

# NVTAC Monthly Newsletter: September 2024

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## SEPTEMBER SPOTLIGHT



### **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Hospitals Outperform Non-VA Facilities in Patient Satisfaction and Care Quality Reviews**

[VA hospitals have outperformed non-VA hospitals](#) in two major nationwide reviews for patient satisfaction and care quality. In the latest Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Hospital Consumer Assessment, 79 percent of VA facilities received 4- or 5-star ratings, compared to 40 percent of non-VA hospitals. Additionally, 58 percent of VA hospitals earned top ratings in the CMS Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings, outperforming non-VA hospitals for the second consecutive year. Veteran trust in VA care has also reached a record 92 percent, with the VA continuously expanding access to care through initiatives like the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

# RESOURCES



## Supporting National Veterans' Training Institute (NVTI)

### NVTI Course

#### [9610/SUDS: Career Coaching for Special Populations: Serving Veterans with Substance Use Disorders \(SUDs\)](#)

This course provides career coaching professionals with an in-depth understanding of how to identify the challenges veterans with SUDs face and how to assess their capabilities to better assist them in the job search process.

### NVTI Webinar

#### [Grant Closeout Process for Recipients](#)

This webinar, recorded on August 21, 2024, explained the grant closeout process, including the systems used, closeout responsibilities, the timeline, preparing for closeout, and post-closeout responsibilities. It was facilitated by Grant Officer Kia Mason and Grant Management Specialist Tamara Holland.

### NVTI Podcast

#### [Episode 17: Serving Veterans with Substance Use Disorders](#)

This episode provides veteran service providers with expert insights and resources to better serve veterans facing SUDs.

### NVTI Useful Resources

#### [Serving Veterans with Substance Use Disorders](#)

Access additional resources to enhance your ability to serve veterans with substance use disorders.



## **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Eating Disorders Podcast**

In a PTSD Bytes podcast episode, Dr. Colleen Becket-Davenport, member of the National Eating Disorders team for the VA's Office of Mental Health, discusses the link between PTSD and eating disorders with Dr. Joanna Dognin from the VA's National Eating Disorders team. Eating disorders, which include behaviors like restricting, bingeing, and purging, can affect anyone, including veterans and service members, who may be more prone to disordered eating due to military pressures. Trauma, such as PTSD, often exacerbates these behaviors as coping mechanisms. Treatment requires a tailored approach, and veterans can access specialized care through the VA's eating disorder and PTSD teams. Digital resources like the [Recovery Record](#) and [PTSD Coach](#) apps offer additional support.

[Listen to the PTSD Bytes Podcast](#)



## **Free, Personalized Career Guidance for Veterans and Military Spouses**

The [American Corporate Partners \(ACP\) Mentoring Program](#) provides free, customized mentorships for post-9/11 veterans, active-duty spouses, and eligible

military spouses. The program connects participants with corporate professionals who assist with resumé review, career exploration, job advancement, work-life balance, and more. Mentorships last one year, with monthly meetings to support career goals. Each pairing is hand-selected by ACP staff based on compatibility, career interests, and experience.

## NEWS UPDATES



### **\$806.4 Million in Grants to Combat Veteran Homelessness and Support At-Risk Veterans**

The VA announced it will distribute [\\$806.4 million in grants to support homeless and at-risk veterans](#) through two key programs: the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) and the Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (GPD) programs. The SSVF program will allocate approximately \$797.5 million to 239 community organizations, aiding in rapid rehousing and preventing veteran homelessness. The GPD program will provide \$8.9 million to 14 organizations, offering transitional housing and case management services for special populations of homeless veterans. These efforts are part of the VA and Biden-Harris Administration's broader initiative to end veteran homelessness, which has seen a 52 percent reduction since 2010. The grants build on the "Housing First" approach, focusing on securing housing for veterans and providing essential support services. Recent policy changes by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the VA aim to expand housing assistance eligibility for veterans.



