

Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV):

Accessing VA Services

6/27/2019

Overview:

- The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is responsible for providing vital services to our veterans. During this session, we will be discussing:
 - Basic VA eligibility requirements
 - Ways to enroll in the VA healthcare system
 - Housing programs available through the VA Medical center for homeless veterans.

Do I qualify for VA services?

- You may be able to get VA health care benefits if you served in the active military, naval, or air service and didn't receive a dishonorable discharge.
- **If you enlisted after September 7, 1980, or entered active duty after October 16, 1981,** you must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which you were called to active duty, unless any of the descriptions below are true for you.

This minimum duty requirement may not apply if any of these are true. You:

- Were discharged for a disability that was caused—or made worse—by your active-duty service, **or**
- Were discharged for a hardship or “early out,” **or**
- Served prior to September 7, 1980
- **If you're a current or former member of the Reserves or National Guard,** you must have been called to active duty by a federal order and completed the full period for which you were called or ordered to active duty. If you had or have active-duty status for training purposes only, you don't qualify for VA health care.
- Visit www.VA.GOV for more information.

Enrollment

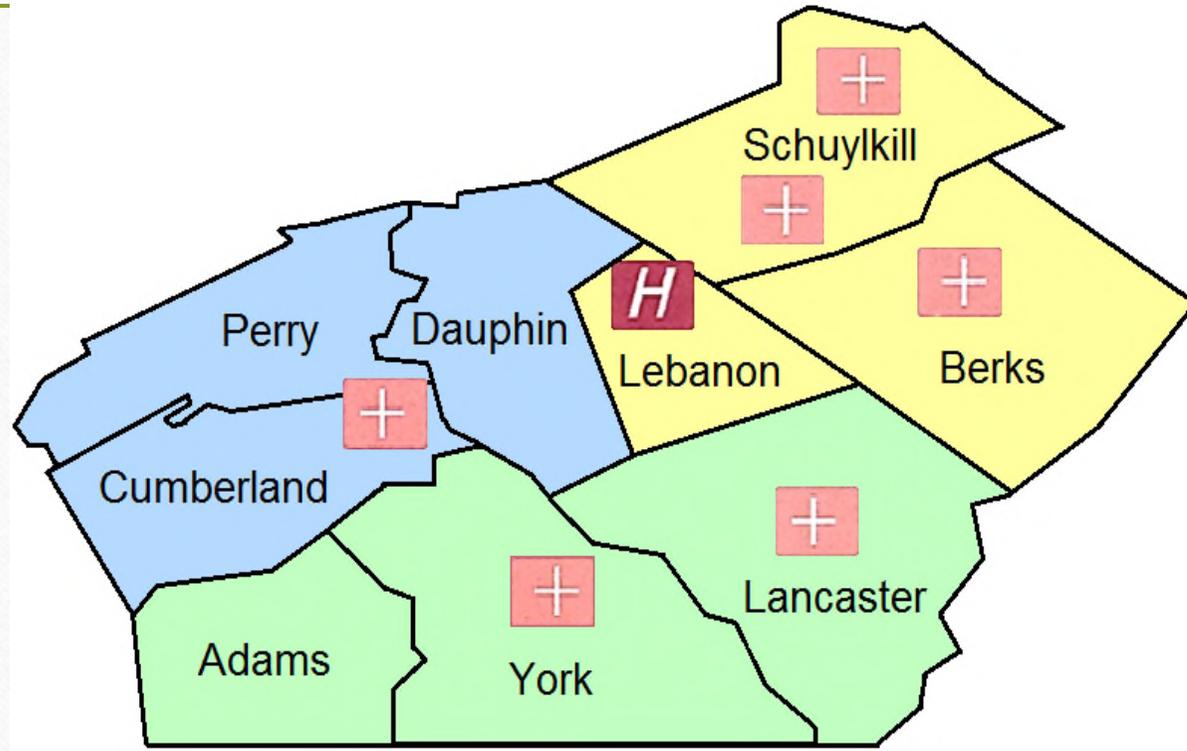
- Apply for VA health care benefits:
 - Online at www.VA.Gov
 - Toll-free hotline at 877-222-VETS ([877-222-8387](tel:877-222-8387)), Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 - In person at your local VA medical center or clinic. (Bring a signed and completed Application for Health Benefits (VA Form 10-10EZ) with you.)
 - By Mail- paper application - VA Form 10-10EZ (Application for Health Benefits) to:
 - Health Eligibility Center
2957 Clairmont Rd., Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30329

