

**NATIONAL COALITION *for* HOMELESS VETERANS**

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NCHV e-Newsletter

February 2012

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.

Join us for the most important homeless veteran-specific event of the year. After three days of training and networking, you will leave the 2012 NCHV Annual Conference prepared to continue leading the charge to end veteran homelessness in your community. Among the three days of intense training will be four tracks of special emphasis:

- "Department of Veterans Affairs: Finishing the Plan to End Veteran Homelessness"
- "Community Engagement: The Power of Partnerships"
- "Target Populations: Meeting Unique Needs"
- "Legal Services: Overcoming Barriers to Independent Living"

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 at a discounted rate of \$224 per night. These rooms sell out every year, so please make your reservations as soon as possible to ensure you receive the discounted rate. 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](#).

Video Message from HUD Secretary Donovan Offers Guidance and Direction to ESG Grant Recipients*Touts ending homelessness as critical Administration priority*

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan issued a video message directed to Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) recipients and subrecipients, Continuums of Care (CoCs), and other organizations partnering with HUD to end homelessness. He opened the message by reminding HUD's partners that, "the fight to end homelessness is one of the Obama Administration's most critical priorities and winning that fight depends on you, our local partners."

In addition to highlighting success in carrying out the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP), Secretary Donovan calls on ESG recipients to do the following:

1. Invest an unprecedented percentage of your funding in rapid re-housing: We've learned from

HPRP that rapid re-housing programs make the biggest impact on homelessness and should be given the highest priority under ESG.

2. Collaborate with CoCs: Keep planning smarter. Better coordination creates better results for homeless families and the American taxpayer.
3. Focus on results and collecting quality data in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS): This data is essential to measuring what works and what doesn't. Accurate HMIS data will also enable us to gain a more informed understanding of the problems of homelessness in our communities.

To watch the video, [click here](#).

FTA Announces Availability of Veterans Transportation Grants

Applications due April 19, 2012

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has announced the availability of approximately \$30 million to create or increase access to local and regional transportation resources that veterans and military families depend on to get to work, school and other destinations. The transit funding would boost access to jobs and training that America's service members need and deserve.

The previous round of Veterans Transportation and Community Living grants, announced in November 2011, provided \$34.6 million for 55 projects in 32 states and Guam. Demand for the program was strong, with the Department receiving 70 eligible proposals seeking \$52 million in funding requests to create "one-click, one-call" transportation resource centers around the United States last year.

The second round of Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative grants, funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), will continue to help states and communities build or expand "one-click, one-call" centers that offer comprehensive information on local transportation options and other community services, with just a single phone call or click of the mouse.

The [notice of funding availability](#) for the program's second round of grants was published in the *Federal Register*. Proposals are due on April 19, 2012. A list of the projects that have already been funded under the previous round is available [here](#).

Additional information on the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative, including how to apply, is available at www.fta.dot.gov/veterans.

VA for Vets Releases New Career Center Resource Guide

Provides guidance on utilizing VA for Vets Career Center

VA for Vets has released a new Career Center Resource Guide. The guide provides step-by-step instructions on using the VA for Vets Career Center. It allows veterans to find the right VA career opportunities matched to their experience, skills and interests. From translating military skills to providing self-assessments and job search results best suited to a veterans' background, the Career Center will guide veterans toward a rewarding career serving our nation's veterans and families.

To view the VA for Vets Career Center Resource Guide, [click here](#).

Secretary's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Service for Homeless Veterans

Nominations due April 6, 2012

The Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs' Homeless Veterans Initiative Office is seeking nominations for the Secretary's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Service for Homeless Veterans. The nominations should recognize outstanding achievement of individuals or organizations that provide exceptional service to homeless veterans.

Your assistance in submitting nominations to recognize excellence among those individuals or groups is important to VA's mission to prevent and end homelessness of veterans.

Award nominations in the form attached should be submitted by postal mail or hand delivered to the Homeless Veterans Initiative Office (075D), Department of Veterans Affairs, 1722 Eye Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006 no later than April 6, 2012. The complete nomination package may also be submitted via email to homelessvets@va.gov.

To download the award criteria, [click here](#). To download the nomination form, [click here](#).

2012 NCHV Awards Nominations

Call for entries for Annual NCHV Awards

NCHV members are invited to nominate deserving individuals and organizations for the following awards. Winners will be honored at the NCHV Annual Awards Banquet in Washington, D.C., during the 2012 Annual Conference. For more information, [visit our conference webpage](#).

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In addition to highlighting success in carrying out the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP), Secretary Donovan calls on ESG recipients to do the following:

- ***Outstanding Member***
To the NCHV member that has demonstrated leadership in coalition building.
- ***Partnership Award***
To a person or organization (not an NCHV member) who has contributed to the development of partnerships to expand the services available for homeless veterans.
- ***Public Policy Award***
To a local or state person or organization for influencing or implementing public policy to benefit homeless veterans.
- ***Unsung Hero Award***
To a person who has contributed to the recognition of the homeless veteran issue in a supporting or unrecognized leadership role.
- ***Departments of Veterans Affairs and Labor Staff Awards***

Fax your nomination (in the form of a letter explaining why the nominee is deserving of which award) to 202-546-2063, or email to rbrown@nchv.org.

Funding Opportunities

Sprint and the **Sprint Foundation** support regional initiatives that contribute to a strong civic infrastructure and a vibrant, healthy community. Sprint's largest concentration of employees is at its world headquarters site in Overland Park, Kansas, a suburb of Kansas City. As such, the majority of Sprint Foundation community – specific grants provide support within the Kansas City area. In addition, the Sprint Local Giving Program provides Sprint Foundation grants for Atlanta, Dallas/Fort Worth, Denver and New York City. Grant applications are accepted online throughout the year. For more information, [click here](#).

The Veterans Support Foundation (VSF), as part of its ongoing service to veterans and their families, provides funding in the form of grants to projects sponsored, supported or endorsed by the National Board of Directors, State Councils, and Chapters of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). VSF gives priority to matching fund projects. Applications are due March 31. For more information, [click here](#).

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National Coalition for Homeless Veterans

333 ½ Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
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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. You can subscribe or view past issues [here](#).