

VETERAN PROGRAMS EXPLAINED-VERMONT

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

The VA is comprised of 3 departments; Health (Veterans Health Administration-VHA), Benefits (Veterans Benefits Administration-VBA) and Cemetery (National Cemetery Administration-NCA). Health-VA operates the nation's largest integrated health care system, with more than 1,700 hospitals, clinics, community living centers, domiciliaries, readjustment counseling centers, and other facilities. Benefits-VA administers a variety of benefits and services that provide financial and other forms of assistance. Cemetery-VA operates 136 national cemeteries in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Eligibility to receive services within any branch of the VA varies and many times can be situation-specific. The White River Junction VA Medical Center (WRJ VAMC) is responsible for the delivery of health care services to eligible Veterans in Vermont and the 4 contiguous counties of New Hampshire. These services are delivered at the Medical Center's main campus located in White River Junction, Vermont, and at its 7 Outpatient Clinics (Bennington, Brattleboro, Burlington, Newport, and Rutland, Vermont and Keene and Littleton, New Hampshire).

Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (HCHV)

HCHV is a type of case management that is offered through the VA directly for homeless or at risk Veterans. VA employs wrap around services to assist Veterans with enrollment in all levels of VA care and support to address: medical, mental health, substance use, justice-involvement, employment/education, financial benefits, and beyond. The VA engages Veterans through a comprehensive and customized treatment team approach using Social Workers, Peer Specialists, Certified Employment Specialists, Nursing, and Psychiatry providers.

Contracted Emergency Residential Services (CERS)

CERS pairs emergency shelter beds with ongoing case management services. CERS is administered by the VA in partnership with 1 homeless service provider agency (Open Door Mission-Rutland). Veterans do not have to be VHA eligible to qualify.

Grant Per Diem (GPD)

GPD is a service-enriched transitional housing program that pairs time-limited temporary housing with onsite case management. GPD is administered by the VA in partnership with 4 local homeless service provider agencies (COTS Canal St. Housing for Veterans-Winooski, Veterans Place-Northfield, Veterans Inc-Bradford, Phoenix House-Bellows Falls). Veterans do not have to be VHA eligible to qualify.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

SSVF is a VA grant-funded program that provides wrap around services to eligible and enrolled Veterans. It serves low and very low income Veterans. SSVF utilizes a Veteran choice, Rapid Re-Housing model. In some cases SSVF can provide homeless prevention or diversion assistance. Active Duty Veterans with as little as one day of service may be eligible for support. There are 2 SSVF providers in Vermont (SSVF @ UVM and Veterans Inc. SSVF). Veterans do not have to be VHA eligible to qualify.

U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD VASH)

HUD VASH is a Housing First, permanent supportive housing program that provides rental assistance through permanent subsidies and intensive case management services from a VA Social Worker. This program is administered by the VA in partnership with both VT State Housing Authority and Burlington Housing Authority, for a combined 218 vouchers. The program targets Chronically Homeless Veterans but can serve all eligible literally homeless Veterans. Veterans must be VHA eligible to qualify.

Vermont Veteran's Committee (VVC)

The VVC is a statewide group that serves both federally recognized Continua of Care (Chittenden County Homeless Alliance and VT Coalition to End Homelessness) in Vermont. It is an all-volunteer committee made up of representation from all of the Veteran service providers and other Veteran specific organizations. The Vermont Veteran's Committee provides organizational structure and administrative functions to help the Veteran's access all of the Veteran specific resources available. The Vermont Veteran's Committee serves to ensure homelessness among Veterans is rare, brief and non-recurring. The Vermont Veteran's Committee is developing policies that will directly connect the work of the Committee to that of local Continuum's and their Coordinated Entry policies.