

## NVTAC Monthly Newsletter: February 2023

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### FEBRUARY SPOTLIGHTS



#### **The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Has Surpassed its Goal to Place 38,000 Veterans in Permanent Housing in 2022**

The VA tracked the number of veterans who entered permanent housing as well as the overall number of permanent housing placements that occurred between January and December 2022. These placements occur when VA staff or VA-funded grantees help veterans experiencing homelessness move into permanent housing, whether the homes are owned or rented by the veterans, with or without a subsidy to help make the housing affordable.

By the end of 2022, the VA surpassed its goal by 6.3 percent, having placed 40,401 veterans into permanent housing.

**[VA Exceeds Goal to Permanently House 38,000 Veterans](#)**

## **\$5.6 Billion in Annual Grants for Homeless Assistance and Affordable Housing**



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced a first-of-its-kind package of grants and vouchers totaling nearly \$315 million to address homelessness among people in unsheltered settings and in 46 rural communities. Over the next few weeks, HUD plans to award grants to an additional set of communities and allocate housing vouchers to awarded communities.

### **[HUD Grants](#)**



## **Questions and Answers (Q&A) for the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) Bidders' Conference Are Now Available**

The [Bidders' Conference Q&A document](#) provides responses to questions posed at the HVRP Bidders' Conference held on December 15, 2022. Questions have been synthesized for clarity. The Q&A document is based on historical Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) guidance. Using information from past FOAs is an excellent

starting point when preparing to apply for the current HVRP grant. The 2023 FOA will have complete and up-to-date information, so it is imperative to review it upon its release before applying.



## **Huge Strides Have Been Made to End Homelessness**

A recent article written by U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Executive Director Jeff Olivet highlights the successful work of the Biden-Harris administration over the past year and renews hope for a future where "despite all the division in our country and in the world, we can come together to create a country where no person experiences the tragedy and indignity of homelessness, a nation where everyone has a safe, stable, accessible, and affordable home."

Successes include an 11 percent reduction in veteran homelessness; the Housing Supply Action Plan, which aims to close the housing supply shortfall in five years; and "All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness," the national plan to reduce homelessness by 25 percent by 2025, which "will do more than any previous federal effort to systemically prevent homelessness and combat the systemic racism that has created racial and ethnic disparities in homelessness."

### **[How USICH and the Biden Administration Are Addressing Homelessness](#)**



## **VA Proposes Rule to Waive Copays for Eligible Native American and Alaska Native Veterans**

The VA proposed a rule that would waive copayments incurred on or after January 5, 2022, for eligible American Indian and Alaska Native veterans.



If finalized as proposed, eligible American Indian and Alaska Native veterans who have submitted appropriate documentation to the VA would no longer be required to pay copays for health care services. The intent of this policy is to encourage veterans to seek regular primary care treatment, which can yield better health outcomes. Copayments for more than three visits to community-based urgent care in any calendar year would still be required, as it is for all veterans. Follow-up care provided by a VA-authorized primary care provider would be exempt from copays.

### [Copay Exemptions](#)



## **Asking for Help Can Be the Hardest Part**

Cameron McMillan, who served as a field artillery officer in the Army National Guard and is an Iraq combat veteran, wrote a powerful, candid piece for the War Horse, a nonprofit newsroom reporting on the human impact of military service. In the article, he describes his experience struggling with mental health challenges while in the army and how his friend saved his life. Although a lot has been done to reduce military mental health stigma, McMillan describes the army as a place where a toxic culture that minimizes mental health concerns is still present and actively hurting those who serve.

### [McMillan's Story](#)



## **New Scholarship Program for Aspiring VA Mental Health Professionals**

During the summer of 2023, the VA expects to award scholarships that would cover up to two years of graduate studies for individuals pursuing graduate degrees in

psychology, social work, marriage and family therapy, or mental health counseling. Upon completion of their degrees, these mental health professionals will serve full-time for a period of six years at one of VA's 300 Vet Centers, which are community-based counseling centers that provide a variety of social and psychological services to eligible veterans, service members, and their families.

During that six-year period, the professionals will be placed in underserved areas that need additional mental health professionals and in states with a per-capita population of more than 5 percent veterans.

### [VA Scholarship Program](#)

## RESOURCES



### What Are the Best Universities for Veterans?

An [article published on World Veterans](#)—a charity and digital platform that brings together veterans, their families, and veteran support organizations—revealed the top universities for veterans. The University of Phoenix, the University of Maryland, the University of California System, and Texas A&M University hold the honors of the top spots, given they all provide specialized resources and training for veterans. The article also includes tips on finding universities that best suit veterans in their area.



### The National Institute for Innovation and Technology (NIIT) Helps Veterans Find Careers in the Tech Industry

Mike Ziobro, a veteran who spent four years in the Marine Corps as a light armored vehicle mechanic, struggled when he transitioned back into civilian life in 2010. He had a handful of jobs before he discovered [NIIT's apprenticeship program](#) and found a

career he loved. "My new career, along with the assistance of the apprenticeship program, has really sparked my desire again to be part of a team and better myself," he said.

## EVENTS



### **Making Careers Happen for Veterans (MCHV): Community of Practice (CoP)**

Have you taken a class with the National Veterans' Training Institute (NVTI) lately? Be sure to check out the MCHV: CoP.

The MCHV: CoP is the perfect place to continue learning after class and connect with others in the public workforce system who serve veterans. Through this CoP, you have the opportunity to discuss important topics with peers as well as ask questions directly to, and receive timely responses from, Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) leadership. Check out some of the latest responses from VETS leadership by logging into the MCHV: CoP, selecting the "Topics" tab, and then searching for the "!!! Ask a Fed !!!" topic area.

If you need help accessing NVTI's MCHV: CoP, follow the instructions outlined in the [National Veterans' Training Institute \(NVTI\)'s MCHV: CoP Microlearning videos](#)

## **Hiring Our Heroes**

A U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation Program

## Hiring our Heroes (HOH) - Military Community Recruitment Made Easy

HOH connects businesses with individuals from the military community who are ready to work through [hiring events](#), where businesses can connect with transitioning service members, veterans, and military spouses at virtual and in-person hiring events and [fellowship programs](#) that provide transitioning service members, veterans, military spouses, and military caregivers with professional training and hands-on experience in the civilian workforce.

