

## 14. Rural Veterans Outreach

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**Introduction** This topic provides guidance on outreach activities directed to the rural Veteran population.

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**a. General  
Guidance on  
Rural Veterans  
Outreach**

The following procedures are to be followed when working with the rural Veteran population:

- Contact the County Service Officer that serves the area. If there is not a County Service Officer, contact the Chamber of Commerce, City Council or other civic organizations to ask if you can send pamphlets for display.
  - Put together a package of information to leave at various locations such as community colleges, post offices, libraries and other places where the general public is around.
  - Introduce yourself to various VAMC facilities, outpatient clinics and arrange to attend any activities they have scheduled.
  - Request Service Organizations such as Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, etc. to sponsor events in rural areas. Arrange to serve as speaker on how to file claims, what is required for service connection, etc.
  - Ensure the Mobile Vet Centers have VA benefits materials available to provide to Veterans residing in rural areas.
  - Research free newspapers, community newspapers to place an information ad or announce an upcoming event.
  - Attend other meetings such as homeless Stand-Downs. Coordinate these with the Homeless, Minority, and/or other outreach coordinators at the RO.
  - Coordinate to attend town hall meetings.
  - Coordinate with the Military Services Coordinator at the RO to provide information on VA benefits and services to Reserve/Guard units in remote areas.
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