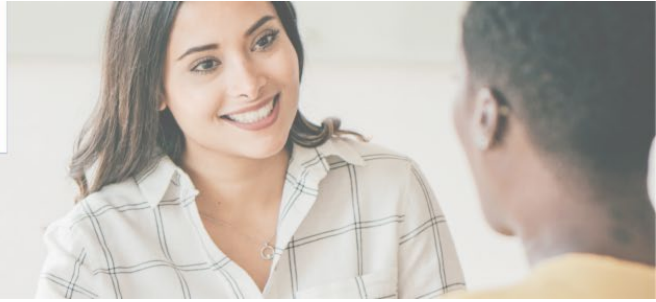


NVTAC Monthly Newsletter: April 2024

Monthly Newsletter

April 2024



APRIL SPOTLIGHT

Meet NVTAC's Data Analyst

The National Veterans' Technical Assistance Center (NVTAC) is excited to introduce our new Data Analyst, Folashade Orimogunje! In her role, Folashade leads efforts to:

Identify regions with veterans experiencing homelessness not currently served by an HVRP grant recipient;

- Work with the Outreach Coach to inform these regions about the benefits of HVRP;
- Analyze data to inform programmatic initiatives; and
- Perform quantitative and qualitative analyses and synthesize insights.

As a Data Analyst with NVTAC, and through her previous roles in the nonprofit sector, Folashade views individuals through the lens of data to generate insights that lead to improved outcomes for all.

Folashade is passionate about helping persons experiencing homelessness and is excited to continue this work by supporting HVRP grant recipients and the veterans they serve.



EVENTS

Virtual Learning Courses

April 23, April 30, May 2, and May 7



Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) Virtual Learning Course (VLC) Series

The upcoming series of the National Veterans' Technical Assistance Center's (NVTAC) HVRP VLCs will take place on **April 23, April 30, May 2, and May 7, 2024**. Each session in the series will provide strategies to obtain and maintain meaningful employment.

Below are the registration links and schedule:

[What is Meaningful Employment?](#)

April 23, 2024, 2 – 4 p.m. ET

[Employment Focused Outreach](#)

April 30, 2024, 2 – 4 p.m. ET

[Employer Engagement and Post-Placement Follow-Up](#)

May 2, 2024, 2 – 4 p.m. ET

[Strategies to Enhance Veteran Engagement](#)

May 7, 2024, 2 – 4 p.m. ET



Volusia County to Hold 'Veterans Stand Down' Event in April

In Volusia County, Florida, the Volusia County's Veterans Services Division is hosting a Veterans Stand Down event in April, providing free services for the county's homeless veterans. The event is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 19 and 20, at the Volusia County Fairgrounds, 3150 E. New York Avenue in DeLand. This event will offer free haircuts,

clothing, lunch, and boxes of food to veterans and their families. Representatives from multiple agencies will also be available to discuss veterans' benefits, career and education resources, homeless veterans' resources and health care information. For more information on the event, click "[Learn More](#)" to read the full article.

RESOURCES



Resources to Support Housing-Related Services for People Experiencing Homelessness

Many people experiencing homelessness benefit from interventions that package housing assistance with case management and other wraparound supportive services. That can mean finding and connecting to services that are available in the community, such as childcare, employment training, a community health center, or behavioral health care, and can be accomplished by providing information, making a referral, or utilizing more structured service approaches like Critical Time Intervention. These strategies can serve as a tool for any service provider seeking to raise its capacity to address homelessness by collaborating across the full spectrum of federal programs and not just programs exclusively targeted to people experiencing homelessness. For more information about federal health programs and resources that providers can leverage to provide supportive services to help people experiencing homelessness, read the full article by clicking "[Learn More](#)."



VA Announces Veterans Affairs Servicing Purchase (VASP) Program to Help More Veterans Stay in their Homes

On May 31, 2024, the Department of Veterans Affairs will launch a new program—[VASP](#)— to help more than 40,000 Veterans experiencing severe financial hardship

avoid foreclosure and stay in their homes. VASP is a new, last-resort home retention option for eligible Veterans, active-duty Service members, and surviving spouses with VA-guaranteed home loans who are experiencing severe financial hardship. Through VASP, VA will purchase defaulted VA loans from mortgage servicers, modify the loans, and then place them in the VA-owned portfolio as direct loans. Veterans will not apply directly for VASP. Instead, beginning May 31, mortgage servicers will identify qualified borrowers and submit requests on behalf of Veterans based on a review of all home retention options available and qualifying criteria. Veterans who are having difficulty reaching a resolution with their mortgage servicer can contact VA at 877-827-3702, option 4.



