

NVTAC Monthly Newsletter: December 2024

Monthly Newsletter

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DECEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Bidders' Conference for the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)

The U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL/VETS) and the National Veterans' Technical Assistance Center (NVTAC) invite you to a Bidders' Conference for the upcoming HVRP FOA. HVRP is a competitive grant program that offers workforce development, employment services, and training to veterans at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Organizations with experience in providing veteran or employment-related services may be interested in applying for this grant. The conference, hosted by NVTAC staff, will cover an overview of the HVRP program, successful organizational strategies, and tips for submitting a competitive application.

The event will be held on **December 17, 2024, 2 – 3 p.m. ET**, while the recording, slides, and questions and answers (Q&A) document will be available at a later date on the NVTAC website.

[Register for the HVRP Bidders' Conference](#)



System for Award Management (SAM) Validation Requirement for Grants.gov Returns in January 2025

Starting on **January 18, 2025, at 12:01 a.m. ET**, fully registered and active SAM.gov accounts will once again be required for submitting funding applications through Grants.gov. Grants.gov recommends that prospective applicants begin the registration

and renewal process as soon as possible, as it can take several weeks to complete. Additional updates about the transition will be communicated via email and posted on the website in the coming weeks.

[Register for SAM](#)

RESOURCES



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



Expand Your Knowledge with the National Veterans' Training Institute's (NVTI) Career Coaching for Special Populations Courses in 2025

Kick off the new year by enhancing your expertise in serving special veteran populations through NVTI's Career Coaching for Special Populations series. These engaging virtual courses are designed to equip career coaching professionals with specialized skills and strategies to better support veterans facing unique challenges.

Upcoming offerings include:

- **January 14, 2025: [9610/SUDS Career Coaching for Special Populations: Serving Veterans with Substance Use Disorders \(SUDs\)](#)**
- **January 15, 2025: [9610/VEHS: Career Coaching for Special Populations: Serving Veterans Experiencing Homelessness](#)**
- **February 11, 2025: [9610/LGBT Career Coaching for Special Populations: Serving LGBTQ+ Veterans](#)**
- **March 19, 2025: [9610/WOVS Career Coaching for Special Populations: Serving Women Veterans](#)**
- **March 26, 2025: [9610/SOVS Career Coaching for Special Populations: Serving Older Veterans](#)**

Each course provides a targeted approach to understanding and addressing the needs of these special populations, fostering meaningful connections and effective career coaching.

Reserve your spot today by visiting [Registering for NVTI Classes!](#) For a comprehensive list of all upcoming classes, view the full [NVTI Class Schedule](#).



Documentary About New Approach to Healing and Growth for Veterans and First Responders

The documentary "Transformed by Trauma: Stories of Posttraumatic Growth" highlights the inspiring journeys of veterans, service members, prisoners of war (POW), and first responders who have turned their traumatic experiences into profound personal growth, a concept known as Posttraumatic Growth (PTG). Featuring voices like Vietnam veteran and former POW Captain Charlie Plumb, the film showcases resilience and the potential for transformation after hardship. It critiques the current post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)-focused mental health approach, advocating for a shift towards PTG-based models. Boulder Crest Foundation, a leader in PTG initiatives, has already impacted over 100,000 lives through programs like [Warrior Progressive and Alternative Training for Helping Heroes \(PATHH\)](#), aiming to redefine mental health care for trauma survivors nationwide.

[Watch the Documentary](#)



Top 25 Veteran Employers for 2025

Military.com's Veteran Employment Project (VEP) highlights the top veteran employers for 2025, showcasing companies committed to supporting veterans, transitioning

military, and military spouses. These employers prioritize veteran-focused recruitment teams, leadership opportunities, and programs like internships and mentorships that foster professional growth. Recognized organizations, including Amazon, Amentum, Bayer, and Dominion Energy, provide dedicated resources such as military employee networks, career development initiatives, and comprehensive benefits to ease the transition to civilian life. Employers on the list also emphasize inclusivity, skills-based hiring, and partnerships with veteran support programs like SkillBridge and Hiring Our Heroes. Together, they aim to create meaningful career paths and a supportive environment for veterans.

[List of Top Veteran Employers](#)

NEWS UPDATES



U.S. Veterans with Service-Connected Disabilities Nearly Double from 2008 to 2022

A U.S. Census Bureau report, "[Trends in Veteran Disability Status and Service-Connected Disability: 2008–2022](#)," reveals that the proportion of U.S. veterans with service-connected disabilities nearly doubled from 15 percent in 2008 to about 30 percent in 2022. The report highlights trends in veteran disability, particularly among post-9/11 veterans, who represent the youngest cohort of veterans and are a focus of recent public health research. The findings are based on data from the 2008-2019 and 2021-2022 American Community Survey (ACS) one-year estimates.

