

Monthly Newsletter

December 2025



DECEMBER SPOTLIGHTS



New Desk Aid

Grant Recipients Can Accept National Archives (NA) Form 13038 in Lieu of DD-214

A new [Desk Aid](#) has been released to support your work in accurately documenting veteran status for Homeless Veteran's Reintegration Program (HVRP) participants. This desk aid provides clear, consolidated guidance based on the latest updates from Veterans' Program Letter (VPL) 06-24 regarding the use of NA resources when requesting DD-214s.

What This Update Covers

VPL 06-24 outlines how HVRP grant recipients can use the [NA Veterans' Service Records website](#) to request a participant's DD-214. In some cases, the NA may not have a veteran's DD-214 on file. When this happens, they may issue NA Form 13038, Certification of Military Service, as a substitute document.

About NA Form 13038

- NA Form 13038 is issued when a DD-214 is lost, destroyed, or the available copy is of poor quality.
- It includes the veteran's name, branch, service dates, and discharge type.
- If the form indicates a discharge "under conditions other than dishonorable" and confirms at least one day of active-duty service, the individual meets the HVRP veteran eligibility requirement.
- VETS fully accepts NA Form 13038 as valid documentation of veteran status.

What You Need to Do

To comply with HVRP documentation standards, grant recipients must keep a copy of NA Form 13038 in the participant's case file just as they would with a DD-214. This ensures full alignment with [VPL 06-24](#) requirements.

If you have any questions about verifying veteran status or the proper use of NA Form 13038, please reach out to your Grant Officer's Technical Representative for guidance.

[Link to Desk Aid](#)

Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) Bidder's Conference



The U.S. Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Services (DOL/VETS) HVRP Bidder's Conference for Program Year 2026 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)

The Bidders' Conference for Program Year 2026 was led on December 10 and 16, 2025 by the DOL/VETS National Veterans' Technical Assistance Center (NVTAC) federally contracted staff and provided a comprehensive overview of the HVRP program, the types of organizations and partners that are often successful, and steps organizations can take to prepare to submit a competitive application. An email will be sent to registrants after the recording, slides, and questions and answers document are posted on the NVTAC [Prospective HVRP Applicant Resources page](#).

If you have any questions, please contact us at nvtac@dol.gov.



Understanding Secondary Trauma and Prioritizing Self-Care During the Holiday Season

As the holidays approach, HVRP providers often find themselves supporting veterans through heightened stress, grief, isolation, and housing instability — all of which can intensify trauma-related challenges. This important work can also expose providers to secondary trauma or compassion fatigue, the emotional strain that comes from helping others who have experienced trauma.

Symptoms such as exhaustion, irritability, sleep issues, or emotional numbness may appear gradually, especially during busy seasons. National resources can help teams understand these risks and identify early warning signs. Resources include:

- [NVTI's Suicide Prevention, Mental Health, and Burnout](#)
- [Department of Veterans Affairs \(VA\) Trauma-Informed Care Guidance](#)
- [VA Provider Strategies for Coping with Burnout and Secondary Traumatic Stress](#)
- [VA Veteran Suicide Data and Reporting - Mental Health](#)
- [NVTAC Community of Practice \(CoP\): Self-Care for Providers](#)

To continue delivering high-quality care, providers must prioritize their own well-being.

This holiday season, remember that caring for yourself is part of caring for the veterans you serve.



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



Sharpen Your Skills with National Veterans Training Institute (NVTI) Courses

Sharpen Your Skills with NVTI Courses

NVTI has a catalog of available courses over 50 classes available now through the end of March 2026. [Register now to secure your spot!](#)

9612: Preventing and Healing Burnout in Veteran Service Providers

This course provides strategies for addressing burnout. Engage in several self-reflective activities and discussions to identify signs of burnout, understand stress level, and understand the burnout spectrum. Discuss resources and strategies for preventing and overcoming burnout. Virtual class available on December 17.

