



NATIONAL COALITION *for* HOMELESS VETERANS

ABOUT NCHV

September 2010

About the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans

Founded in 1990 by a group of community-based homeless veteran service providers, the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation. NCHV seeks to eliminate homelessness in the veteran community.

NCHV serves as a liaison between branches of the federal government and community-based homeless veteran service providers.

Mission

The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans will end homelessness among America's veterans by shaping public policy, promoting collaboration, and increasing the capacity of service providers.

A National Tragedy

Each night in the United States, approximately 107,000 veterans sleep on the streets because they have no place to call "home." They are this nation's forgotten heroes – the men and women who once proudly served in a military uniform. Only eight percent of the U.S. population have served in the armed forces, yet almost one-fifth of the homeless population are veterans.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) estimates that about 214,000 veterans will experience homelessness at some point this year. Almost five percent of this population are homeless women veterans, and this proportion will likely increase as currently 15 percent of all U.S. troops are women.

There are many factors that contribute to the disproportionately large percentage of veterans who suffer from homelessness. Most of these veterans struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), substance abuse issues or other psychosocial problems. These factors are often related to their military service or difficulty transitioning to civilian life.

Most homeless veterans require – as much as affordable housing – physical and mental health care, employment training and placement assistance, and other supportive services. According to the Department's own estimates, VA programs will reach slightly more than 40 percent of the homeless veterans who need assistance.

The Solution

Through collaboration with federal and state agencies; community-based service providers; and civic, charitable and faith-based organizations, NCHV members provide the full continuum of care: emergency shelter, food, clothing, physical and mental health services, legal aid, employment training and placement assistance, and transitional housing programs.

Benefits of Membership

NCHV opened its Washington, D.C., office in 1993 in order to work more closely with Congress and executive branch agencies to ensure the inclusion of veterans in federal assistance programs. Today, NCHV is regarded as the nation's foremost authority on homeless veteran issues and the most effective assistance programs.

■ A Voice Respected by Congress

- ❖ NCHV assisted in drafting and passing legislation to implement the VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program, the largest federal homeless veterans program in existence.

- ❖ Successfully advocated for increased appropriations for the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program from \$3 million in fiscal year (FY) 1998 to \$36 million in FY 2010. The program is fully authorized by Congress due to the work of NCHV.

- ❖ Testified before the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs on behalf of major homeless veterans legislation including the Homeless Women Veterans and Homeless Veterans with Children Act of 2009 and the Zero Tolerance for Homeless Veterans Act of 2009.



- ❖ Participated, by invitation, in legislative roundtables focused on homeless veterans with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Bob Filner, and the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
- ❖ Assisted with creation and passage of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-95) to potentially provide \$1 billion in services to homeless veterans over six years.
- ❖ Collaborated with Congress for increased GPD appropriations, from \$60 million in FY 2002 to \$150 million in FY 2010.
- ❖ Secured \$1 million in Stand Down support from FEMA, the Department of Labor (DOL) and AtHome America since 2004.

■ A Voice Respected by the Administration

- ❖ NCHV was awarded a VA technical assistance grant through FY 2008 and a DOL technical assistance grant through FY 2013 to provide technical support and training for the nation's homeless service providers.
- ❖ Produced training and employment assistance guides for DOL to enhance services provided to incarcerated veterans and veterans seeking employment, including those with legal barriers.
- ❖ NCHV members represent a majority of the VA Secretary's Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans, and provide consultation on policy issues affecting homeless veterans to the White House, VA, DOL, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

■ Other Critical Services

Resource Development

- ❖ Technical assistance in developing grant proposals.
- ❖ Immediate notification of government, corporate and foundation grant availability.
- ❖ Bi-monthly newsletter with resources from private and government sources.
- ❖ Technical assistance in nonprofit management.

- ❖ Dynamic website – updated daily, a tool to strengthen organizations and their programs.
- ❖ Monthly e-newsletter.
- ❖ Presentations about homelessness among veterans.

Legislative Information

- ❖ Legislative alerts and analysis of legislation affecting homeless veterans and the nonprofit organizations providing services to them.

Networking

- ❖ Annual Membership Meeting and Conference in Washington, D.C.
- ❖ Nonprofit association connections.
- ❖ Professional, accessible staff committed to supporting homeless veteran service providers.

NCHV Membership

Annual Dues – \$150

- ❖ Individuals who support efforts to assist homeless veterans.

Annual Dues – \$300

- ❖ Nonprofit and for-profit organizations with annual budgets under \$500,000.

Annual Dues – \$500

- ❖ Nonprofit and for-profit organizations with annual budgets over \$500,000.
- ❖ Government agencies.

Corporate Sponsorship – For information on corporate sponsorship, go to www.nchv.org.

- **Join online at www.nchv.org, or mail a check payable to NCHV to:**

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