



NATIONAL COALITION *for* HOMELESS VETERANS

At Your Service

HVRP Grantee Best Practices

Partnerships – Mutually Beneficial Partnerships

One of the major goals of every HVRP is facilitating an integrated service delivery network through community engagement, collaboration, and partnerships. Partnering with other organizations can lead to a more efficient use of resources through sharing information and job leads.

David Lopez of Swords to Plowshares found that his organization's partnership with Wal-Mart benefited both organizations. "They post their positions with Swords to Plowshares. We go out and we recruit. We become the headhunters for them. [...] We don't do the normal job fairs." Lopez said that Swords to Plowshares improves the placement process by working with veterans and only placing veterans that are suitable and job-ready. "We interview, we screen, we prep them. We do mock interviews."

Barbara Ousley of Salvation Army Bell Shelter spoke about her group's partnership with a trucking company. "They provide us with ten scholarships a year for veterans to participate in their program," adding "they've hired some of our veterans." Ousley also pointed out her organization's decision to recognize successful veteran outcomes, saying "We place a big plaque on the wall to show each successful veteran who has graduated from their course."

The Continuum of Care (CoC) can be a valuable partner according to John Briggs of Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries. His program works closely with its CoC, and has assumed a leadership role in CoC's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Again, both sides can benefit from such a partnership, as Briggs stated, "they do our outreach for us for SSVF [Supportive Services for Veteran Families]." And because CoCs are required to serve veterans who are not VHA-eligible, your local COC can benefit from working with your HVRP.

Partnerships with local VSOs and churches can also provide a variety of benefits as Bill Darnell of Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries found. "The [Bellvue] Vets Club has hosted our annual Stand Down for the last twelve to thirteen years. [...] In greater Cincinnati itself, the Vineyard Church has a stand-alone [501(c)(3)] agency called The Healing Center, which we have partnered the last several years with. The Healing Center screens, by default, a large number of veterans who come to that church looking for assistance and then they refer to us for specific help with programs connected with vets, homelessness, and other issues."

Dana Niemela of Denver Department of Human Services noted the utility of maintaining strong relationships with Volunteers of America's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program, the VA Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC), VFW Post 1, and a nonprofit focusing on disabled-persons. The nonprofit, "had a strong connection with employers, helping place formerly justice-involved individuals into employment in general and we just decided to partner with them and capitalize. It was stimulated by [a] Community Service Block Grant, but we kept the relationship going after the block grant ended."