

# NEWS AND NOTES FOR FLORIDA VETERANS

Veterans Service Center, VA Regional Office  
St. Petersburg, FL



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The "News and Notes for Florida Veterans" is published monthly by the Veterans Service Center, VA Regional Office, St. Petersburg, Florida, to provide information on VA benefit programs to veterans and dependents in Florida. The material presented does not have the effect of laws or regulations. Please send questions or comments on this newsletter to Veterans Service Center, ATTN: "News and Notes," PO Box 1437, St. Petersburg, FL 33731. We do not have the resources to maintain a mailing list for distribution to individuals; however this newsletter is available on the St. Petersburg VA Regional Office web site at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/stpetersburg/>.

## **VA APPROVES \$28 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS** (VA News Release)

WASHINGTON—The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has approved \$28.4 million in grants to fund 38 projects in 25 states and the District of Columbia that will provide transitional housing to homeless veterans. Among these 38 projects, 31 will provide temporary housing to homeless veterans with the goal that they will retain the residence as their own.

Thirty-one of the grants were awarded through VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program's (GPD) "Transition in Place" model. The program allows veterans the opportunity to take over payment of a lease instead of moving out after using VA services—substance use counseling, mental health services, job training and more. Other VA programs require veterans living in transitional housing to move out after 24 months. A list of the grant recipients can be found at: <http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD.asp>.\*

GPD helps close gaps in available housing for the nation's most vulnerable homeless veterans, including women with children, Indian tribal populations, and veterans with substance use and mental health issues.

Those receiving funding have undergone a rigorous review by teams of experts rating each application under objective criteria to ensure that those funded have the ability to provide the services described and a solid plan to get these veterans into housing with a high probability of obtaining residential stability and independent living.

Community-based programs funded by GPD provide homeless veterans with support services and housing. GPD grants are offered annually as funding is available by VA's National Homeless Program.

On a single night in 2011, a national count of homeless veterans totaled 67,495, 12 percent lower than 76,000 in 2010. VA has committed almost \$1 billion to strengthen programs that prevent and treat the many issues that can lead to veteran homelessness.

These awards follow closely with a notice VA published asking interested organizations to submit a nonbinding letter of intent to the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program to apply for initial and renewal supportive services grants by Sep. 28, 2012. The SSVF Program in the first 10 months of operation has assisted more than 28,000 veterans and their families to prevent or rapidly end homelessness. Letters of intent have no impact on the opportunity for entities to apply when funding availability is announced. These letters of intent will help VA gauge interest in the SSVF program as it seeks to make access to SSVF services available throughout the country. VA anticipates announcing a Notice of Funding Availability in the new fiscal year.

Additional information can be obtained at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/08/23/2012-20761/letter-of-intent-to-apply-for-funding-available-under-the-supportive-services-for-veteran-families#h-5>

To help a homeless veteran or veteran at risk of homelessness, refer them to the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans, 1-877-4AID-VET, or direct them to [www.va.gov/homeless](http://www.va.gov/homeless). The hotline connects homeless veterans, veterans at risk of becoming homeless and their families with the VA services and benefits they have earned.

### **Grant recipients in Florida:**

HOPE South Florida, Inc., 501 NE 2nd Street, Ft. Lauderdale 33301, is being awarded \$1,011,642.00 from VA to provide a daily average of 25 beds for homeless veterans utilizing a 'Transition in Place' housing model in an effort to promote increased housing stabilization. Provision of services will occur at scattered site apartments in Broward County, FL.

Catholic Charities Diocese of St. Petersburg, Inc. 1213 16th Street North, St. Petersburg 33705, is being awarded \$1,064,886.00 from VA to provide a daily average of 25 beds for homeless veterans utilizing a 'Transition in Place' housing model in an effort to promote increased housing

stabilization. Provision of services will occur at 5726 126th Avenue North, Clearwater, FL; and 8384 Bayou Boardwalk, Largo, FL

Volunteers of America of Florida, 1205 East 8th Avenue Tampa 33605, is being awarded \$342,128.00 from VA to provide a daily average of 10 beds for homeless Veterans utilizing a 'Transition in Place' housing model in an effort to promote increased housing stabilization. Provision of services will occur at 519 & 525 Morgan Avenue; and 927 North Iowa Avenue, Lakeland, FL.

Homeless Services Network of Central Florida, Inc., 2828 Edgewater Drive, Orlando 32854, is being awarded \$1,022,292.00 from VA to provide a daily average of 24 beds for homeless veterans utilizing a 'Transition in Place' housing model in an effort to promote increased housing stabilization. Provision of services will occur at scattered site apartments in Seminole County, FL.