[Highlights from the Report](#)



Veterans Policy Bill Passes House with Key Reforms for Veteran Caregivers and Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

A [comprehensive veterans policy bill](#), aimed at enhancing home caregiver programs and supporting veterans experiencing homelessness, was approved by the House in a bipartisan 389-9 vote after months of delays due to political disagreements. The bill, called the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, includes provisions to increase the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) coverage for home nursing care from 65 percent to 100 percent, as well as measures to support veterans' homelessness by raising the VA's per diem rate for transitional housing and providing essential services. Although the bill faced political challenges, including debates over privatization and private healthcare access, it gained support by removing contentious provisions while retaining key reforms. Other provisions include grants for mental health care for caregivers, extension of a job training program, and reimbursement for ambulance costs for rural veterans. The bill now heads to the Senate for approval before being sent to President Biden for his signature.



New Housing for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness in Los Angeles (LA) Amid Legal Battle Over Expansion Plans

The VA recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open [74 new permanent housing units for veterans experiencing homelessness](#) at the West LA VA Medical Center (VAMC). This achievement comes amid the VA's ongoing legal battle to block a court order requiring it to build 750 temporary housing units and 1,200 permanent units for veterans experiencing homelessness by 2030. Despite the VA's claims of progress in combating veteran homelessness, including housing more veterans in LA than anywhere else, it is appealing a court ruling by Judge David O. Carter, who criticized the VA for not providing immediate funding for the housing units. Carter rejected the VA's

argument that building the initial 100 temporary units would cause "irreparable harm" and emphasized that veterans' lives were at stake. Legal representatives for veterans experiencing homelessness have expressed frustration with the VA's resistance, calling the plan to house more veterans a no-brainer. Meanwhile, Carter has also ruled on lease agreements for non-veteran uses of the VAMC property, including the University of California, Los Angeles' (UCLA) lease for the Jackie Robinson baseball stadium, which was extended through July 2025 after the university agreed to a higher rent.



Community Initiative to Combat Veteran Homelessness

Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties has launched the [Sacred Heart Veteran Village](#), a project aimed at providing housing for veterans experiencing homelessness. The development will feature 26 homes or bungalows, offering a stable and supportive environment for those who have served. While funding from the American Rescue Plan has significantly bolstered the initiative, the \$5 million project still requires additional community support to reach completion. The first phase, consisting of a 5,000-square-foot resource center and four bungalows, is slated for completion in spring 2025. Phase two, comprising 22 bungalows, is projected to be finalized by fall 2026.



Wave of Seniors Overwhelms Homeless Service Providers

Kim Hilton's experience with homelessness highlights challenges that are also faced by many veterans, particularly older veterans who may be struggling with health issues, limited income, and a lack of affordable housing. Like Hilton, some veterans are left without stable housing and must contend with medical complications that exacerbate their vulnerability. In both cases, the lack of affordable housing and appropriate health

care support compounds their struggles, making it harder to break the cycle of homelessness. Hilton's story serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need to address veteran homelessness, particularly among older veterans, by increasing access to affordable housing, health care, and specialized support services.

[Read Hilton's Story](#)



Progress in Reducing Veteran Homelessness in Tennessee (TN)

Recent data shows a [decline in the number of homeless veterans, including in TN](#). Since 2020, veteran homelessness in the U.S. has decreased by 11.7 percent, with TN seeing a 24.9 percent drop in the past year. In Hamilton County, the Chattanooga Regional Homelessness Coalition has also reported a decrease in veterans experiencing homelessness since 2017, despite a temporary increase in 2020. The coalition plays a key role in connecting veterans with necessary resources, working with other organizations to provide services and help veterans transition out of homelessness. While progress is being made, challenges remain, including the need for more affordable housing and greater community awareness to address the ongoing issue of homelessness among veterans.

EVENTS



Course on Finding Purposeful Careers After the Military

"Jobs That Make a Difference: How to Find Meaningful Work After the Military" is a 60-minute masterclass designed to help transitioning military personnel and spouses find fulfilling careers beyond just a paycheck. The session explores how to leverage military experience and transferable skills for meaningful roles in health care, education,

business, and nonprofits. Participants will learn how to reframe their skills and present themselves effectively to employers, aiming to find work that offers both financial stability and personal fulfillment.

[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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