

GENERAL INFORMATION

This brochure does not include a complete listing of all available services. Public assistance programs offered by government and community-based organizations are tailored to meet local needs, so the level of services is different in each jurisdiction. When contacting various agencies for help, **be persistent** in order to get results. Ask questions if information is not clear to you. Above all, if someone cannot help you, ask for information about who can.

■ If you need to access a computer to find assistance services in your area, visit your public library.

TOLL-FREE NUMBERS

Crisis and other toll free numbers are often listed in the front cover or first few pages of your phone book. You may also want to check the government pages or the yellow pages *Social Services* listings for additional hot lines and local numbers.

■ **Department of Veterans Affairs** (www.va.gov):

- Medical Centers: **877-222-8387** (222-VETS).
- Benefits: **800-827-1000**.
- Persian Gulf War & Agent Orange Helpline: **800-749-8387**.

■ **National Coalition for Homeless Veterans** (www.nchv.org): **800-838-4357** (800-VET-HELP).

■ **National Suicide Support Number: 888-784-2433** (888-SUICIDE).

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

■ **Health and Human Services** (www.hhs.gov): Call **877-696-6775** for location of nearest office.

■ **Salvation Army** (www.salvationarmyusa.org): Provides services, including shelter, for homeless individuals and families. Call **703-684-5500**.

■ **Temporary Financial Assistance** (TFA) from the national headquarters of **The American Legion** (www.legion.org) are grants to help maintain a stable environment for the *children* of veterans. Contact local Post to obtain an application.

■ **United Way** (www.unitedway.org) provides a variety of services through local organizations. Call **800-411-8929** (411-UWAY). In some states, you can access local emergency services by dialing **2-1-1**.

■ **Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) and Auxiliary Organizations.** (See list under “General Assistance”).

■ **Faith-based Organizations** and local churches – Check with your county or city Department of Social Services (phone book blue pages) for faith-based organizations offering assistance programs.

HOUSING

Emergency

■ Look in the yellow pages of the local phone book under “Homeless” for a list of shelters, or call the office of the mayor or county executive for information about shelters.

■ **Local Department of Social Services** – Check in your local phone book blue pages under local, city or county government.

■ HUD offers an online list of emergency shelters for men, women and families in every state. Go to: www.hud.gov/homeless/hmlsagen.cfm.

■ **Coalition for the Homeless** is listed in the phone book of most cities and urban counties. You may also find local information about housing, arranged by state, at www.nationalhomeless.org/local/local.html.

Veteran-Specific Programs

■ **Nearest VA Medical Center** – Every medical center has a homeless veteran services coordinator who is responsible for helping homeless or at-risk veterans. To find the VA Medical Center serving your area, look in the phone book blue pages under “United States Government, Veterans Affairs;” call the VA (toll-free) at **877-222-8387**; or go online to www.va.gov, click on Veterans Health Administration, then Homeless Veterans.

■ **National Coalition for Homeless Veterans.** Go to www.nchv.org for a list of homeless veteran service providers in your area, or call 800-VET-HELP.

MEDICAL

If *eligible* for veteran’s benefits:

■ **VA Health Benefits Service Center** – To find the nearest VA health care facility, look in the phone book blue pages under “United States Government, Veterans Affairs;” call **877-222-8387** (222-VETS); or go to www.va.gov, click on Veterans Health Administration, and then Facilities Locator.

If *ineligible* for veteran’s benefits:

■ Contact your local **Department of Social Services** for the location of health care facilities for the homeless. Check the local phone book blue pages under local, city or county government.

■ **National Health Care for the Homeless Council** is a membership organization of health care providers working with homeless people across the United States. Go to www.nhchc.org for a list of care providers in your state.

■ **Free Clinics** – Medical staff donate their time to assist the community with health issues. Contact your local government office for clinics in your area (phone book blue pages under “Public Health”).

■ **Medicaid** – Contact the local U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office (phone book blue pages under Federal Government) or on the internet at www.hhs.gov, click on Resources Locator.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE & MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

If *eligible* for veteran’s benefits:

■ **Nearest VA Medical Center** – Homeless veteran services coordinator. Call **877-222-8387** for the medical center serving your area, or go online to www.va.gov, click on Veterans Health Administration, then Homeless Veterans.

If *ineligible* for veteran’s benefits:

■ **Department of Health and Human Services** Drug and Alcohol Treatment Referral Routing Service. For local programs, call **800-662-4357**.

■ **Focus On Recovery Helpline** – 24-hour national alcohol and drug abuse addiction and treatment hotline. Call **800-374-2800**, or **800-234-1253**.

■ **National Alliance for the Mentally Ill** lists community mental health services providers at www.nami.org, or call **800-950-6264**.

■ **National Mental Health Association** offers support groups, rehabilitation, socialization and housing services through 340 community affiliates across the country. Call **800-969-NMHA**, or find a local office at www.nmha.org.

JOBS

■ Department of Labor **Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS)** places Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVER) and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) staff at state employment offices nationwide. Visit or call your state employment service office (phone book blue pages under State Government, Employment Agencies); go online to www.dol.gov/dol/vets/public/aboutvets/contacts/main.htm, or call **202-693-4719**.

■ Department of Veterans Affairs **Compensated Work Therapy Program** is available to veterans meeting certain criteria, such as participation in a therapeutic or supportive residential program. Contact the local VA Medical Center to see if you qualify, or visit www.va.gov/partners.

TRANSPORTATION

■ Traveler's Aid International provides emergency travel vouchers for homeless individuals and families in crisis. Assistance providers are listed on the organization's website at www.travelersaid.org, or call **202-546-1127**.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

■ **County Veteran Service Officers** – Check the blue pages of your local phone book to see if there is a county veteran service officer in your area, or call your county government information line.

■ **State Departments of Veterans Affairs** provide a host of services including readjustment counseling, crisis intervention, loans, family counseling, and employment assistance. Check your phone book blue pages under "State Government, Veterans Affairs," or go online to www.nasdva.com.

■ **Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) and Auxiliary Organizations** – Most VSOs have regional veteran service officers who help veterans obtain benefits to which they are entitled. Some help homeless and at-risk veterans find the supportive services they need. Look in your local phone book for the following organizations, or visit their websites:

- The American Legion (www.legion.org)
- AMVETS (www.amvets.org)
- Blinded Veterans Association (www.bva.org)
- Disabled American Veterans (www.dav.org)
- Jewish War Veterans (www.jwv.org)
- Military Order of the Purple Heart (www.purpleheart.org)
- Non Commissioned Officers Association (www.ncoausa.org)
- Paralyzed Veterans of America (www.pva.org)
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (www.vfw.org)
- Vietnam Veterans of America (www.vva.org)

LEGAL

Veteran status issues (discharge upgrades, benefits, etc.). You may obtain the assistance of a veterans' advocate service officer from the various **VSOs** or from the **Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits Office**.

Non-Veteran status issues (divorce, child support, landlord/tenant disputes, etc.) Look in phone book for a local **Legal Aid Society**.

Assistance Guide for Homeless Veterans



NATIONAL COALITION for HOMELESS VETERANS

333½ Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003-1148
Phone 202-546-1969/Fax 202-546-2063
Toll-free: 1-800-VET-HELP
Fax 1-888-233-8582
E-mail: nchv@nchv.org
Website: www.nchv.org