



## **HVRP Webinar: Stand Down Development Questions and Suggestions from Grantees**

Date of training: October 7, 2014

### **Overview**

On Oct. 7 at 2:00 p.m. EDT, NCHV's TA Center hosted a webinar training on the Stand Down program, focusing on an introduction to Stand Down development and planning. This training provided an introduction to Stand Downs, an overview of the different types and classifications of Stand Down events, and an outline of the major partners necessary for a successful event.

Participants learned where to find more information on local events, about funding and donation resources, and about the various guidebooks and tools available to community partners. This training provides the foundation for the "Stand Down Financing" webinar on Oct. 9, 2014.

For more information on this training, please visit [http://nchv.org/index.php/service/service/post-conference\\_notes/](http://nchv.org/index.php/service/service/post-conference_notes/).

### **Questions from Participants**

**1. For Mary Ross: Are there any suggestions for agencies that may be hosting their first Stand Down?**

Participate as a volunteer at another community's Stand Down events. Work with your local VAMC to gauge what are the needs in your area. If this is your first event it's best to follow the one day model.

**2. What do you consider to be a successful Stand Down, relative to the numbers of attendees?**

The speakers all stated that it's not so much about the numbers, but a sense of community and what people take away from the event. It's important to motivate participants to do something more with their lives.

**3. How is the leadership formatted for the other Stand Downs?**

It is important to have the leaders and points of contact laid out when drafting a plan and narrative for the Stand Down event. Have your community involved and controlling various pieces of the Stand Down.

You may choose to have one main planning committee, or break down your committee into various subcommittees to include logistics, volunteers, services, and fundraising. No matter how you structure your Stand Down leadership, be sure to include all of your major partners at the planning table:

Remember that an HVRP grantee can serve in various roles, including being on the coordinating committee or in charge of coordinating employment and training services at a



Stand Down being coordinated by another entity that has applied on its own for Stand Down funds.

Successful Stand Down organizers suggest sharing responsibility for planning with VA partners from the beginning stages of planning. When planning committees are broken down by services, the VA staff can take the lead in coordinating some services. VA staff should be invited to planning meetings to give them a voice in planning services and to inform their requests for VA's participation in the event. Be sure to include the VA staff on reminder e-mails to the community or partners, volunteers, and donors and send thank-you notes or cards after big meetings or after Stand Down.

Before and during Stand Down, the DVOPs and LVERs can participate in Stand Down planning committees, especially when committees are broken down into service areas including employment. By keeping employment services as one of the many supportive services, the Stand Down event reinforces that employment is a critical component of the service delivery process.