

NVTAC Monthly Newsletter: September 2023

Monthly Newsletter
September 2023



SEPTEMBER SPOTLIGHT



National Post-Award Conference (PAC) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Now Available Online

The FAQ documents for the National PAC are now available on the National Veterans' Technical Assistance Center (NVTAC) website. Day one of the PAC covered Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) basics, while day two went over partners and resources, and day three reviewed internet technology (IT) systems as well as performance and reporting.

[Day One FAQ](#)

[Day Two FAQ](#)

[Day Three FAQ](#)

You can find the slides and the recordings of each of the presentations on the [NVTAC website](#).

EVENTS



Empowering Public Workforce Development Professionals: Enhancing Skills for Serving Veterans

Join Hannah Toney, Custom Learning Solutions Director at Management Concepts, and Brandon Webb, Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL-VETS) National Veterans' Training Institute (NVTI) Lead, as they present alongside Harlan Harrell, Workforce Analyst at the Employment and Training Administration (ETA), in the WorkforceGPS webinar "Empowering Public Workforce Development Professionals: Enhancing Skills for Serving Veterans." In this webinar, Toney and Webb will explain what NVTI is and what NVTI resources and opportunities are relevant to Wagner-Peyser staff career development and professional growth. They will also summarize the Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG) program, including primary services provided, staff roles and responsibilities, and highlight upcoming training opportunities available to Wagner-Peyser staff.

The webinar will take place Monday, September 11, 2023, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. ET.

[Register for Webinar](#)

RESOURCES



Podcast About Being LGBTQ in the Military

In this podcast, the National LGBTQ Task Force, dedicated to achieving freedom and justice for LGBTQ people and their families through proactive, targeted, change-inducing initiatives, honors Tanya Domi and Joe Zuniga, two military veterans and

LGBTQ activists who demanded queer equality in the armed forces. These longtime friends discuss what inspired them to come out, how the task force supported their activism, and what they hope for the future of the LGBTQ movement.

[Listen to the Podcast](#)



Veteran Careers in Agriculture

The Military Veteran Agricultural Liaison (MVAL) partners with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) grantees to enhance veterans' access to training in farming and ranching, opening opportunities for fulfilling careers in agriculture.

Ho'ola Farms in Hilo, Hawaii, has been serving veterans with the help of MVAL since 2015. "The funding we've received has helped us provide training, resources, and support to more than 100 veterans over the past 8 years. Many have gone on to start their own farms," said Executive Director Emily Emmons.

[USDA and MVAL's Story](#)



Veterans Are Still Suffering the Consequences of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

National Public Radio (NPR)'s Quil Lawrence covers the story of two gay veterans who were affected by "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," a law introduced in 1993 that forced an estimated 114,000 troops out of the military because of their sexual orientation.

Veterans who received an "other than honorable" discharge from the military under the law were ineligible for veteran benefits, meaning they missed out on benefits like free U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare, VA-backed home loans, or funds for college tuition. The law remained in effect until 2011.

[Veterans' NPR Story](#)

NEWS UPDATES

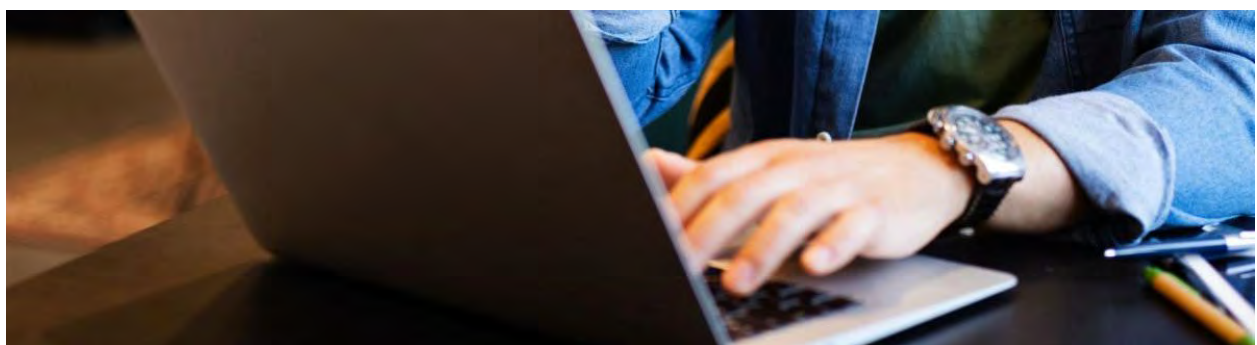


Deadline for Health Care Enrollment for Veterans Deployed to Combat Zones

Until 11:59 p.m. on September 30, 2023, veterans who deployed to a combat zone that never enrolled in VA health care and left the military between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013, are eligible to enroll directly in VA health care through the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

The VA encourages eligible veterans to visit the [PACT Act and your VA Benefits](#) resource page on their website, or call 1-800-MYVA411 to learn more and sign up for VA health care before the deadline.

More than 344,000 veterans have enrolled in VA health care, and more than 4.2 million enrolled veterans have been screened for toxic exposures since the PACT Act was signed into law on August 10, 2022.



VA Modernizing the Disability Claims Process

The VA is in the process of improving the disability claims process. When a veteran files a claim for VA benefits, several administrative actions are needed before a decision can be made, such as gathering medical records and military service records. The VA is automating many of these administrative tasks, which will allow claims processors to

focus on more complex and analytical duties. This will result in reduced processing times and faster decisions on claims for veterans and their families.

[Automating Claims](#)



First-Ever Research Grant Awardees from National Alliance to End Homelessness

In August, the National Alliance to End Homelessness awarded grants to researchers at the Houston School of Public Health at the University of Texas Health Science Center and the University of Southern California, which are valued at up to \$200,000.

Researchers were funded to study variations in the Safe Haven model, which is similar to the Housing First approach, focusing on transitioning people into permanent housing while providing supportive services in a community-based setting. Their goal will be to determine which components are important to achieving positive housing outcomes for veterans who experienced unsheltered homelessness prior to entry.

[Award Letter](#)



Omaha Raises Almost \$300,000 for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness with 50-Mile March

Nearly 90 people marched 50 miles from Lincoln to Omaha to raise funds and awareness for veterans experiencing homelessness in their community. "They shouldn't have to fight for a home or a meal or their next day. They fought for our country already," said Jay Miralles, co-founder of the 50-mile March Foundation.

[Donate to 50-mile March](#)



\$3.1 Billion Towards Homeless Program, Including Help for Veterans

White House officials are providing new legal support and job training programs for veterans with a \$3.1 billion investment in general community support grants to help reduce the number of veterans facing homelessness. Administration officials called the plans “the single largest investment in communities’ homelessness response systems in history.”

[**MilitaryTimes Story**](#)



New Data Suggests COVID Relief Temporarily Reduced Homelessness During the Pandemic

New data from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) suggests pandemic relief efforts, such as emergency rental assistance, eviction moratoria, stimulus payments, expanded unemployment insurance, and child tax credits, helped to prevent a potential surge in evictions and housing instability and temporarily reduced homelessness during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[**HUD Data and COVID**](#)

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](#)

