

Oregon and Portland Area Homeless Veterans Resources

(list posted on 5/9/2017)

Who is a veteran?

In general, most organizations use U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) eligibility criteria to determine which veterans can access services. Eligibility for VA benefits is based upon discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions. Any person can be verified to be eligible for assistance from the VA through a check of SSN and D.O.B.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF HOMELESS VETERANS

- 11% of the homeless adult population are veterans
 - 20% of the male homeless population are veterans
 - 68% reside in principal cities
 - 32% reside in suburban/rural areas
 - 51% of individual homeless veterans have disabilities
 - 50% have serious mental illness
 - 70% have substance abuse problems
 - 57% are white males, compared to 38% of non-veterans
 - 50% are age 51 or older, compared to 19% non-veterans
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RESOURCES <https://www.va.gov/homeless/>

Oregon Veterans' Emergency Assistance

The Oregon Veterans' Emergency Assistance Program is for veterans and their immediate family (spouse, un-remarried surviving spouse, child, or stepchild) who are in need of emergency financial assistance. Assistance is granted one time only and average award amounts vary.

Emergency financial assistance includes, but is not limited to, emergency or temporary housing and related housing expenses, such as expenses for utilities, insurance, house repairs, rent assistance, emergency medical or dental expenses and emergency transportation. All payments are made directly to payees/creditors. To receive this grant your application must include a workable plan for future sustainability - how you will meet your future monthly living expenses and obligations. Call your local County Veteran Service Office at 503-373-2085 to talk to someone about your needs.

[Application link](#)

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans

If you are a homeless veteran, you can receive support to get back on your feet. Contact VA's National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838) to speak to a trained VA responder. The hotline and online chat are free and neither VA registration nor enrollment in VA healthcare is required to use these services.

Expert responders staff the hotline for homeless veterans 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The responders can provide emergency support and resources to homeless veterans, family members, as well as community agencies and non-VA providers.

When you call or join the online chat you will be connected to a trained VA responder. The responder will ask a few questions to assess your needs. If you're a veteran, you may be connected with the Homeless Program point of contact at the nearest VA facility.

VA offers these services to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness and their families

VA's Compensated Work Therapy

VA's Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) is 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 the higher.

The 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.

CWT veterans have been successfully employed over the years in various competitive positions including, but not limited to, health care, information technology, manufacturing, warehousing, construction trades, clerical and office support, retail and the services delivery. CWT programs develop an individual rehabilitation plan for each veteran and provide a wide range of support services to the veteran at the CWT locations. VA benefits, including service-connected compensation and non-service connected pensions cannot be reduced, denied, or discontinued based on participation in CWT.

The CWT program mission is to provide realistic and meaningful vocational opportunities to veterans; encouraging successful reintegration into the community at the veterans' highest functional level.

Drop-in Centers

These programs provide a daytime sanctuary where homeless veterans can clean up, wash their clothing, and participate in a variety of therapeutic and rehabilitative activities. Linkages with longer-term assistance are also available. Contact 503-412-4777 for the nearest location.

Stand Downs

Stand Downs are one-to three-day events that provide homeless veterans a variety of services and allow VA and community-based service providers to reach more homeless veterans. Stand downs give homeless veterans a temporary refuge where they can obtain food, shelter, clothing and a range of community and VA assistance. In many locations, stand downs provide health screenings, referral and access to long-term treatment, benefits counseling, ID cards and access to other programs to meet their immediate needs. Contact 503-412-4777 for next stand-down date and location.

HUD-VASH

This joint Supported Housing Program with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides permanent housing and ongoing case management treatment services for homeless Veterans who would not be able to live independently without the support of case management. HUD's Section 8 Voucher Program has designated more than 10,000 Vouchers to Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) throughout the country for veterans who are homeless. This program allows veterans to live in veteran selected apartment units with a Housing Choice voucher. These vouchers are portable so that veterans can live in communities served by their VA medical facility where case management services can be provided. Contact 503-808-1256 for more information.

Portland Area Federal, State & County VA Contacts:

Federal:

National Homeless Vet Call Center: 1-877-424-3838 24hrs a day 7 days a week, 365 a year.

<https://www.va.gov/homeless/outreach.asp> many resources in form of posters and brochures

State:

Director; Cameron Smith, 503-373-2000 or 1-800-828-8801 8am to 5pm Mon-Fri

https://www.oregon.gov/odva/Pages/contact_us.aspx

County:

Veterans Service Officers; Matthew Gunn, Colette Lkein, Mason Muehe, Michael Ochsenbein, Yvette Potter. 503-846-3060 or 503-846-3059

www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/DAVS/Veterans/index.cfm

Oregon Bills currently being considered that will affect Homeless Veterans:

SB 81 - Directs Director of Veterans' Affairs to provide statewide expertise, advocacy, coordination and assistance to veterans to assist veterans in navigating federal, state and local health care and mental health care systems for purpose of obtaining health care and mental health care.

Notes: This is an ODVA bill. Directs ODVA to provide expertise and advocacy for veterans in navigating health care and mental health care systems. No fiscal impact.

SB 129 - Establishes Task Force on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in Oregon.

Notes: Creates a task force on veterans with PTSD.

SB832 - Directs Department of Veterans' Affairs, in collaboration with Office of Rural Health, to establish program to provide grants to qualified nonprofit organizations to provide services to veterans and veterans' families in rural areas of this state.

HB 2520 - Requires Housing and Community Services Department to take into account counties from which document recording or filing fees are charged and collected in making distributions from General Housing Account, Emergency Housing Account and Home Ownership Assistance Account. Notes: Counties collect a document recording fee to support housing for veterans that goes to Housing and Community Services (HCS). Bill requires HCS to take into account the amount collected from a county when distributing funds for programs for veterans. Also, if certain funds established for veterans are not used within two years, monies must go back to the counties for affordable housing.

HB2689 - Establishes Task Force on Innovative Housing Strategies for Veterans.

Notes: Creates task force on innovative housing strategies for veterans. Includes study of acquisition and purchase of housing to provide housing options. Unknown fiscal impact.