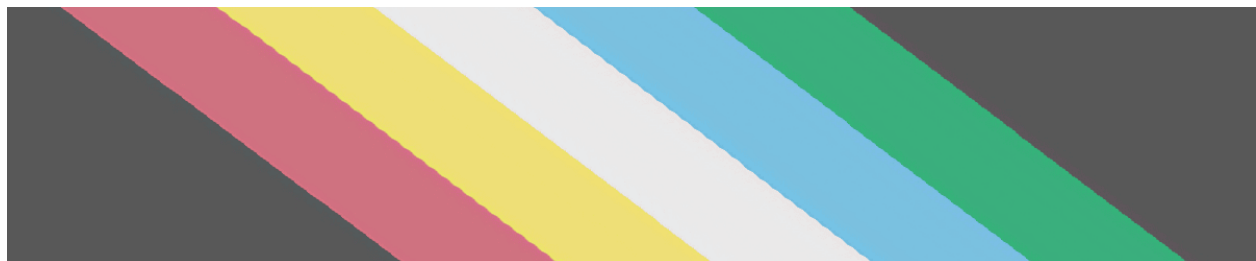


NVTAC Monthly Newsletter: July 2023

Monthly Newsletter
July 2023



JULY SPOTLIGHTS



Celebrating Disability Pride Month

July celebrates Disability Pride Month. This annual observance promotes visibility and mainstreams awareness of the positive pride felt by people with disabilities. Disability pride awareness parades and festivals aim to uplift and challenge misconceptions. It is a time to accept and honor each person's uniqueness and see it as a natural and beautiful part of human diversity.

[What is Disability Pride?](#)



White House Taking New Steps to Address Veteran Homelessness

The Biden-Harris administration announced new steps to prevent and reduce veteran homelessness as well as the largest-ever single-year investment in communities' homelessness response systems.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is issuing a Notice of Funding Opportunity to provide approximately \$3.1 billion under the Continuum of Care (CoC) program, which is the largest-ever, single-year investment through this program to help communities address homelessness. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is awarding \$11.5 million in first-of-their-kind grants for legal services for homeless veterans. The Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL-VETS) is awarding more than \$58 million in grant funding to help veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness reintegrate into the labor force. Finally, HUD and VA are launching a series of "Boot Camps" to help public housing agencies and VA Medical Centers improve their processes and more quickly transition veterans experiencing homelessness to permanent housing.

[New Actions to Address Veteran Homelessness](#)



Preventing and Ending LGBTQI + Homelessness

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) recommitted its efforts to preventing and ending LGBTQI+ homelessness in a recent article that discusses discrimination that people who identify as LGBTQI+ face, which has resulted in exclusion or limited access to health care, housing, jobs, education, and safety, all of which can lead to greater financial instability and a higher risk of experiencing homelessness. These issues are further compounded, given that many are turned away from shelters solely based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

"USICH is committed to building a country where everyone has a home. (...) Together, we can ensure that people of all gender expressions and sexual orientations have a safe, stable, accessible, and affordable home."

[USICH Commitment to Preventing and Ending LGBTQI+ Homelessness](#)



Plans to Develop a 15-Acre Veterans Campus in Franklin, New Hampshire (NH)

Easterseals NH unveiled plans to develop a 15-acre veterans campus in Franklin, which will be a central hub for providing housing and a range of services to former members of the military in NH. This campus, which will be the first of its kind in NH, will feature 30 units of affordable housing, a retreat center with event space, 24 short-term hotel-style rentals, and a co-working space for service providers. Outdoor amenities will include a playground and a challenge course with obstacles. The campus will be funded by \$23 million in unused pandemic relief funds.

[More about the 15-Acre Veterans Campus](#)



City of Tents: Veterans Row Podcast

This podcast series tells the true story of Veterans Row, where a group of military veterans experiencing homelessness built a tent city in one of Los Angeles' most affluent neighborhoods and refused to leave as a form of protest.

[City of Tents: Veterans Row Podcast](#)



New Equity Team to Combat Benefit Disparities for Black Veterans at the VA

Black veterans have had their VA benefits denied at disproportionately higher rates than their white counterparts, according to data just released by the VA. A new equity team was recently tasked with investigating and combatting these disparities. "The idea behind the counsel is to tackle these questions and eliminate those disparities as it relates to VA care and VA benefits," said U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough "We also recognize that it may take some time, but we feel urgency because each of these individual cases is not just a number, each of these individual cases is a veteran."

[More About the Equity Team](#)



Unaccredited Coaches Profiting Off of VA Disability Claims

A recent article on [Military.com](https://www.military.com) shed light on unaccredited coaches charging exorbitant fees to help veterans with their disability claims. In order to get benefits, most veterans need to file a disability claim and secure a disability rating (a higher rating equates to better care and compensation for the veteran), which can be a challenging, time-

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consuming task. In their frustration, some veterans hire unaccredited coaches who can charge them huge fees for inaccurate or possibly illegal services and face none of this scrutiny accredited claims agents do.

[Unaccredited Coaches Article](#)

SUCCESS STORY



Do you have a success story you would like to share? If you are a grantee who helped a veteran who is struggling with housing or employment, we would love to hear from you.

[Submit Your Success Stories](#)

RESOURCES



Federal Grants Management Course for Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) Recipients

Join the National Veterans' Training Institute (NVTI) this fall for their [9617: Federal Grants Management for HVRP Recipients](#) class offered from Tuesday, August 22 to

Friday, August 25. HVRP grant award recipients, State Workforce Agency (SWA), and American Job Center (AJC) staff are encouraged to attend this course, which is designed to provide participants with the knowledge and skills to successfully manage their HVRP grants by:

- Understanding the grant-making life cycle and best practice management techniques;
- Recognizing the applicability of current laws relevant to homeless veterans, their spouses, and families and the Uniform Administrative Requirements for all grant awards; and
- Examining the phases of grant award administration.

Register by following the steps on [NVTI.org](https://nvti.org). Please note that in order to provide the best student experience possible, registration for virtual classes closes two weeks before the first day of class.



Veterans History Museum of the Carolinas

Founded six years ago, the [Veterans History Museum of the Carolinas](https://www.veteranshistorymuseum.org/) highlights America's modern wars from World War I to the present day. What sets this museum apart is that over 90 percent of volunteers are veterans or spouses of veterans who tell visitors their personal war stories.

EVENTS



Summer VetFest Encourage Veterans and Survivors to Apply for New Health Care and Benefits

Throughout July, the VA has been hosting over 50 Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) Act Summer VetFest events throughout the country to inform veterans, their families, and survivors about the PACT Act and encourage them to apply for the health care and benefits they have earned. Veterans will have the opportunity to meet with VA health care and benefits professionals who can help veterans apply for PACT Act-related benefits or submit an intent to file, enroll in VA health care, get screened for toxic exposures, and more.

[Schedule of VetFest Events](#)