9603: Leadership for the Integration of Veterans' Services (Manager/Supervisor Focused)

The Leadership for Integration of Veterans' Services (LIVS) course focuses on the principles of leadership and the legislation supporting veterans' programs with topics including an overview of leadership and management concepts, an orientation to the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) and NVTI, Priority of Service, measurement tools, and program reporting. In-person upcoming session January 27-29, 2026.

9610 Series: Career Coaching for Special Populations

Explore one of NVTI's one-day virtual courses to learn about serving varying demographics of veterans to better assist in the job search process or career change. Join any of our courses on topics such as [Veterans Experiencing Homelessness \(VEHs\)](#) on January 7, 2026, [Serving Rural Veterans](#) on February 4, 2026, and [Serving Justice-involved Veterans](#) on February 18, 2026. Our Foundations course is always available for enrollment.

Continuous Enrollment NVTI Classes

NVTI offers courses available for enrollment anytime! Details on course offerings and their duration is available on the [NVTI Class Schedule](#).

**The NVTI
Website**

**NVTI Class
Schedule**



Community of Practice



National Veterans' Technical Assistance Center (NVTAC) Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) Community of Practice (CoP)

Please join our NVTAC team on **Thursday, January 29, 2025, at 3 p.m. ET** for January's CoP session. The January CoP will focus on Registered Apprenticeship with a guest speaker from the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship. There will be an opportunity at the end for questions.

[**Register Here**](#)



Connecting with Veterans in Winter: Practical Outreach Approaches for HVRP Grant Recipients

Winter is a critical time for outreach, as veterans experiencing homelessness often seek warmth in libraries, big box stores, community centers, transit hubs, and seasonal shelters. HVRP grant recipients can increase engagement by showing up in these spaces with HVRP resource information, small outreach tables, warm-weather gear, and consistent, trauma-informed interactions. Libraries serve as safe daytime hubs, while stores like Walmart or Home Depot may allow community tables and can even become employer partners. Warming centers, overnight shelters, and community meal sites offer direct access to veterans who may be most in need of immediate support.

A current HVRP grant recipient recently expanded winter outreach by combining real-world visibility with simple, accessible messaging. They use short, plain-language videos pushed through social platforms and partner networks to reach veterans who may not appear in traditional outreach settings. They also coordinate winter-gear drives with local partners and bring supplies directly into shelters and drop-in centers, meeting veterans where they already are. Peer-to-peer spaces—such as informal virtual meetups for women veterans—have also become unexpected entry points for engagement. The more visible HVRP outreach becomes, both online and on the ground, the more opportunities arise to reach veterans before crisis deepens as temperatures drop.



VA's Home for the Holidays Initiative

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched [“Home for the Holidays”](#): Working to ensure our homeless Veterans have a home this holiday season and beyond.” This is a nationwide initiative that may offer HVRP grant recipients a valuable opportunity to connect with veterans experiencing homelessness. [This initiative](#) connects veterans with housing vouchers to landlords and property managers with available housing.

From November 1, 2025, through January 30, 2026, VA facilities across the country will host surge events aimed at moving at least 6,000 unsheltered veterans into interim or permanent housing. As part of this effort, VA is actively partnering with faith-based organizations to conduct outreach and distribute move-in and outreach kits, increasing community-level visibility.

These events can help surface veterans who may not already be connected to employment or housing services. HVRP grant recipients may benefit from coordinating with local [VA Centers for Development and Civic Engagement](#) to identify and engage eligible veterans.

To learn more, visit va.gov/homeless/homefortheholidays/.

