Innovative Partnerships to Embed Lawyers:

Identifying and Addressing Legal Needs
Case Manager
- Primary point of contact for the veteran
- Makes referrals to specialists and other resources

Employment Specialist
- Takes referrals from Case Manager
- Assists the veteran in finding stable employment

Legal & Benefits Specialist
- Takes referrals from Case Manager
- Assists the veteran with legal issues and applying for benefits
Embedding with SSVF

Advantages

- **Built-in Support**
  A variety of resources are available through SSVF

- **Best Practices**
  Clients are receiving the best support they can be as SSVF program participants

- **Direct Access**
  No referral gap – regular communication with housing case managers allows for better service

Challenges

- **Time Frame**
  Rapid-Rehousing program is theoretically complete within 90 days

- **Geography**
  SSVF service providers have geographic limitations that are typically more limited

- **Housing Focus**
  The “Housing First” model means that other services may have to wait
Limited Representation

In Washington, DC: Administrative Order 14-10 allows for pro bono civil representation with various limitations.

NB: Attorneys are still bound by DC Rules of Professional Conduct.
**VA Contacts**

Points of contact: VA Regional Offices (VAROs)

Philadelphia Pension Management Center
P.O. Box 8079
Philadelphia, PA 19101

Baltimore VARO
31 Hopkins Plaza,
Baltimore, MD 21201

Roanoke VARO
210 Franklin Rd SW
Roanoke, VA 24011

Washington, DC Benefits Office
1722 I St. NW
Washington, DC
VA Priority Flash

• Homeless Veterans Coordinator
  o Assigned to each VARO

• Requesting a Flash
  o Full legal name
  o Social Security Number
  o Eviction notice/utilities shut-off/etc.
  o Receiving SSVF funds or assistance
  o *Homeless*
    Literally homeless, in a shelter, transitional housing
  o or *Economic Hardship*
    Eviction notice, utilities have been cut off, lost job, etc.

• Send to the Regional Office that handles the claim
  o Everything from DC and Virginia goes to Roanoke RO
  o Everything from Maryland goes to Baltimore RO
• **SOAR**: (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery)
  o Funded by SAMHSA
  o Model to help social services organizations submit quality applications
  o Streamlines the process by coordinating with SSA/DDS

• Specifically functions to end homelessness through increasing access to SSA income.

• Website features a comprehensive and useful online training:  [soarworks.prainc.com](http://soarworks.prainc.com)

Contact: Jen Elder (jelder@prainc.com)
Regional Legal Services Providers

- Neighborhood Legal Services Program
  - Veterans Legal Assistance Project
    Newly formed effort to bring pro bono resources together to provide legal services to homeless and low-income veterans in the area
- Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless
- Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
- Bread for the City - Workers Rights Legal Clinic
- Law School Clinics
  - Georgetown, UDC, American, George Washington, George Mason
- Maryland Legal Aid Bureau
- Legal Services of Northern Virginia
# Resource Tracking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Days/Hours</th>
<th>Type of Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loudon Citizens for Social Justice/LAWS</td>
<td>105 East Market Street, Leesburg, VA 20176</td>
<td>703-771-3398; 703-777-6552 (Crisis Hotline)</td>
<td>9am-6pm (M-F), 24/7 hotline</td>
<td>Emergency DV and Sexual Assault Services, Referrals, Counseling Center - Individuals and children Assault and Child Abuse in Loudon County Fairfax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Maryland Legal Aid - Montgomery</td>
<td>610 Jefferson Plaza Suite 430 Rockville MD 20852</td>
<td>240-314-0373</td>
<td>9am-5pm (M-F)</td>
<td>Low-Cost/Pro-Bono legal services for Residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNI Landlord and Tenant Counselors</td>
<td>2530 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218</td>
<td>1-800-487-6007; (410) 243-6007</td>
<td>Hotline: 9am-1pm, 2pm-4:30pm</td>
<td>Information, education, fair housing hotline (serves all of Maryland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Georges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maryland Legal Aid - Prince Georges</td>
<td>6811 Kentivorth Ave Calvert Building, Ste 500 Riverdale MD</td>
<td>301-560-2100</td>
<td>Call for Hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prince William</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal Services of Northern Virginia</td>
<td>9240 Center Street, Manassas, VA 20110</td>
<td>571-482-2690</td>
<td>9am-5pm (M-F)</td>
<td>Legal services for children, public health, family consumer law for people with disabilities, elderly people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Legal Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Veterans Legal Services Program</td>
<td>1600 K St NW #500, Washington, DC 20006</td>
<td>202-265-8305</td>
<td></td>
<td>Benefits Appeals, Discharge cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Legal Assistance Project</td>
<td>at NLSP</td>
<td>202-832-NLSP</td>
<td><a href="mailto:veterans.project@nlsp.org">veterans.project@nlsp.org</a></td>
<td>Benefits appeals, Discharge cases other Legal Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Project</td>
<td>2101 L Street, NW - Suite 420, Washington, DC 20037</td>
<td>888-638-7727; 202-628-8164</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cases before the U.S. Court of Claims</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Friendship Place - SWS*
Questions? Comments?

Sam Strike
Legal & Benefits Specialist
Friendship Place – Veterans First Program
sstrike@friendshipplace.org
202-306-3758