

**Halfway Home: Progress in the Plan to End Veteran Homelessness**

*Register now for 2012 NCHV Annual Conference, May 30 to June 1 in Washington, D.C.*

The 2012 NCHV Annual Conference, titled "Halfway Home: Progress in the Plan to End Veteran Homelessness," will be held May 30 to June 1, 2012, in Washington, D.C. As the entire homeless veteran service community convenes, we will take stock of progress at the halfway point in the Five-Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness and set a course to meet the ultimate goal of eliminating homelessness among veterans by 2015.

Among the three days of intense training will be the following tracks of special emphasis:

- **"Department of Veterans Affairs: Finishing the Plan to End Veteran Homelessness"**
  - Grant and Per Diem: Modifications and Transition in Place
  - SSVF Grants: What They Are and How They Work
  - Open Dialogue: Issues, Concerns, Recommendations
- **"Community Engagement: The Power of Partnerships"**
  - Career One-Stops
  - Continuums of Care
  - Veteran Service Organizations
  - Community Collaborations
- **"Target Populations: Meeting Unique Needs"**
  - Women Veterans
  - Non-urban Programs
  - National Guard and Reserve
  - Veterans with Families
  - Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom
- **"Legal Services: Overcoming Barriers to Independent Living"**
  - Veteran Justice Outreach Initiative
  - Veteran Treatment Courts
  - Discharge Upgrades

This year's conference will be held at the Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H Street NW, Washington, D.C. A block of rooms has been reserved for conference attendees. These rooms sell out every year, so please make your reservations as soon as possible. To make your reservations at the Grand Hyatt, [click here](#).

Registration fees for the 2012 NCHV Annual Conference are \$395 for NCHV members and \$475 for non-members. The fee for one-day registration is \$220 for NCHV members and \$250 for non-members. **Registration forms received after May 14 will be charged a \$35 late fee.** [Download the registration form here](#).

**New HUD-VASH Resource Guide Available Online**

*Provides a comprehensive set of resources*

The Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) have released “The HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Resource Guide for Permanent Housing and Clinical Care.”

The HUD-VASH Program’s goals are to place homeless veterans in safe, stable, affordable, and – most importantly – permanent housing. Under the auspices of the program, HUD provides housing vouchers while VA provides long-term case management, ensuring not only that veterans receive the medical and counseling services they need, but also that they are able to sustain residence and avoid relapsing into homelessness.

The guide was designed to provide case managers, social workers, treatment specialists, program managers, and other clinicians who work with homeless veterans through the HUD-VASH Program with a comprehensive set of resources. The guide includes a wide range of information such as useful tools, exercises, worksheets, and links to other homelessness resources and programs. The guide will help the HUD-VASH Program more effectively address the multifaceted and complex housing, clinical, medical and psychosocial needs of homeless veterans and their families.

To access the guide, [click here](#).

## **Constructive Alternatives to the Criminalization of Homelessness**

*Report from the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness*

Many communities implement local measures that criminalize “acts of living” laws that prohibit sleeping, eating, sitting or panhandling in public spaces – acts that generally are applicable to people who do not have a permanent place to call home, and by their very nature criminalize homelessness. Criminalization policies, however, are not a solution to the problem of homelessness and are often costly and consume substantial state and local resources. It is better for homeless individuals and the community if policies and programs are implemented with the goal of safely housing and stabilizing vulnerable people.

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) and the Access to Justice Initiative of the Department of Justice, with support from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, convened a summit on the development of constructive alternatives to the criminalization of homelessness. USICH has documented these practices and policies in “Searching out Solutions: Constructive Alternatives to the Criminalization of Homelessness” (SOS). The practices and policies identified in SOS have been effective in reducing and preventing homelessness in several communities around the country.

To download this report, [click here](#).

## **HHS Publishes Series on Medicaid and Chronic Homelessness**

*Describes Medicaid services that help chronically homeless*

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently published a series of papers describing Medicaid services that can help chronically homeless populations. The four papers, authored by Martha Burt and Carol Wilkins of Abt Associates, are titled:

- “Establishing Eligibility for SSI for Chronically Homeless People”
- “Health, Housing, and Service Supports for Three Groups of People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness”
- “Public Housing Agencies and Permanent Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless People”
- “Medicaid Financing for Services in Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless People: Current Practices and Opportunities”

To access these reports, [click here](#).

## Funding Opportunities

**The David, Helen and Marian Woodward Fund** makes grants to qualified 501(c)(3) organizations in Georgia and its neighboring states. Grants are focused on capital projects in all program areas. The next deadline for applications is May 1. For more information, [click here](#).

**The Harley-Davidson Foundation's** mission is to meet the basic needs of the communities where Harley-Davidson operates, improve the lives of stakeholders, and encourage social responsibility. The Foundation pursues partnerships with charitable organizations that help invest in education; community revitalization; veteran initiatives; and other programs in arts and culture, health, and the environment. The next deadline for applications is July 6. For more information, [click here](#).

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### **National Coalition for Homeless Veterans**

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Washington, DC 20003-1148

**Mission:** The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans will end homelessness among veterans by shaping public policy, promoting collaboration, and building the capacity of service providers.

This newsletter is sent to members of NCHV. If you would like to be removed from our list, please send an email to [jdriscoll@nchv.org](mailto:jdriscoll@nchv.org). You can subscribe or view past issues [here](#).