RESOURCES



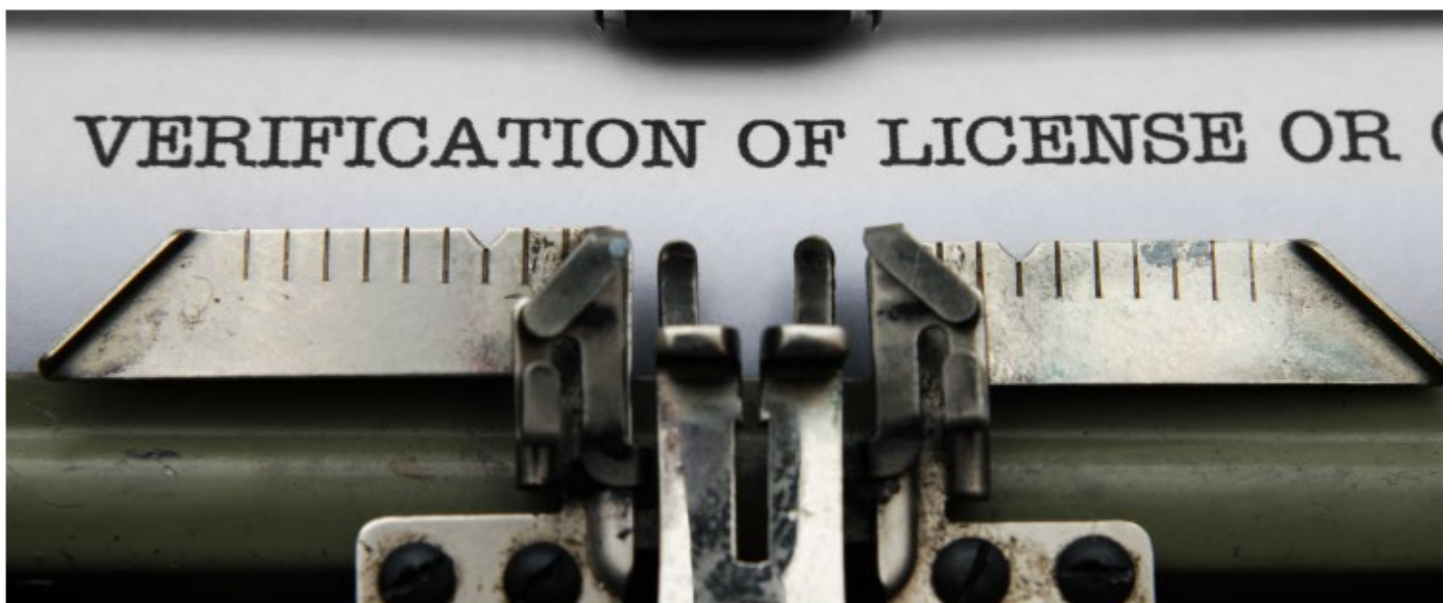


Get Care Closer to Home: What You Should Know About VA ATLAS

[Veterans Affairs \(VA\) Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations \(ATLAS\)](#) program helps veterans access VA health care through video appointments — even if you don't have reliable internet at home or live far from a VA Medical Center. At ATLAS sites you'll find a private appointment room equipped with internet and all the technology needed for a secure video visit using VA Video Connect. An on-site attendant will be there to help you log in and get connected.

ATLAS appointments can cover a range of non-hands-on services, including primary care, mental health appointments, and [certain specialty services](#). In many cases, there's no copay for telehealth appointments done via ATLAS. Using ATLAS doesn't replace in-person care. It complements it, offering flexibility when needed.

Getting to a VA clinic or hospital can be difficult or even impossible. ATLAS removes many of those barriers offering care “closer to home,” in a quiet, private, and technology-ready space. Read the [ATLAS FAQs](#) for more information as it can be a strong option to tell the veterans you serve about.



Helping Veterans Navigate Occupational Licensing Barriers

For many homeless or justice-involved veterans, finding stable employment is a crucial step toward long-term housing and economic security. Yet occupational licensing requirements, which vary significantly from state to state, can create barriers for veterans with criminal backgrounds or those who have relocated multiple times. Licensing often requires [proof of training, exams, fees, and “good moral character” provisions](#), which can disproportionately affect veterans with past convictions or gaps in documentation. Veterans who move often, including those transitioning out of homelessness or relocating after military service, may find that licenses earned in one state are not recognized in another, delaying their ability to work in otherwise in-demand fields.

