



NATIONAL COALITION *for* HOMELESS VETERANS

ABOUT NCHV

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 non-profit, 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 (NCHV) 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 196,000 veterans sleep under bridges, in alleys and abandoned buildings because they have no home. They are this nation's forgotten heroes – men and women who once proudly served in a military uniform. Although only 11% of the U.S. population have served in the armed forces, roughly 26% of homeless adults in this country are veterans.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) estimates that as many as 400,000 veterans will experience homelessness at some time during the year. While approximately 3% of homeless veterans are female, this number will likely increase over time as more women serve in the armed forces.

There are many factors that contribute to the disproportionately large percentage of veterans who become homeless. Many struggle with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), substance abuse issues or other psychosocial problems. Many of those factors are related to their military service, or their difficulty returning to civilian life.

As much as affordable housing, most homeless veterans require medical and mental health care, employment training and placement assistance, and other supportive services. According to its own estimates, VA programs will reach only about 25% of the homeless veterans who need assistance.

The Solution

Through collaboration with federal and state agencies, community-based service providers, civic, charitable and faith-based organizations, NCHV members provide the full continuum of care: emergency shelter, food, clothing, medical and mental health services, legal aid, employment training, job 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 programs that are most effective in helping them.

■ A Voice Respected by Congress

- ❖ NCHV assisted in drafting and passing legislation to implement the VA Homeless Veterans Grant and Per Diem Program.
- ❖ Created through FEMA at the national level, a Stand Down Pilot to provide \$75,000 to local Stand Downs in 1995.
- ❖ Inspired development and successfully advocated for the adoption of the Homeless Veterans Transitional Housing Opportunities Act of 1998.
- ❖ Successfully advocated for increased appropriations for the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program from \$3 million in FY98 to \$26 million in FY07. The program is fully authorized by Congress at \$50 million through FY09 due to the work of NCHV.



ABOUT NCHV

- ❖ Received \$400,000 appropriation from Congress to provide technical assistance to local organizations for FY 2001-02.
- ❖ Assisted with creation and passage of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001, P.L. 107-95, with a potential to provide \$1 billion in services to homeless veterans over six years.
- ❖ Collaborated with Congress for increased allocations for the VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem program, from \$60 million in FY02 to \$130 million in FY07.
- ❖ Secured \$1 million for Stand Down support from FEMA, the U.S. Department of Labor and AtHome America since 2004.

■ A Voice Respected by the Administration

- ❖ Secured Department of Veterans Affairs Technical Assistance Grant of **\$800,000** and Department of Labor Technical Assistance Grant of **\$630,000** to provide technical support and training for nation's homeless service providers through FY 2009.
- ❖ Produced training and employment assistance guides for the Department of Labor to enhance services provided to incarcerated veterans and the employment assistance available to homeless veterans.
- ❖ NCHV members serve on the VA Secretary's Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans, and provide consultation on policy issues affecting homeless veterans to the VA, Department of Labor, Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Department of Health and Human Services.

■ 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 providing support to 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 on-line at www.nchv.org or make check payable to NCHV, and mail to: National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, 333 1/2 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Washington, D.C. 20003-1148**