

## NCHV eNewsletter

### January 2014



### Save the Date! 2014 NCHV Annual Conference

May 28-30 in Washington, D.C.

The NCHV Annual Conference will be held **Wednesday, May 28, 2014 – Friday, May 30, 2014** at the Grand Hyatt Washington hotel 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's 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.

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 the Annual NCHV Awards Banquet dinner on Thursday evening.

Stay tuned to [www.nchv.org](http://www.nchv.org) for more information as it becomes available!

---

### VA Announces Funding Available for SSVF Program

Applications due March 14, 2014

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced the availability of funds for supportive services grants under the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program (SSVF). The NOFA, published in the Jan. 14, 2014 Federal Register, contains information concerning the SSVF Program, initial and renewal supportive services grant application processes, and amount of funding available.

The SSVF Program's purpose is to provide supportive services grants to private nonprofit organizations and consumer cooperatives who will coordinate or provide supportive services to very low-income veteran families who: (i) Are residing in permanent housing, (ii) are homeless and scheduled to become residents of permanent housing within a specified time period, or (iii) after exiting permanent housing within a specified time period, are seeking other housing that is responsive to such very low-income veteran family's needs and preferences.

The overriding goal for this NOFA is to ensure that appropriate levels of resources are provided to

communities with the greatest need to end veteran homelessness. Under Priority 1, VA will provide up to \$300 million over a 3-year period for non-renewable grants to eligible entities proposing services for one of the 76 priority Continuums of Care (CoC) listed in the NOFA. VA has designed this 3-year effort to provide a surge of resources in communities with the highest need. These 76 locations have been selected based on factors that include current unmet service needs, levels of veteran homelessness, levels of veteran poverty, and the overall size of the veteran population.

Priority 2 is for existing SSVF Program grantees seeking to renew their supportive services grants. To be eligible for renewal of a supportive services grant, the grantee's program concept must be substantially the same with the program concept of the grantee's current grant award.

Priority 3 is for eligible entities applying for initial supportive services grants.

To read the NOFA in its entirety, [click here](#).

---

## **Congress Considers Appropriations Bills**

### **Would set funding for veteran programs for FY 2014 and 2015**

The appropriations package currently under consideration in Congress has some good news for homeless veterans and service providers across the country. Though amorphous until passed by both houses, the current proposal on the floor of the House of Representatives would maintain funding levels for all of the veteran homelessness programs, and increase funding for the Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program.

This appropriations omnibus is effective for Fiscal Year 2014, which began when the government shut down last October. Because of the two-year appropriation cycle that the Veterans Health Administration is engaged in however, this omnibus covers not only the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) programs for FY 2014 but also the VA programs for FY 2015. Below is a list of highlights from the appropriations bills currently under consideration that will directly impact homeless veterans and service providers:

- An additional \$75 million for about 10,000 new Housing and Urban Development - VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers in FY 2014
- A steady funding level of \$38 million for the Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP) at the Department of Labor for FY 2014
- A steady funding level for Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) of \$300 million per year for both FY 2014 and FY 2015
- A steady funding level for GPD of \$235 million for FY 2014
  - And an increased funding level of \$250 million for GPD in FY 2015

The \$15 million increase to the GPD program in FY 2015 will bring all of the veteran homelessness programs administered directly by VA up to their full yearly funding caps.

To keep track of active legislation, and in the weeks to come to view NCHV's 2014 Policy Statements, visit the policy section of our website, at [www.nchv.org/index.php/policy](http://www.nchv.org/index.php/policy).

---

## **RAND Toolkit: Improving Programs that Address Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury**

### *Toolkit offers different research-based program improvement ideas*

Since 2001, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) has implemented numerous programs to support service members and their families in coping with the stressors from a decade of conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan. These programs, which address both psychological health and traumatic brain injury (TBI), number in the hundreds and vary in their size, scope, and target population. To ensure that resources are wisely invested to maximize the benefits of such programs, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs asked the RAND National Defense Research Institute to develop a set of tools to assist with understanding, evaluating, and improving program performance.

The four-volume toolkit is not intended to provide an overview of evaluation methods, a step-by-step guide to conducting program evaluation, or directions for conducting needs assessments. Many resources are available to support such efforts. Rather, the purpose is to help those responsible for overseeing portfolios of multiple programs to address key interrelated questions:

- Do the programs in a given portfolio fully address the needs of the population the portfolio is intended to serve?
- What tools are available to assess a program's effect on service members?
- Does the evidence indicate that a particular program is ready for expansion?
- How can program performance be improved?

To access this toolkit from the RAND Corporation, [click here](#).

---

## **Moving Forward: New Resource for Veterans to Improve Life Skills and Problem Solving**

**Developed by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs**

A new website gives members of the military community access to an educational and life coaching program online. Developed by National Center for Telehealth and Technology (T2) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as part of the Defense Department and VA initiative to provide collaborative and integrated mental health services to veterans and service members, "[Moving Forward](#)" helps individuals better understand their own problem-solving abilities and teaches new skills to overcome obstacles in life, both big and small.

---

## **Funding Opportunities**

**The Baron and Blue Foundation** strives to enhance the function of nonprofit organizations in the Dallas, TX community by assisting to maintain existing programs and further opportunities for grassroots organizations focusing on homelessness, transitional housing and the needs of the underserved. The deadline for the spring grant cycle is April 1. For more information, [click here](#).

**The PGE Foundation** helps foster safe and healthy families through support of educational and community programs. Safe and Healthy Families grants in 2014 will target basic needs such as hunger, homelessness and health care, and programs that combat joblessness. A major area of interest is on prevention programs. The next deadline for letters of inquiry is Feb. 7. For more information, [click here](#).

---

---

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**

333 1/2 Pennsylvania Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
202-546-1969 or toll-free 1-800-VET-HELP

---