



National Veterans'
Technical Assistance Center

Serving Youth and Seniors in Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP)

Virtual Learning Course Series 3, Session 2 of 4
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National Veterans' Technical Assistance Center (NVTAC) Team



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NVTAC

NVTAC Background

- Contracted by Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Services (DOL-VETS) to provide support to Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) grantees
- Provide technical assistance (TA) designed to increase grantees' ability to establish and operate successful HVRP grants
- Support HVRP grantees throughout their period of performance to ensure that challenges are resolved quickly
- Provide effective training and peer-to-peer learning opportunities that result in increased knowledge and adoption of innovative practices among HVRP programs nationwide

TA Services (1 of 2)

- Providing one-on-one TA support to HVRP grantees
- Facilitating monthly Community of Practice (CoP) sessions
- Hosting twice yearly Virtual Learning Series
- Providing consistent training opportunities
- Mentoring and relationship building
- Providing leadership support and development
- Assisting with resource identification and navigation

TA Services (2 of 2)

- Collaboration and partnerships
- Outreach to veterans, employers, or partners
- Training for new staff
- Intake, assessment, and case management
- Embedding diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) in service delivery and operating processes
- Integrating services
- Career-driven training and career pathways
- Leadership skills
- And more!

Youth (Ages 18-24)

Are you currently serving veterans under 25?

Please answer using the poll on your screen

Youth Statistics

- In a survey conducted by Chapin Hall, more than 3.5 million (1 in 10) young adults experience homelessness in one year
 - It is predicted that there is a significant underestimation due to the hidden nature of this population
- Youth with less than a high school diploma or GED are at a 346 percent higher risk of reporting homelessness
- Youth in rural and urban areas experience homelessness at a similar rate, at 9.2 percent and 9.6 percent, respectively
- 42 percent of youth experiencing homelessness had two or more episodes

(Source: Voices of Youth Count, Chapin Hall)

Engagement and Outreach Strategies



- Understanding that this is a hidden population, focus outreach strategies around places that youth gather
- Partnering with youth-centric organizations with a deep understanding of the population
- Joining or building a veteran youth task force
 - Creating feedback loops to continually improve current processes and promote employment
- Creating partnerships with employers for roles in which veteran youth would thrive
- Providing training to equip youth with leadership skills and opportunities for career growth that aligns with the goals indicated in their Individualized Employment Plan (IEP)

Case Management Strategies

- Encouraging safe family re-connection if their episode of homelessness was due to a family dispute
- Connecting youth with counseling services
- Providing referrals to wrap-around services
- Provide or identify age-related training and services
- Assist with connection to technology and internet
- Providing solutions for public transportation or rideshare
- Facilitating referrals for resources that HVRP cannot provide
- Establishing a peer group for employed youth

Job Development Techniques

- Connecting youth with resources that provide needed interview attire and other necessities
- Connecting youth to American Job Center (AJC) for employment services and training opportunities
- Assisting youth with building a resume to highlight their skill set even with minimal job experience
- Connecting youth with employment mentors
- Ensuring that youth have access to technical skills development, paid internships, soft skill development, and other training resources
- Identifying transferrable skills from their military experience that can be utilized in the workforce

Resources

- [Voices of Youth Count: Chapin Hall](#)
- [Youth Career Development and Exploration](#)
- [Resources for Youth Homelessness: Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\) Exchange](#)
- [National Alliance to End Homelessness: Youth and Young Adults](#)
- [National Network for Youth: Youth Homelessness](#)
- [Covenant House: Youth Homelessness](#)

Interactive Activity

What challenges are you experiencing when reaching and serving youth?

What are some best practices or innovative solutions you have utilized when working with youth?

Seniors (Ages 55+)

Are you currently serving veterans over 55?

Please answer using the poll on your screen

Senior Statistics

- Individuals over the age of 50 make up over 30 percent of the national homeless population
- Homeless adults over the age of 50 experience mortality at a rate of four times higher than the general population
- Homeless adults age 10-20 years faster than their non-homeless counterparts
- Senior patients experiencing homelessness account for more than 30 percent of emergency department visits by adults experiencing homelessness

(Source: Simmons University)

Engagement and Outreach Strategies



- Partnering with senior resources such as American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) employment services
- Conducting local analysis of the locations where seniors experiencing homelessness gather
- Understanding the specific needs of seniors in the workplace and connecting them with appropriate support
- Partnering with employers who advocate and provide support for seniors re-entering the workplace
- Connecting with community colleges and training services that provide resources for seniors re-entering the workplace

Case Management Strategies

- Facilitating family connections and relationship building
- Providing or identifying age-related training and services
- Removing technology barriers
- Providing solutions for transportation and mobility barriers
- Facilitating referrals for resources that HVRP cannot provide
- Establishing a peer group for employed seniors
- Ensuring that HVRP processes are appropriate for seniors

Job Development Techniques

- Assisting seniors with resume building based on prior experiences and skills
- Identifying transferrable skills from their military experience that can be utilized in the workforce
- Connecting seniors with soft skills development training
- Assisting seniors in adapting to modern workplace culture
- Empowering seniors to feel confident re-entering the workforce
- Identifying gaps in seniors' current knowledge and addressing them with training and support

Resources

- [Aging on the Streets: America's Growing Older Homeless Population](#)
- [Senior Navigator](#)
- [How to Help Homeless Seniors](#)
- [AARP Community Service Employment Program](#)
- [U.S. Department of Labor \(DOL\): Senior Community Service Employment Program](#)

Interactive Activity

What challenges are you experiencing when reaching and serving seniors?

What are some best practices or innovative solutions you have utilized when working with seniors?



Questions?

Thank you!

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