals to alternative legal resources when appropriate

The **VLC does NOT provide services** (but may be able to suggest appropriate referrals) in the following areas:

- DUIs
- Criminal matters

Staff from the Dane County Veterans Service Office provides information about military benefits, programs and services available to veterans

## 6. Veteran's Court-Dane County

The Dane County Veterans Treatment Court has been given the critical support and cooperation of the District Attorney, the Sheriff, the Public Defender, the Department of Corrections, the Veterans Administration and the Dane County Veterans Service Officer.

The presiding judge in the Dane County Vets Court is Judge David Flanagan, Circuit Court, Branch 12, 608-266-4194.

### Dane County

In October, 2014, the Dane County Veterans Treatment Court conducted its first court session and became the 11th veteran's court in Wisconsin. If a veteran has been or is about to be charged with a crime, and it appears that a part of the problem is a need for treatment, the veteran can ask the County Veteran Service Officer to verify his or her eligibility for treatment from the Veterans Administration. The veteran must agree to participate in regular court supervision during a period of treatment. Each veteran is assigned a mentor, a veteran in the community who agrees to keep in touch with the program participant and will assist in figuring out what he or she needs to do to get back on track. Mentors are recruited through local veteran's organizations, college campus veterans clubs and law enforcement agencies.

The Dane County Veteran Court is potentially available to veterans at both the pre-disposition and the post-disposition stage. Pre-disposition participants may be able to earn, through full cooperation in treatment, a dismissal or reduction of the charge pending. Post-disposition participants, individuals on probation post-conviction, typically have the opportunity to take part in the court's process as a part of their probationary supervision. The Department of Corrections assigns all such veterans to a single probation agent who actively participates in the veteran court process.