Enrollment continued

- For your VA enrollment application to be complete you will need to include the following:
 - Social Security number (required)
 - Copy of your military discharge papers (DD214 or other separation documents)
 - Financial information—and your dependents' financial information
 - Most recent tax return
 - Account numbers for any health insurance you currently have (such as Medicare, private insurance, or insurance from an employer)

For financial benefit questions please contact VBA at:
1-800-827-1000

Lebanon VA Catchment Area



HCHV Program and Services

- Outreach
- National Call Center for Homeless Veterans
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)
- HCHV Community Employment Program
- Transitional Housing
 - Contract Emergency Beds
 - Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Housing
- Housing & Urban Development and VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)
- Justice Programs
 - Veterans Justice Outreach
 - Health Care for Re-Entry Veterans

Outreach

- Social Workers have regular outreach sites in the community to locate homeless Veterans and Veterans that are not currently enrolled with Lebanon VA Medical Center
 - Outreach also includes participating in local continuums of care, homeless coalitions, homeless service provider, and local housing options team meetings
- Connect Veterans to
 - Housing
 - Medical Care
 - Mental Health Treatment
 - Substance Abuse Treatment
 - VA Benefits Counselors
 - Local Resources

Outreach Sites

- Lancaster County
 - Community Homeless Outreach Center (CHOC; located at Water Street Rescue Mission). A HCHV social worker is on-site Mondays mornings
- York County
 - York Rescue Mission. A HCHV social worker is on-site Wednesday mornings
- Dauphin County
 - Bethesda Rescue Mission. A HCHV social worker is on-site Tuesday mornings

Outreach Continued

- Lebanon County
 - Lebanon Rescue Mission. A HCHV social worker is on-site Wednesday mornings.
- Cumberland County
 - Carlisle C.A.R.E.S.. HCHV social worker on-site per request for appointment.
- Berks County
 - Opportunity House. HCHV social worker attends weekly to case manage veteran beds.
 - Hope Rescue Mission. HCHV social worker on-site per request for appointment.
- Adams County
 - Gettysburg Community Soup Kitchen. HCHV social worker on-site per request for appointment.
- Outreach Social Workers receive referrals from other community agencies, VSOs, and local hospitals.

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans

- Veterans who are homeless or at-risk of experiencing a housing crisis can contact the homeless hotline 24/7
- Hotline is also tied into the Veterans Crisis Line and will receive mental health assistance, if necessary
- Calls are referred to local VA Medical Center and answered by HCHV staff
- 1-877-4AID-VET
- 1-877-424-3838

Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 Press 1 at the prompt

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

- The SSVF program uses grant money from the VA to assist homeless veterans to obtain housing assistance on for a short-term basis.
- Participants will receive case management services as well as assistance with a security deposit and/or a few month's rent following enrollment in the SSVF program.
- For HUD/VASH veterans, SSVF they can provide a security deposit if they meet the eligibility criteria.
- SSVF does not follow the same eligibility guidelines at the VA.
- For more specific information please contact the local SSVF grantees (contact information on following slide)

SSVF Grantees

- Opportunity House
 - serves approx. 205 participant households in Berks, Schuylkill, and Lancaster Counties.
- YWCA of Greater Harrisburg
 - serves approx. 75 participant households in Dauphin, Lebanon, York, Cumberland, Adams, and Perry counties
- Catholic Charities Diocese of Allentown
 - serves approx. 65 participant households in Berks and Schuylkill counties
- Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania, Inc.
 - serves approx. 150 participant households in Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York Counties

HCHV Community Employment Program

- The focus of the services will be to promote the optimal occupational functioning of clients within the community by utilizing appropriate counseling, job search, job development, and job placement interventions.
- Through the employment program, these services are available:
 - Resume preparation
 - Negotiations with employers for reasonable accommodation
 - Assistance with completion and submission of job applications
 - Coordination of and transportation to job interviews
 - Interview skill trainings and mock trial interviews
 - Job development and Placement
 - Workshop on employment etiquettes, Do's and Don'ts
- If a more intensive vocational intervention is required in order for the veteran to move toward competitive employment, the Employment Specialist will referred him to the Lebanon VA Vocational Services or to an alternative agency.

