

NVTAC Monthly Newsletter: November 2024

Monthly Newsletter

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NOVEMBER SPOTLIGHT



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Exceeds Goal, Housing Nearly 48,000 Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

The VA announced it housed 47,925 veterans experiencing homelessness in fiscal year (FY) 2024, exceeding its target of 41,000 by nearly 17 percent, marking the highest number housed in a year since 2019. Notably, 96 percent of these veterans did not return to homelessness. Since FY22, the VA has permanently housed close to 134,000 veterans, contributing to a 4 percent reduction in U.S. veteran homelessness since 2020 and a 52 percent decrease since 2010. In Los Angeles, where the VA achieved a 15.5 percent regional goal surplus, the homeless veteran population fell by nearly 23 percent. Following a “Housing First” approach, the VA continues to prioritize stable housing and comprehensive support services to eliminate veteran homelessness nationwide.

[More About the VA's Success in FY24](#)

RESOURCES



**National Veterans'
Training Institute**
a DOL VETS Program



Celebrate National Native American Heritage Month with the National Veterans' Training Institute (NVTI): Honoring American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) Veterans

This November, NVTI proudly recognizes the exceptional service and contributions of AIAN veterans. As part of our commitment to supporting this community, we're offering a specialized course designed to empower veteran service providers: [9610/AIAN: Career Coaching for Special Populations: Serving AIAN Veterans](#). This course equips you with essential tools to better serve AIAN veterans, addressing unique challenges they may face.

Looking for more? Tune in to the NVTI podcast, [Episode 6 Serving Native American Veterans](#), where we examine the issues affecting this veteran population and explore meaningful ways to support them.

Don't forget to check out [Serving AIAN Veterans](#) in the [Useful Resources](#) section of [NVTI.org](#), where you'll find a carefully curated list of resources tailored to serve AIAN veterans.



Podcast Addressing Suicide Risk Among Homeless and Justice-Involved Veterans

In this episode of the Ending Veteran Homelessness podcast, Dr. Ryan Holliday, a clinical research psychologist with the Rocky Mountain MIRECC for Suicide Prevention,

and Katie Stewart, national coordinator for Veterans Justice Outreach, discuss the connections between homelessness, justice involvement, and suicide risk among veterans. They explore why veterans with histories of homelessness and justice system contact face heightened suicide risk and outline the VA's initiatives to address these critical challenges.

[Listen to the Podcast Episode](#)

The National Veterans' Technical Assistance Center (NVTAC) also recently had a Community of Practice (CoP) session covering [suicide awareness for veterans](#), which you can watch.



Outshining Internal Candidates: Strategies for Veterans and Spouses in Job Interviews

Competing with internal candidates can feel daunting, especially for veterans and spouses, as internal candidates often have established relationships, familiarity with the team, and industry experience.

Although internal candidates secure roles in 60 percent of cases, external candidates still have a chance to stand out by leveraging their unique experiences and demonstrating exceptional preparation. Strategies to succeed include: preparing thoroughly to highlight skills, showing fresh ideas, asking insightful questions, and utilizing networking. Even if the internal candidate is selected, strong impressions can lead to future opportunities, especially if recruiters view external candidates as promising talent for other roles.

[More About the Strategies to Outshine Internal Candidates](#)



Documentary About Platoon's Journey Through Battle and Healing

[Shadows of Fallujah](#) is a powerful 25-minute documentary that captures the harrowing experiences of a platoon during Operation Phantom Fury, using a blend of firsthand accounts from soldiers and archival BBC footage of their battalion in action. This film, co-produced by TJ Cooney, revisits the intense 2004 battle in Fallujah, detailing the physical and emotional scars that these veterans continue to bear. Part of a broader, month-long multimedia series commemorating the battle's 20th anniversary, *Shadows of Fallujah* reflects both the immediate impact of combat and the ongoing struggle for healing two decades later.

NEWS UPDATES



VA Sets Record for Veteran Care and Benefits in 2024

In FY24, the VA achieved [record levels of service delivery](#), providing more health care and benefits to veterans than ever before. Under the Biden-Harris Administration's Unity Agenda and the expanded benefits of the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, the VA saw a 6 percent increase in health care appointments, processed a record \$187 billion in benefits, and achieved an 80.4 percent trust rating from veterans. The VA expanded outreach for disability claims and health care, housed nearly 48,000 homeless veterans, and enhanced support for women veterans, caregivers, and crisis intervention services. Notable achievements include processing record numbers of dental procedures, life insurance coverage, home loans, and commemorative pages in the Veterans Legacy Memorial. Moving forward, the VA aims to build on these gains, improving access and engagement to ensure all veterans receive the care and benefits they deserve.



Honorable Discharges Granted to Some Ousted by 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' (DADT)

In The Pentagon announced that hundreds of veterans discharged under the DADT policy have had their less-than-honorable discharges [upgraded to honorable status](#), granting them access to long-denied benefits such as health care, pensions, and education. The DADT policy, in effect from 1994 to 2011, forced more than 13,000 LGBTQ+ service members out of the military, with nearly 2,000 receiving discharges that deprived them of key veterans' benefits.

While this move is seen as a significant step toward righting past wrongs, advocates stress that more work is needed to fully address the harm done to LGBTQ+ veterans. The Defense Department emphasized its commitment to inclusion, though many call for further reparative efforts.



Service-Connected Disabilities Among U.S. Veterans Doubles Over Past 14 Years

JA new U.S. Census Bureau report reveals that the percentage of veterans with service-connected disabilities has doubled, rising from 15 percent in 2008 to 30 percent in 2022. The report, titled [Trends in Veteran Disability Status and Service-Connected Disability: 2008–2022](#), examines disability rates among veterans, especially focusing on post-9/11 veterans, who are the youngest group and have been the focus of recent health research. It draws on data from American Community Survey (ACS) estimates between 2008-2019 and 2021-2022, highlighting notable increases in service-connected disability rates among veterans compared to the broader nonveteran population.

EVENTS

Upcoming Stand Down (SD) Events

SDs are typically one- to three-day events providing supplies and services to veterans experiencing homelessness, such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, and VA Social Security benefits counseling. Veterans can also receive referrals to other assistance such as health care, housing solutions, employment, substance use treatment, and mental health counseling. They are collaborative events, coordinated between local VA Medical Centers, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), other government agencies, and community-based homeless service providers.

This non-competitive grant is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to support one-day or multi-day events at up to \$7,000 or \$10,000, respectively.

Eligible entities include:

- state workforce agencies
- state and local workforce investment boards
- veterans service organizations
- local public agencies and nonprofit organizations, including community and faith-based organizations

Upcoming SD Event

Applicant:	Washington County
Location	Hillsboro, Washington, Oregon
Project Congressional District	01
Event Date	11/15/2024

For more information on how to apply, visit the [SD web page](#).

You can also attend [9648: Stand Down Grants](#), a two-hour NVTI online course that provides a comprehensive overview of SD grants and the essential phases of the event.



Class on Mastering the One-Page Resume

This 60-minute class teaches job seekers how to create a powerful, streamlined one-page resume to quickly capture the interest of potential contacts, even when a detailed job listing isn't available. Participants will learn techniques to highlight their key value in concise language, ensuring that they communicate essential information effectively. By the end of the class, attendees will be equipped to send resumes that can open doors to interviews and hiring opportunities.

This virtual Master Class will take place on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 4 p.m. ET.

[Register for the Class](#)

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

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