

## NCHV eNewsletter

February 2015



### 2015 NCHV Annual Conference Registration Now Open

25 Years: Thank You for Your Service

[Register online for the 2015 NCHV Annual Conference](#), or [download a registration form to return by fax or mail](#).

"25 Years: Thank You for Your Service" – This is our message to you, and the theme for the 2015 NCHV Annual Conference, which will be held May 27-29, 2015, at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, D.C. This year is NCHV's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we want to thank you, the NCHV members and partner agencies, for your work over the last 25 years.

This year is significant for all of us, and the Annual Conference will be your opportunity to connect to the expertise of past experience and engage in planning for the future. As we head into the sunset of the Five-Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness, we build upon a quarter century of knowledge to propel us into a new realm. At this year's Conference, we will focus on how our past sets a foundation for the future of services for veterans experiencing and at-risk of homelessness. We will share successes and plan for the future.

**Sharing Success:** This Conference will focus on the momentum in local communities that are ending veteran homelessness. Come share your energy and experience in driving down veteran homelessness in your community. Learn from the experts across the service continuum who are making it happen.

**Planning for the Future:** Join us in building a plan beyond 2015 to ensure no veteran sleeps on our nation's streets. This new sphere of services will be defined by prevention, rapid rehousing, increased efficiency, and creative adaptation to meet the emerging needs of homeless veterans in our communities.

We will continue to look to best practices from the field to send Conference attendees home better equipped to ensure no veteran must sleep on the street in their community. NCHV was founded to represent and serve homeless veteran service providers across the country, and it is your service we continue to honor and support.

We have secured a discounted block of rooms at the Grand Hyatt for conference attendees. This block sells out every year and is a substantial discount compared to other local options. Be sure to book your room well in advance! [Click here to make your reservation at the discounted rate](#).

Stay tuned to the [NCHV Annual Conference page](#) for more updates in the coming weeks!

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## Deadline Approaching for Abstract Submissions! NCHV Seeks Presenters for 2015 NCHV Annual Conference

May 27-29, 2015 in Washington, D.C.

Do you want to share what your community is doing to end veteran homelessness? Do you have a service structure in your community that has had a profound impact and is scalable to other communities? Apply to be a presenter at this year's Annual Conference! We are looking for innovative, impactful models grounded in research and experience.

Suggested session topics include: Affordable Housing Development, Permanent Housing Access, Transitional/Emergency Housing, Supportive Housing, Data and Tracking Tools, Rapid Re-Housing, Special Populations, Income Supports, Employment Services, Local Coordination, Coordinated Intake/Assessment, Legal Services, Mental Health Services, and Prevention. Other topics will also be considered.

**In order to be considered, all abstract submissions must be completed by March 1, 2015.**

To submit your session abstract online, [complete this form](#). You may also [download this form](#) to complete and submit via email to [mholzer@nchv.org](mailto:mholzer@nchv.org).

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## Call for Nominations: Annual NCHV Awards

To be presented at the Annual NCHV Awards Ceremony, May 28 in Washington, D.C.

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 including the nominee's name, title, and which award you are nominating for by email to [rbrown@nchv.org](mailto:rbrown@nchv.org) no later than April 20, 2015.

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## VA, HHS, HUD Seek Input for Homeless Disaster Planning Toolkit

### Organizations with experience in homeless disaster response encouraged to give input

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are collaborating to develop a Homeless Disaster Planning Toolkit to improve the integration of homeless populations and service providers in disaster preparedness, planning, and response.

The Disaster Toolkit will be geared toward practitioners and policymakers, providing practical guidance and solutions to improve efforts during disasters to assist both homeless service providers, and individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

In developing this Toolkit, the Departments are conducting informal interviews with service providers like you in communities across the country to identify best practices, lessons learned, and recommendations from prior efforts to improve disaster preparedness and response for homeless populations.

If your organization has experience and expertise in this area, and you would like to be considered to participate in an informal interview, please contact June Gin at [june.gin@va.gov](mailto:june.gin@va.gov), no later than Feb. 28, 2015.

To read a one-page overview of the vision for the Homeless Disaster Planning Toolkit, [click here](#).

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## VA and Community Partners Release West Los Angeles Homeless Plan

### Part of West L.A. VAMC use settlement

On Jan. 28, 2015, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Robert A. McDonald and attorneys representing homeless veterans in Los Angeles announced a historic agreement that dedicates the West Los Angeles VA campus to serving veterans in need. The agreement is an important step forward in carrying out President Obama's commitment that no veteran should live on the streets, or forego available medical and psychological services.

On Feb. 13, pursuant to this agreement, VA released its written plan to help end veteran homelessness in Greater Los Angeles. The plan focuses on serving veterans, particularly homeless veterans, women veterans, aging veterans and veterans that are severely disabled. VA's efforts will be done in coordination with pertinent Federal, State, and local authorities; legislators; Veteran Service Organizations; Faith Based organizations; community partners; charitable organizations; and veterans. As part of this Plan, VA is committed to utilizing the West Los Angeles Medical Center in a more veteran-centric manner going forward.

"This plan demonstrates what can be accomplished for our nation's veterans when we come together as a community – everyone working together toward the higher goal," said Secretary McDonald. "This is an important first step toward ending veteran homelessness in Greater LA and a model of what we will do across the country."

See the plan: <http://www.va.gov/opa/docs/Veterans-Homelessness-Strategy-and-Action-Plan.pdf>.

**For more on veteran homelessness in Los Angeles and the plan for the West L.A. VAMC campus:**

- See U.S. VETS President and CEO Steve Peck's op-ed, [Ending Vet Homelessness in LA, Is the End in Sight?](#)
- Read the L.A. Times article on the plan, "[VA details plan to eliminate veterans' homelessness](#)."

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## **Funding Opportunities**

**The Horne Family Foundation** offers grants to nonprofit organizations serving the Merrimack Valley area and the southern portion of New Hampshire. It also funds organizations with a national focus. The majority of the Foundation's grants are made in categories that are in alignment with the core values of the foundation: conservation, education, health and human services, the arts, wildlife preservation, international development and relief and environmental sustainability. The next deadline for applications is March 31. For more information, [click here](#).

**The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation** creates grant partnerships with nonprofit organizations that can generate transformational results in education, human services, and health. The Foundation's focus is on organizations in certain areas of Florida and Minnesota. Letters of Inquiry are accepted through March 6, 2015. 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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