Transitional Housing Programs

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Contract Emergency Beds

- Must be VA eligible
- Must be referred by a VA HCHV social worker
- Tomorrow's Hope
 - 10 beds
 - Men only
 - Located in Coalport, PA
- Opportunity House
 - 15 beds
 - Men, women, and families
 - Located in Reading, PA

Grant & Per Diem (GPD) Housing Program

- Community agencies are awarded a grant for the services they offer to help homeless Veterans
 - Services vary by each program
- All programs are a partnership between the Medical Centers and community providers
- Eligible Veterans must be referred by a social worker and a housing application must be submitted
- Length of stay is a case to case basis determined by each Veteran's clinical needs

GPD Housing Locations

- Veterans Victory House, downtown Lancaster
 - 17 beds
 - Men, women, couples, families
- YWCA of Harrisburg, downtown Harrisburg
 - 16 beds, Men only
 - 20 bed, scattered sites (York and Dauphin Counties)
- YMCA of Reading, downtown Reading
 - 4 beds
 - Men only

Housing and Urban Development and VA Supportive Housing (HUD- VASH) Program

Background

- The HUD-VASH Program is a joint effort established by the VA and HUD. HUD-VASH stands for Housing and Urban Development – VA Supportive Housing Program.
- The program combines HUD Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance with case management and clinical services provided by VA staff.
- VAMC Lebanon HUD/VASH program currently serves 300+ Veterans .
- The goal of HUD-VASH is to move Veterans (families) out of homelessness.
- The primary component of the program is VA case management services, which are designed to:
 - Improve the Veteran's physical and mental health;
 - Enhance the Veteran's ability to remain in stable housing

Eligibility

- Basic eligibility requirements for Veterans participating in the HUD-VASH Program include:
 - Meeting VA health care eligibility;
 - Being chronically homeless and in need of case management in order to obtain and sustain permanent housing;
- Admission to the HUD-VASH Program should emphasize Veterans who are chronically homeless and in need of case management services, such as:
 - Substance abuse treatment
 - Mental health services
 - Vocational rehabilitation
 - Medical services

Program Screening

- All referred Veterans must meet with a member of the Homeless Outreach Team to complete an assessment;
- All referrals will be screened for program appropriateness, in addition to a demonstrated need for case management services;
- All Veterans whose referrals were selected during the screening process will be notified of dates/times to meet with their Case Manager to begin the process of being referred to the Public Housing Authority (PHA) for processing and (pending income eligibility review and a negative registered sex offender background check), subsequent awarding of Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV).
- A HCHV housing specialist will work with the Veteran to locate housing.

HUD/VASH Case Management

- HCHV make weekly contact with Veterans in HUD/VASH
- Case Managers offer education and information on VA services, budgeting, employment, psychotherapy, and other viable resources.
- Case management services are geared toward assisting the Veteran with achieving the following broad goals:

HUD/VASH Case Management Continued

- Goals:
 - Maintain the Veteran in permanent housing;
 - Improve the Veteran's overall physical and mental health status;
 - Increase the Veteran's employability and income;
 - Enable the Veteran to live without dependence on alcohol and illegal drugs, if applicable;
 - Assist the Veteran in achieving an optimal level of psychosocial functioning;
 - Improve the Veteran's overall quality of life

Veterans Justice Outreach

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Veterans Justice Outreach Program

- Diversion from jail into treatment programs through Veterans Courts
 - Lancaster
 - York
 - Dauphin
 - Berks
 - Lebanon
- Outreach to local prisons
- VJO Specialist:
 - Gelu Negrea, LCSW (717) 317-0365
 - Carla Cry, LSW (717) 304-1883
 - Katrina Sylvain, LCSW (717) 205-5175

Questions?

Homeless Hotline: 1-877-424-3838

Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 Press 1 at the prompt

VA Health Care Enrollment: 877-222-VETS

Veterans Benefits Administration: 1-800-827-1000