

## NCHV eNewsletter

February 2013



### Register Now! 2013 NCHV Annual Conference

*May 29-31 in Washington, D.C.*

Register now for the 2013 NCHV Annual Conference, "Service Providers: Great Innovations." The Conference will be held **Wednesday, May 29, 2013 – Friday, May 31, 2013** in Washington, D.C.

The NCHV Annual Conference provides the nation's most comprehensive source of training on homeless veteran services, programs, best practices, and resources for service providers and their partners. This year, the Annual Conference will focus on the innovative, research-based practices from the service provider community that have had significant impacts on efforts to end homelessness among veterans by 2015.

The Conference will provide training opportunities and forums for engagement with partners from several Federal agencies, leaders in business and philanthropy, and experts from the service provider community. This year's Conference will feature an expanded selection of sessions over three days. Conference attendees will be able to choose from over 30 groundbreaking sessions from across five unique tracks:

- Housing Services and Philanthropy
- Federal Partners (leadership sessions)
- Target Populations
- Employment and Income
- Legal Services

The NCHV Annual Conference regularly sells out well ahead of time, so be sure to plan to register and make hotel reservations early. Registration includes a networking lunch on Wednesday and an awards banquet dinner on Thursday evening.

To reserve a room at the Grand Hyatt, [click here](#).

To register online for the 2013 NCHV Annual Conference, [click here](#).

If you would like to download the 2013 NCHV Annual Conference registration form, [click here](#).

Stay tuned to the [NCHV Annual Conference page](#) for the most up-to-date information!

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## Conducting Homeless Counts on Native American Lands

### Toolkit available from the Housing Assistance Council

The Housing Assistance Council (HAC) has released a flexible toolkit that highlights steps, tools and methods to complete an accurate homeless count on Native American lands. The toolkit is based upon research as well as interviews with key stakeholders in the field.

Homelessness in rural areas can be difficult to address. Small, spread-out populations make it difficult to accurately conduct homeless counts in rural communities. However, these counts are often critical to ensure that rural communities receive the support necessary to assist homeless persons in securing safe, permanent housing.

This difficulty is further compounded in rural communities on American Indian, Alaska Native, and Hawaiian Home Land (AIANHH) lands. Issues such as tribal mistrust of the federal government; outside entities' lack of understanding of tribal sovereignty and diversity among Indian nations; and cultural competencies and legal complexities associated with tribal lands create additional challenges to conducting an accurate count. Furthermore, situations of people in need on Native American lands often do not fit federal definitions of homelessness, which increases the difficulty in accessing funding. As a result, homelessness is often undercounted or inaccurately counted on these lands, and their homeless populations remain grossly underserved.

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

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## VA Releases Veteran Suicide Report

### Highlights help available for veterans in crisis

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has released a comprehensive report on veterans who die by suicide. The report indicates that the estimated total number of veterans who have died by suicide has increased.

VA has implemented comprehensive suicide prevention initiatives, including a toll-free Veterans Crisis Line, placement of suicide prevention coordinators at all VA medical centers and large outpatient facilities, and improvements in case management and reporting. Information from the report is expected to strengthen these activities.

Immediate help is available at [www.VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net) or by calling the Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 (push 1) or texting 838255. The full report can be found on VA's website by [clicking here](#), along with a [summary response](#) from VA Under Secretary for Health, Dr. Robert A. Petzel.

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## VRAP Education Benefits Still Available

### Applications accepted until Sept. 30, 2013

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), over 94,000 veterans have applied for Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) education benefits. To date, VA has approved over 77,000 Certificates of Eligibility. However, just over 27,000 of those eligible veterans have started to use the benefit.

VA is encouraging veterans to finish the process and get enrolled in eligible education programs as soon as possible. The program is only two years long, so by law VA can only accept applications until Sept. 30, 2013, and the last payment can be made through March 31, 2014.

VRAP participants that do not enroll in school by March of this year will not be able to receive a full 12 months of training. VRAP participants are being advised that they must apply and begin using their benefits as soon as feasible, or notify VA to cancel their Certificate of Eligibility to make room for other veterans to use the benefit.

For more information on how to apply for VRAP benefits, [click here](#).

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## Call for Nominations for 2013 NCHV Annual Awards

### Awards Banquet to be held during NCHV Annual Conference

Each year, NCHV honors the commitment and service of a few of the many deserving organizations and individuals helping homeless veterans across the nation. We are now accepting nominations for the following awards:

- **Outstanding Member** - To an NCHV member organization whose programs, partnerships and people combine to create extraordinary results.
- **Partnership Award** - To an organization or individual whose work building effective partnerships exemplifies creativity and collaboration.
- **Public Policy Award** - To an elected official whose record shows strong commitment and action in measures to help homeless veterans.
- **Unsung Hero Award** - To an individual whose efforts go above and beyond expectations, who expects nothing in return and demonstrates a hero's heart for homeless veterans.
- **Department of Veterans Affairs Staff Award** - To a Department of Veterans Affairs staff member who exhibits extraordinary commitment to homeless veterans and service providers.
- **Department of Labor Staff Award** - To a Department of Labor staff member who exhibits extraordinary commitment to homeless veterans and service providers.

Please submit a one- to two-page letter of nomination by email to [rbrown@nchv.org](mailto:rbrown@nchv.org) no later than **March 29, 2013**.

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## Funding Opportunities

**Costco Wholesale's** corporate contributions program supports nonprofits in company operating areas in the United States, Canada and internationally. Priority is given to programs focusing on children, education, and health and human services. Grants are generally program-based. The Company reviews grant requests throughout the year. Local organizations should submit requests to the warehouse manager at the nearest Costco store. Grant requests that impact a broader region should go through the appropriate regional office. For more information, [click here](#).

**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](#).

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This eNewsletter is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. For the latest news, resources and grant information, visit our website at [www.nchv.org](http://www.nchv.org).

**National Coalition for Homeless Veterans**

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