

Veterans Benefits Administration

Homeless Initiatives

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) consists of three Administrations:

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA)

- honors Veterans and their families with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service and sacrifice to our Nation.

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

- is home to the United States' largest integrated health care system consisting of 150 medical centers, nearly 1,400 community-based outpatient clinics, community living centers, Vet Centers and Domiciliaries.

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)

- provides a variety of benefits and services to Servicemembers, Veterans, and their families.

No Veteran Should Be Without a Place to Call Home

VA is committed to ending homelessness among Veterans. Our focus is threefold:

- Conducting coordinated outreach to proactively seek out Veterans in need of assistance.
- Connecting homeless and at-risk Veterans with housing solutions, health care, community employment services and other required supports.
- Collaborating with federal, state and local agencies; employers; housing providers, faith-based and community nonprofits; and others to expand employment and affordable housing options for Veterans exiting homelessness.

Take Action

- Veterans who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless can call or visit their local VA Medical Center or Community Resource and Referral Center where VA staff are ready to help.
- Veterans and their families may also call 1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838) to access VA services.
- Explore va.gov/homeless to learn about VA programs for Veterans who are homeless and share that information with others.

VA Benefits for Homeless Veterans

Many Veterans face challenges throughout their lives that may lead them to lose their home, eventually becoming homeless. VA recognizes that every homeless Veteran's story is different, including their specific needs to help them get back into permanent and stable housing. There are many VA benefits that may support your specific needs, so it is important you know what benefits you may be eligible for.

VA Benefits

- Homeless Veterans may be eligible for a wide-variety of benefits available to all U.S. military Veterans. VA benefits include disability compensation, pension, education and training, health care, home loans, insurance, vocational rehabilitation and employment, and burial.



- **Health Care**

The VA Health Care Network provides care to Veterans across the nation at VA Medical Centers, Community-Based Outpatient Clinics, and Vet Centers. Many of these facilities offer health care programs for homeless Veterans, including mental health services.

- **Housing Assistance**

There are many federal housing programs that can support homeless Veterans and their families. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and VA Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH) partner to provide permanent, supportive housing and treatment services for homeless Veterans.

- **Employment Assistance**

VA has many employment and training programs that provide homeless Veterans and Veterans at-risk of homelessness the opportunity to return to healthy, productive lifestyles within their communities.

- **Foreclosure Assistance**

If you have a VA loan but are having trouble making your mortgage payments, it is very important that you take steps to avoid a foreclosure. VA may be able to help.

VBA Accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2015

- In FY 15, VBA completed **1.4 million benefits claims**, nearly 67,000 more than previous year and highest ever.
- Paid out an estimated \$70.5 billion in benefits to nearly 4.5 million veterans and survivors.

Roanoke VA Regional Office

- Completed **37,718** benefits claims in Fiscal Year 2015.
- Average days pending for homeless claims – **64.3** days.
- There are approximately 783,108 Veterans in Virginia. There are 673,997 who are male and 109,111 who are female.*
- The Roanoke Regional Office pays out over \$191.7 million a month in compensation and pension benefits to 163,615 Veterans.

*As of September 30, 2015

Service Connected Compensation

Disability compensation is a monthly tax-free benefit paid to Veterans who are at least 10% disabled because of injuries or diseases that were incurred in or aggravated during active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training. A disability can apply to physical conditions, such as a chronic knee condition, as well as a mental health conditions, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Non-Service Connected Pension

VA's pension program provides monthly benefit payments to certain wartime Veterans with financial need, and their survivors.

A Veteran may generally be eligible if he/she:

- ❖ was discharged from service under **other than dishonorable conditions**, AND
- ❖ served 90 days or more of active military, naval or air service with at least 1 day during a **period of war***, AND
- ❖ his/her **countable income** is below the maximum annual pension rate, AND
- ❖ meets the net worth limitations, AND
- ❖ is age 65 or older, OR is shown by evidence to have a permanent and total non-service-connected disability, OR is a patient in a nursing home, OR is receiving Social Security disability benefits.

*Veterans who entered active duty after September 7, 1980, must also have served at least 24 months of active duty service. If the total length of service is less than 24 months, the Veteran must have completed his/her entire tour of active duty.

Resources

- www.va.gov
- www.ebenefits.gov
- Accredited Veterans Service Organizations

VBA Homeless Coordinator –

for verifiable homeless/hardship cases

- Addition of homeless/hardship flash to claim with documentation for expedited processing.
- DD214 or service verification letter (*sometimes, depending on variables*).
- Verification of VA benefit payments.

HOMELESS Verification

- Letter from homeless shelter.
- Ongoing documentation from VA Medical Center – includes Grant per Diem & HUD/VASH.
- Letter from government organization providing funds for temporary hotel stay.
- Fleeing domestic violence.

Proof of HARDSHIP

- Eviction/foreclosure notice.
- Late utility bills.
- Vehicle repossession notice.
- Letter from Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) provider/case manager indicating vet receiving funds for homeless prevention.

Release of Information

Must have Veteran-signed release of information to disclose information about a Veteran.

- VA Form 21-3288 or
- VA Form 10-5345

VBA Homeless Coordinator

Christy Campbell

Phone: (540) 597-1475

Fax: (540) 597-1792

christy.campbell@va.gov