### **Thousands of Veterans Receive Free Mammograms Under SERVICE Act**

The SERVICE Act, signed into law on June 2, 2022, expanded breast cancer risk assessment and mammogram screening eligibility for veterans potentially exposed to



toxic chemicals during deployment. Since then, [about 9,500 veterans, including those at Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital, have completed a breast cancer risk assessment](#). Marine Corps veteran Frances Baker and Navy veteran Desmani Phillips, who benefited from the screenings, emphasize the importance of these resources in providing peace of mind and early detection, especially given their potential exposure to hazardous chemicals during military service.



## **VA Offers Advanced, Personalized Care to Treat Prostate Cancer**

September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. The VA has provided critical support to over 15,000 veterans diagnosed annually. The VA's comprehensive approach includes cutting-edge initiatives like the National Precision Oncology Program, Clinical Pathways, and Virtual Tumor Boards to ensure veterans receive the most effective and personalized care possible.

Learn more about the [new and expanding programs](#) the VA offers to support veterans with prostate cancer.



## **\$10 Million to Support Housing for Native American Veterans Experiencing Homelessness**

HUD announced [over \\$10 million in funding to provide rental assistance and supportive housing services to Native American veterans experiencing or at risk](#)

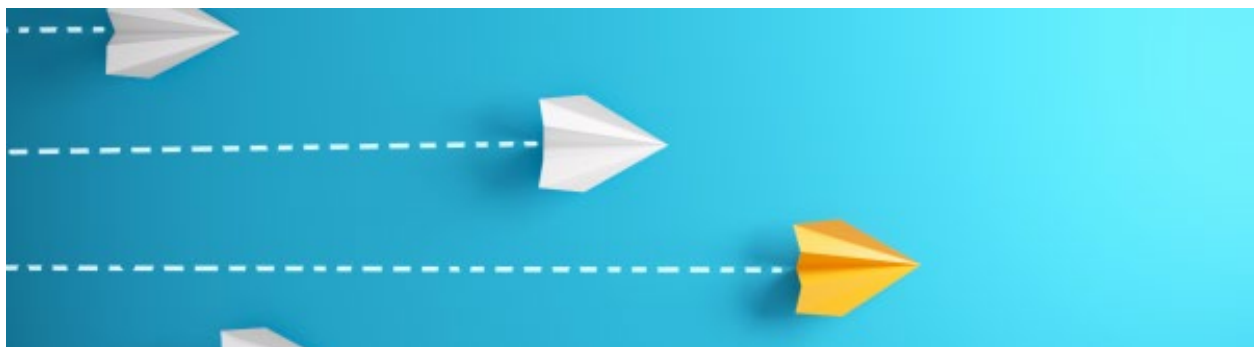
**of homelessness**. This funding, part of the Tribal Housing and Urban Development - Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program, supports 29 grant recipients, allowing nearly 500 Native American veterans to maintain housing and offering new opportunities for homeless veterans. HUD Acting Secretary Adrienne Todman emphasized the commitment to expanding services for Native American veterans, and the program has been a key resource in reducing veteran homelessness by over 50 percent since 2010. This initiative aligns with the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to strengthen support for Tribal Nations and address housing challenges in Native communities.



## **AI-Powered Training Enhances Suicide Prevention for Veterans**

A year after the VA launched its \$20 million Mission Daybreak challenge to reduce veteran suicides, innovations like [ReflexAI's crisis line training program](#) are making an impact. ReflexAI uses artificial intelligence to simulate crisis scenarios, providing advanced training for Veterans Crisis Line (VCL) responders. The program includes AI-driven personas that reflect diverse veteran experiences, helping responders offer more personalized and effective care. This supplemental training enhances the skills of VCL's expanding team, which has answered nearly nine million calls since 2007. ReflexAI's technology aims to deepen the VA's efforts to prevent veteran suicides.

## **EVENTS**



## **Jobs in Management and Leadership for Veterans**

Join Jacey Eckhart, MA CPCC, Military.com's Transition Master Coach, for this course focused on helping military veterans transition into leadership roles in civilian careers in

government or business. Participants will learn how to exit military leadership roles, translate their leadership skills effectively to civilian employers, identify leadership opportunities, and lead within their new roles. The class aims to guide veterans in leveraging their leadership experience while navigating the challenges of transitioning to civilian leadership positions.

This virtual Master Class will take place on [Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 4 p.m. ET.](#)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:Moffat.Miranda.M@dol.gov)

(734) 406-7525

