

NCHV eNewsletter

August 2012



2012 Veteran Access to Housing Summit

Two-day training to take place Sept. 17-18 in San Antonio

The 2012 Veteran Access to Housing Summit, hosted by the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans and The Home Depot Foundation in coordination with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, will offer two full days of targeted training sessions, intensive workshops, and opportunities for engagement between critical partners involved in expanding the availability of permanent housing options for homeless and at-risk veterans and their families. In 2011, participants in the inaugural Veteran Access to Housing Summit reinforced the value of connecting service providers directly to their partners in government, philanthropy and business as they work collaboratively to identify the major housing needs, existing resources and best practices to guide program development. The 2012 Veteran Access to Housing Summit will build on the progress and lessons of the inaugural event by honing in on the specific community initiatives and VA programs that support the rapid expansion of housing resources.

In 2009, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs anticipated a need for approximately 90,000 units of permanent housing for homeless and low-income veterans to meet the objectives of the Five-Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness. At this critical juncture, veteran service providers, corporate partners, charitable organizations and federal agency representatives must engage constructively to successfully reinforce and streamline the service delivery network to prevent homelessness and rapidly house and re-house homeless veterans. Participants in the 2012 Veteran Access to Housing Summit will learn more about proven methods of expediting the expansion of permanent housing opportunities for homeless and at-risk veteran families, and ways to amend and update business plans to better align with both the short-term and long-range goals of the Federal agencies invested in the national campaign to end veteran homelessness.

Training topics include:

- **Conversion of Foreclosed Properties:** Converting foreclosed and abandoned properties for organization-sponsored lease or ownership to provide long-term housing for homeless veterans (models include transition in place (GPD), Section 8, or shared rental housing)
- **Using Grant and Per Diem:** Making the GPD program more effective in preparing homeless veterans for rapid placement in permanent housing
- **The Role of Prevention Programs:** Leveraging Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) resources to rapidly re-house veterans in transitional programs
- **Successful Models for Transition in Place:** Identifying best practices from successful TIP models in local communities, within and beyond GPD

- **Resources for Rehabilitation:** Financing housing rehabilitation using existing program models

Registration fees are \$200 for the full event (no one day registrations will be accepted). The registration form can be accessed [here](#).

NCHV has reserved a block of hotel rooms at the government rate at the Hyatt Regency in San Antonio. Hotel reservations can be made [here](#).

Stakeholders are encouraged to register quickly, as space is limited for this event!

Bill to Reauthorize, Improve Critical Homeless Veteran Programs Signed into Law

Increases SSVF authorization to \$300 million, expands eligibility for Special Needs program

On Aug. 6, President Barack Obama signed H.R. 1627, the “Honoring America’s Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012,” into law. The bill reauthorizes and improves several homeless veteran programs that are critical to the success of the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Five-Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness.

Throughout the 112th Congress, NCHV has regularly advised the congressional committees of jurisdiction on the provisions in H.R. 1627 that would greatly impact the delivery of homeless veteran assistance.

Notably, this law increases authorization for the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program to \$300 million; and reauthorizes the Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program at \$250 million, the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program at \$50 million, the Special Needs Grant Program at \$5 million, and the Enhanced-Use Lease Program with modifications. Additionally, VA is now required to study and improve the GPD reimbursement method, and can directly provide services to dependents of male and female veterans enrolled in the Special Needs program.

For more detail on this bill and its impact on homeless veteran service providers, [click here](#).

Corporate Connection Portal Now Live New NCHV resource in partnership with The Home Depot Foundation

The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, with support from The Home Depot Foundation, has launched the [Corporate Connection portal](#). Designed to support service providers' through partnerships with businesses in their communities, the portal will keep you up to date on the latest relevant corporate news and provide briefing papers to reinforce or augment your communication with businesses. The aim of this new initiative is to increase efficiency in service providers' service to homeless veterans, and to strengthen support from the private sector.



In the coming weeks, the Corporate Connection will have a special announcement including information on additional supports to help service providers achieve goals, as well as an additional benefit exclusive to member organizations.

Please contact Andrew Geary at ageary@nchv.org or 202-546-1969 to share examples of successful partnerships with businesses or other replicable opportunities to help other service providers.

NCHV and the American Legion Publish Handbook for Homeless Veterans and Service Providers

Provides info on access to housing, employment, health services and more

The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans and The American Legion – one of the nation’s largest veteran service organizations, with more than 2.4 million members in 14,000 posts worldwide – recently published a brief reference guide for veterans in crisis and those who seek to help them. “ON-CALL: Handbook for Homeless Veterans and Service Providers” provides information on housing supports, employment assistance, health and legal services, and numerous other resources. The guide also features preliminary information on starting long-term homeless veteran assistance programs, as well as information on educational and preventive activities offered by The Legion and NCHV.

To download "ON-CALL," [click here](#) (PDF).

New Rapid Re-housing Training Module Available Now

From the National Alliance to End Homelessness

The National Alliance to End Homelessness has released a new training module in its rapid re-housing training series. The third module is focused on funding and structuring short and medium-term rental subsidies for clients for maximum effectiveness. The training includes a PowerPoint presentation and narration from Alliance staff. Topics include: the purpose of subsidies, different subsidy models, and different funding sources.

The two previous modules included information on housing-barrier assessment and housing search and location.

To access the new training module, [click here](#).

Veteran Homelessness Featured in New "Evidence Matters"

Research publication from Department of Housing and Urban Development

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has released the summer 2012 issue of "Evidence Matters," a research publication. This issue includes "Tackling Veteran Homelessness with HUDStat," an article on how HUD is using a performance management tool to improve program effectiveness. Also in this issue is an article by Mark Johnston, Acting Assistant Secretary for HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development, "Using Data to Understand and End Veteran

Homelessness."

To view this issue of Evidence Matters, [click here](#).

Funding Opportunities

The Amgen Foundation supports programs that align with the Foundation's mission and priority giving areas in the communities where Amgen has a presence. Currently, the Amgen Foundation makes Community Life grants in and around the following U.S. and Puerto Rico communities: Ventura and Los Angeles Counties, CA; San Francisco Bay Area, CA; the Front Range of Colorado; Greater Boston Area, Middlesex and Suffolk Counties, MA; Juncos, Puerto Rico; Rhode Island; and King and South Snohomish Counties, WA. The Foundation's focus is to fund programs that enhance civic engagement by supporting science and education based initiatives, environmental programs, health and social services, as well as culture and arts. For more information, [click here](#).

The Columbia Bank Foundation issues community grants to charitable and community organizations in New Jersey, especially those promoting health and human services, affordable housing, community investment, economic development and financial literacy. Applications are accepted at all times. For more information, [click here](#).

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For the latest news, resources and grant information, visit our website at www.nchv.org.

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