To support these veterans, HVRP grant recipients can help them navigate state-specific licensing rules, identify [occupations](#) with more flexible or less burdensome requirements, and use available tools like the [National Occupational Licensing Database](#) to compare requirements across states. Many occupations—such as commercial driving, HVAC, plumbing, health care tech roles, and security positions—offer good wages without requiring a four-year degree but still require careful review of training and background standards. By helping veterans understand their options, prepare documentation, and explore states or professions with less burdensome licensing policies, you can help reduce barriers to employment and open pathways to stable careers that support long-term reintegration.

NEWS UPDATES



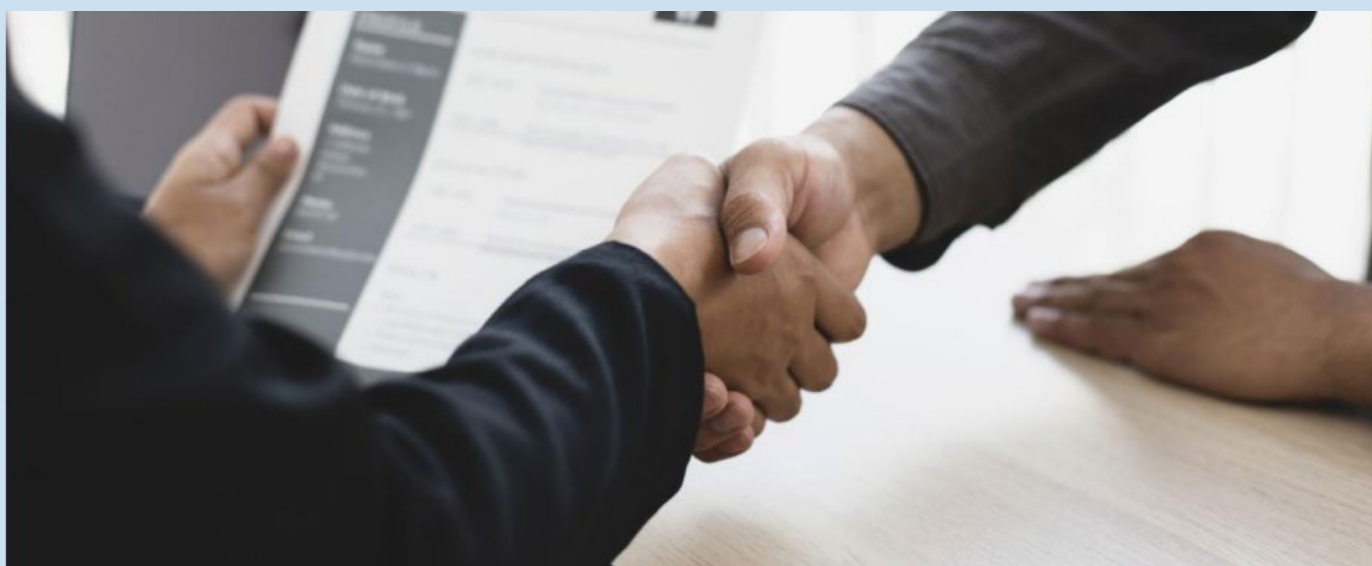
Helping Veterans Overcome Financial Barriers

Many veterans face significant financial challenges—barriers that can directly affect their housing stability, employment prospects, and long-term independence. The U.S. Government Accountability Office's recently

released research shows that [credit scores often decline after separation](#) due to unemployment, medical costs, or relocation, making it harder for veterans to secure loans, build credit, or access the resources needed to start a business.

For veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness, connecting them to financial literacy and lending resources can be a critical part of their reintegration plan. The [Small Business Administration's \(SBA\) Veterans Business Outreach Centers](#) provides guidance, counseling, and training. Additionally, SBA's [7\(a\)](#), [504](#), and [Microloan](#) programs can open doors to entrepreneurship and long-term income stability. Many veterans are unaware [these programs](#) exist. By sharing these resources, HVRP grant recipients can help veterans reduce financial barriers, pursue meaningful employment, and take steps toward lasting stability and self-sufficiency.

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 nvtac@dol.gov.

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

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