April Second Chance Month

Second Chance Month in April aims to raise awareness about the challenges those with criminal records often face. It is a specific chance to advocate for the reintegration of justice-involved veterans into society and highlights the importance of providing opportunities for and access to rehabilitation, employment, housing, and other supportive services. The National Veterans' Training Institute (NVTI) provides many resources to support veteran service providers. These include resources specific to the unique needs of justice-involved veterans at [NVTI Useful Resources](#) along with many other targeted special populations. Additionally, for just-in-time support, listen to the podcast, [Episode 11 – Serving Justice-Involved Veterans](#), and read the article, [Housing Solutions Can Help Address Recidivism Among Justice-Involved Veterans](#) for important insights to support justice-involved veterans. NVTI also offers the 1-day course [9610/JIVS: Career Coaching for Special Populations: Serving Justice-Involved Veterans \(JIVs\)](#). Visit [NVTI.org](#) for these resources and more.

Who are NVTAC and NVTI and how do they differ? NVTAC provides technical assistance and training opportunities specifically for HVRP staff, and NVTI provides professional instruction and coursework for Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG), DOL-VETS federal staff, and other veteran service providers (VSPs) including HVRPs.



VA Calls for Applicants for Specially Adapted Housing Assistive Technology Grant

VA is calling for applicants for the [2024 Specially Adapted Housing Assistive Technology \(SAHAT\) grant](#). Since 2016, assistive technology grants have been awarded to individuals, researchers, and organizations to develop new technology that enhances the ability of very seriously disabled Veterans and service members to live more independently. This year, applicants must submit their proposals by 11:59 p.m. EST on April 28. Grants of up to \$200,000 are awarded each approved year to SAHAT innovator candidates selected by the VA Loan Guaranty Service executive director. These research grants are proven to have an impact on Veterans' lives, resulting in new products like thought-based control of assistive technology for Veterans with neuromuscular impairments and smart home mobility modifications and safety monitoring.

NEWS UPDATES



HVRP In the News

HVRP grant recipient Veterans Inc. was in the news recently highlighting their services, which helped a veteran transition into a successful career in the trades. The Maine veteran was struggling with housing and employment and ended up unhoused. After connecting with Veterans Inc. "they assisted me with finding work, assisted me with finding food supplies, just general help with my life," the veteran said. From there, he

was able to join a trades course at his local community college and now works in electrical design. To read the full article, click "[Learn More](#)."

Know of an HVRP grant recipient that has made the news? Contact us at contact@nvtac.org so we can feature them in our newsletter!



Basic Rights for Homeless People Are on the SCOTUS Agenda

Later this month, the Supreme Court will hear a case, Johnson v. Grants Pass, brought by plaintiffs in Oregon who are contesting a law that criminalizes camping. The basic question of this case is whether laws designed to punish people for being homeless are a violation of the Eighth Amendment's protection against cruel and unusual punishment. The plaintiffs argued that the Constitution applies to everyone, regardless of whether they have access to housing. The case will potentially have life-altering implications for the nearly seven hundred thousand Americans who don't have homes. In the long term, limiting cities' ability to clear away the human externalities caused by the profit seeking of developers and landlords could potentially push the federal government toward increasing and revitalizing public housing. For more information about the history and implications of this case, click "[Learn More](#)" to read the full article.



Navajo Nation Announces \$50M Contract for Housing Needs

The Navajo Nation announced a \$50 million contract to [construct 200 free homes for Navajos in dire need](#) March 12. After the closure of the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) in 2019, as many as 1,000 jobs were lost. This hurt the Navajo Nation, which was already facing an acute unemployment rate that sits at 56% today. Now, some of those former NGS employees are finally going back to work, but this time for ZenniHome, and ready to build badly needed homes with federal funds from the

American Rescue Plan. This partnership between the Navajo Nation and Mesa-based company is meant to kickstart mass-scale manufacturing to meet a severe housing demand on the reservation and help Page bounce back following the shutdown of the NGS.

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 at contact@nvtac.org.

OUTREACH AT NVTAC

The NVTAC Outreach Coach is available to provide information, answer questions, and guide interested organizations through the process of getting involved with HVRP. If you know of organizations that could benefit from learning more about HVRP, you can refer them to NVTAC Outreach Coach Miranda Moffat at:

Moffat.Miranda.M@dol.gov

(734) 406-7525

PARDON OUR DUST...

The NVTAC Newsletter is presently working on ensuring the accuracy of our distribution list. To stop receiving our newsletter, click the unsubscribe link and confirm your preference.

[Unsubscribe](#)

