



SAN FRANCISCO VA MEDICAL CENTER JUSTICE OUTREACH PROGRAM

The San Francisco Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center would like to partner with the San Francisco Justice System by connecting justice-involved veterans with VA services. In accordance with Under Secretary for Health Shinseki's goal of eliminating veteran homelessness in five years, he has provided funding for two programs, Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) and Health Care for Reentry Veterans (HRCV), whereby VA representatives reach out to justice-involved veterans and if eligible offer them VA services with goal of linking veterans to housing, treatment, medical and mental health care. Below is a list of VA services offered and information regarding eligibility.

1. Health Care for Homeless Veterans Offers a variety of services to engage veterans who are homeless or marginally housed and who underutilize VA services. Among the many services offered, veterans can access a drop-in medical clinic, receive social work assessment and referral, mental health evaluation, primary care and medication stabilization, VA benefits assistance, support groups, showers, laundry, lockers, transportation to the VA Medical Clinic from the downtown office, mail service, phone access, and community outreach and assistance.

Eligibility:

- All Veterans eligible for VA Benefits.
 - Honorable Discharge and have served at least one day prior to September 8, 1980 or Honorable Discharge and served at least 2 years after September 8, 1980.
2. Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program Community treatment programs that provide funding to community agencies providing services to homeless veterans for services, such as case management, transitional housing, education, crisis intervention, and counseling. The following are the community grant programs that the VA currently has a contract with:
 - Swords to Plowshares Transitional Housing Program Offers housing, meals, individual and group counseling, life-skills development, substance abuse education and relapse prevention. The program is designed specifically for homeless veteran with substance abuse and/or emotional disorders.
 - The Salvation Army, Harbor House Transitional Housing Programs A state licensed substance abuse transitional housing program for single parent, homeless families. The goal is to provide a self-supporting environment and ultimately find permanent housing.
 - The Salvation Army, Harbor Lights state licensed substance abuse program based on a 12-step, social model.



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- Homeward Bound, New Beginnings Center A shelter for single homeless adults. It provides job training and work experience opportunities. The goal of the program is help people lay the groundwork for a self-sufficient lifestyle.
- Vietnam Veterans of California, Petaluma and Eureka House Assists unemployed and underemployed and homeless veterans by providing clean and sober transitional housing with supportive services, with the goal of establishing self-sufficiency. VVC also offers employment and training programs, employer advocacy, counseling, and legal services.

Eligibility: Either eligible for VA Benefits or can be an OTH (other than honorable veteran)

3. Compensated Work Therapy Eligible veterans are assessed by a case manager to determine the veteran's vocational needs and personalized goals, and then the veteran and case manager determine a strategy to achieves those goals, which can include vocational counseling, life-skills training, and job search services. Many veterans participate in a transitional work experience, in which they are placed in compensated positions to gain valuable work experience. They are closely monitored during the program by the case manager and must agree to submit to random drug testing.

Eligibility: VA Benefits

Please contact Liz Brett, Veteran Justice Outreach Specialist for the SFVAMC Downtown Clinic at (415) 281-5116 or by email at Elizabeth.brett@va.gov for any questions regarding the VA and VA contracted services.