

Make a Difference by Hiring a Veteran

Veterans' made a special commitment to serve and protect our nation and it is our duty to make sure they have an opportunity to succeed after facing the challenges of being homeless.

Not only do Veterans offer a diverse skillset that is applicable to many different fields and levels of employment within an organization, but they also tend to have higher retention rates.

Homeless Veterans come from all walks of life, and are comprised of different races, religions, ages, sexes, and service experiences or educational backgrounds.

Veterans who are currently enrolled in VA services have access to a variety of wraparound care, including health services, housing assistance, support that leads to greater job engagement and retention and other VA benefits to ensure their on-the-job success.

How You Can Help

As an employer or someone in the position to hire homeless or at risk Veterans, we're asking you to think outside the box and work closely with a local Community Employment Coordinator (CEC) to recruit, interview, hire and create a positive work environment where Veterans can be successful.

CECs are located in each VA Medical Center (VAMC) and they counsel and pre-screen Veterans to prepare them for potential employ-ment opportunities.

These Veterans are exiting homelessness and are backed by VA's entire network of services and providers.

Work with VA

Organizations in communities across the country are working to connect Veterans with the jobs and support services they've earned. You can too, by helping to spread the word about VA's services and resources.

To learn more about how you can become VA's partner, visit http://www.va.gov/homeless/ get_involved.asp.

Los Angeles, CA Success Story: Eddie
Eddie—a 55-year-old Army Veteran in
Los Angeles—became homeless after
experiencing substance abuse and
many incarcerations for robbery and
drug-related crimes.

After working closely with a local CEC, an employer took a chance on Eddie, and he's now working as a store clerk at a downtown market. His next goal is to become the store manager.



Eligible Veterans enrolled in VA's benefits program have access to its transitional housing programs, health and mental health care, and employment services.

This wide range of services promotes residential stability, increases skill levels and/or income and helps Veterans gain greater self-determination in their swift path to permanent housing. Below are a few examples of services homeless Veterans may qualify for and can receive while working at your organization:

Compensated Work Therapy (CWT): CWT is comprised of three unique programs which assist homeless Veterans in returning to competitive employment: Sheltered Workshop, Transitional Work and Supported Employment.

Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV): The central goal of the HCHV programs is to reduce homelessness among Veterans by engaging and connecting homeless Veterans with health care and other needed services.

Housing and Urban Development - Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program: A "housing-first" model program between HUD and VA where eligible homeless Veterans receive a Housing Choice rental voucher from HUD, paired with VA providing case management and supportive services to sustain housing stability.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF): This program provides supportive services to very low-income Veteran families in or transitioning to permanent housing for those at imminent risk due to a housing crisis.

