

How Hiring Veterans Supports Ending Veteran Homelessness

Permanent, stable housing is the benchmark of efforts to end homelessness among Veterans, but housing alone may not be enough. Unemployment is cited as the third leading cause of homelessness in the United States, according to [USICH](#). Employment can be a key element in helping Veterans climb out of homelessness or avoid it all together.



BENEFITS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR VETERANS

Studies show that gainful employment at a livable wage, with opportunities for advancement, is the foundation for maintaining economic stability and reducing the risk of becoming homeless. Employment provides:

- Income that is key to economic well-being.
- Greater social interaction and connections that can reduce isolation and build social capital.
- A sense of personal efficacy and social integration that contributes to life satisfaction.

Employment is also likely to result in decreases in substance use, improvements in mental health, and a decreased risk of suicide.



SUPPORT FROM VA FOR EMPLOYERS

- Pre-screening and referring Veterans with a variety of skill sets from all educational levels.
- Assisting Veterans in applying their military experiences to civilian employment.
- Helping to meet diversity and inclusion goals.
- Increasing Veterans' likelihood of employment success by connecting them to a range of supports from VA and the community, including health care, housing, and social services.

VA staff welcome opportunities to engage with community partners and local employers on efforts to end and prevent homelessness among Veterans.



WHAT VA IS DOING TO HELP

VA created [Homeless Veterans Community Employment Services \(HVCES\)](#) to provide employment services and resources to Veterans participating in VA homeless programs to increase access to permanent housing and improve housing stability. This is accomplished both through the provision of direct services and by providing a bridge to employment opportunities and resources provided by VA and non-VA partners.

- [Compensated Work Therapy](#)
- [Department of Labor Homeless Veteran Grantees](#)
- Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)
- [Workforce Agencies](#)
- [Veteran Readiness & Employment \(VR&E\)](#)
- [Faith-Based and Community Organizations](#)
- [American Job Centers](#)

HVCES is staffed by Vocational Development Specialists who function as Community Employment Coordinators (CECs) and Employment Specialists. [Community Employment Coordinators](#) are funded at nearly all VA medical centers nationwide.

IN FISCAL YEAR 2022



52%

of Veterans were employed while housed and receiving case management within HUD-VASH¹, exceeding the national target by more than 5%.



63%

of Veterans who exited a GPD² residential program were employed, exceeding the national target by 8%.



13,171

newly documented instances of employment for Veterans engaged with or who exited from VA homeless programs or services.



11,800

Veterans were employed either full- or part-time/ temporary at exit from all VA homeless programs and services.

If you are a business owner interested in providing employment opportunities or services to Veterans, contact your local [Community Employment Coordinator \(CEC\)](#) to learn more.

1. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing Program

2. Grant and Per Diem Program