Transition House, Inc., 3800 5th Street, St. Cloud 34769, is being awarded \$170,382.00 from VA to provide a daily average of 4 beds for homeless veterans utilizing a 'Transition in Place' housing model in an effort to promote increased housing stabilization. Provision of services will occur at 715 Florida Avenue, St. Cloud, FL; and 4596 West Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee, FL.

**ONLINE TOOLKIT AIMS TO SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS SERVING VETERANS IN THE COMMUNITY** (VA News Release) WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs has developed a new online Community Provider Toolkit ([www.mentalhealth.va.gov/communityproviders](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/communityproviders)) aimed at delivering support, therapeutic tools, and resources to community providers treating veterans for mental health concerns.

The goal of the Community Provider Toolkit is to further enhance the delivery of mental health services to veterans through increased communication and coordination of care between community providers and VA. It not only provides information about accessing, communicating with, and, if needed, making referrals to VA, but also provides effective tools to assist veterans who are dealing with a variety of mental health challenges. The Community Provider Toolkit also includes sections intended to increase providers' knowledge about military culture.

VA provides a comprehensive continuum of effective treatments and conducts extensive research on the assessment and treatment of PTSD and other mental health problems.

Those interested in further information can go to [www.mentalhealth.va.gov](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov) or [www.ptsd.va.gov](http://www.ptsd.va.gov) to find educational materials including courses for providers and best practices in mental health treatment. They can also learn more about the award-winning VA/DoD PTSD Coach Mobile App, which provides education, resources, and symptom monitoring and management strategies.

## **VA FACILITIES ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS:**

### **SUICIDE PREVENTION 1-800-273-8255**

**National Call Center for Homeless Veterans**  
1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838)

**VA Regional Office, St. Petersburg** - PO Box 1437, St. Petersburg, FL 33731 1-800-827-1000

**Regional Processing Office, Atlanta, GA** (education claims) - PO Box 100022, Decatur, GA 30031-7022  
1-888-GIBILL1 (442-4551)  
Telephone number for Chapter 30 self-verifications  
1-877-823-2378

**VA EFT Information Hotline** (electronic funds transfer - direct deposit) 1-877-838-2778

**Veterans Health Administration Toll-Free Hotline** (medical care) - 1-877-222-8387

**VA Health Revenue Service** (information on amounts owed to VA Medical Centers) 1-866-793-4591

**VA Insurance Center, Philadelphia** (VA Insurance) - PO Box 42954, Philadelphia, PA 19101 1-800-669-8477

**VA Health Administration Center** (CHAMPVA and Spina Bifida health care) 1-800-733-8387 CHAMPVA inquiries: PO Box 65023, Denver, CO 80206-5023; CHAMPVA claims: PO Box 65024, Denver, CO 80206-5024  
Spina Bifida inquiries and claims: PO Box 65025, Denver, CO 80206-5025

### **National Cemeteries**

10,000 Bay Pines Blvd N, Bay Pines FL 727-398-9426  
6502 SW 102nd Ave, Bushnell FL 352-793-7740  
6501 S State Rd 7, Lake Worth, FL 561-649-6489  
4083 Lannie Rd, Jacksonville FL 904-766-5222  
Naval Air Station, Pensacola FL 850-453-4108/4846  
9810 State Hwy 72, Sarasota FL 877-861-9840  
104 Marine St, St Augustine FL 352-793-7740

**National Cemetery Administration Office of Memorial Programs** (headstones and markers) - 5109 Russell Rd Quantico VA 22134-3903 1-800-697-6947

**Loan Guaranty Eligibility Center** (certificates of eligibility) PO Box 20729, Winston-Salem, NC 27120  
1-888-244-6711

**Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD)** - 711

### **INTERNET SITES OF INTEREST:**

**VA Web Site:** [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

**VA Web Automated Reference Materials System (WARMS)** [www.warms.vba.va.gov](http://www.warms.vba.va.gov)

**VA Workload and Performance Reports;**  
<http://www.vba.va.gov/reports/>

**St. Petersburg VA Regional Office:**  
<http://www.benefits.va.gov/stpetersburg/>

**Property Management (sale of VA-repossessed homes):** <http://va.equator.com>

**Florida Dept of Veterans' Affairs:** [www.FloridaVets.org](http://www.FloridaVets.org)  
**Library of Congress (information on pending legislation)** [thomas.loc.gov](http://thomas.loc.gov)