



# NATIONAL COALITION *for* HOMELESS VETERANS

## HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAM GRANTS

November 2010

### About the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program

The Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) is the nation's only targeted homeless veterans employment program. Authorized under Section 738 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act in July 1987, the program is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor-Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL-VETS).

HVRP programs fill a special need by serving veterans who may be turned away by other programs and services due to problems, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), being HIV-positive, long histories of substance abuse, serious social problems and legal issues. Veterans with these adversities require more time-consuming, specialized and intensive assessment, referrals and counseling than is available from other programs that work with veterans seeking employment.

The employment focus of HVRP distinguishes it from other programs that concentrate on more immediate needs of the homeless, such as emergency shelter, food and substance abuse treatment.

While these are critical components of any homeless program, and grantees will be required to demonstrate that their clients' needs in those areas are met, it is the ability to secure and keep a job that will allow a homeless veteran to return to society as a productive citizen.

Although small, HVRP is the primary DOL job training program accessible to homeless veterans. Program data reveals that HVRP service providers are able to place their clients into jobs at a cost of approximately \$2,700 per placement – less than the placement cost of traditional providers. According to HVRP Program Year (PY) 2008 performance data, the job placement rate was 57%, and the average hourly wage at placement was \$10.32.

### Who Receives HVRP Funds?

The purpose of HVRP is to expedite the reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force. Grants are awarded through a competitive application process

to 501(c)(3) nonprofit community-based organizations, workforce investment boards and state government agencies that offer employment and job-readiness services that enable homeless veterans to obtain steady, gainful employment.

Grantees provide an array of services directly and through collaboration with other local community-based providers. The program is employment-focused – veterans receive employment and training services – but supportive services such as clothing, shelter, referrals to medical or substance abuse treatment, and transportation assistance are also provided to meet the needs of homeless veterans.

For this reason HVRP grantees are required to demonstrate how they will work with other local, established service providers that can respond to the special needs of homeless veterans and foster an environment in which their clients can successfully return to the workforce. Grantees must show that their program provides or connects veterans to services that will address all factors that contribute to homeless veterans' inability to secure and maintain gainful employment.

### Subgroup-Specific Grants

In addition to general HVRP funds, organizations may apply for specialized HVRP funds to serve homeless veterans subgroups with unique employment needs:

- ◆ The Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program (IVTP) helps to reintegrate incarcerated and/or transitioning veterans who are "at risk" of homelessness. In PY 2010, 15 grants were awarded.
- ◆ Homeless female veterans and homeless veterans with families grants are available to support the reintegration of these populations into the workforce, which requires child care as well as family support and legal assistance. There were 26 grantees in PY 2010, the program's initial year.
- ◆ The Veterans Workforce Investment Program (VWIP) provides employment services and training to disabled veterans, veterans who have significant barriers to employment, veterans who served on active duty during a war, and recently separated

## HOMELESS VETERANS FACT SHEET



veterans. Twenty-two grants were awarded in PY 2010. For information on local programs, contact your state employment or job service office.

### Where to Find SGA Notices and Current Year Funding

Solicitations for Grant Applications (SGAs) are published in the *Federal Register* and are available at [www.nchv.org](http://www.nchv.org) as well as [www.dol.gov/vets](http://www.dol.gov/vets). SGAs are normally issued in the spring, with proposals due in 30 to 60 days.

You may contact your local veterans' employment representative or the DOL-VETS state director for information. Visit [www.dol.gov/vets](http://www.dol.gov/vets) and click "Staff Directory" in the left-hand column.

### What to Know Before Applying for HVRP Funding

As of FY 2009, DOL requires applicants to demonstrate the following:

- Linkages with other programs and services that provide support, specifically housing, to homeless veterans.
- An employment focus with training and services that enable clients to get and maintain long-term, meaningful jobs.
- Need for the grant program as well as capability to provide the required services, including program-reporting and participant tracking.

In FY 2010, HVRP funding rose to \$36 million as a result of NCHV's advocacy work. Funding continues to increase each year due to the success of the program.

The PY runs from July 1 to June 30, and grants are renewable for three years provided grantees meet performance criteria. You will be required to maintain contact with placed veterans to address employment-related problems and conduct mandatory follow-ups to determine if the veteran is in the same or a similar job after 90, 180 and 270 days.

### How to Apply

You must submit an application to DOL. Standard Form 424 (Application for Federal Assistance) must

be submitted, along with the program narrative and other forms and information as required by the application annual or biannual SGA. Application materials and forms are available on the DOL website as they are prepared. *Read the instructions carefully!*

To view the latest HVRP application materials, visit [www.dol.gov/vets/grants/main.htm](http://www.dol.gov/vets/grants/main.htm).

For more information about DOL employment and training programs for veterans, contact the VETS office nearest you, listed in the phone book under U.S. Government, U.S. Department of Labor, or at [www.dol.gov/vets/aboutvets/contacts/main.htm](http://www.dol.gov/vets/aboutvets/contacts/main.htm).

### Related Resources

The emphasis on helping veterans find and retain jobs is enhanced through linkages and coordination with veterans' service programs and organizations such as the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs) in state employment agencies; VWIP; One-Stop Centers; veterans service organizations (VSOs); and the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Health and Human Services.

#### Contacts:

- DVOP and LVER representatives – Look in your local phone book blue pages under State Government for state employment or job service offices.
- VA regional offices – There are 57 regional offices across the country that provide information and employment services for veterans. Call 1-800-827-1000 to locate the office nearest you, or visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).
- Veterans service organizations – Many VSOs offer employment services and assistance. Check your local phone book white pages for listings for the following organizations:
  - ◆ The American Legion
  - ◆ Veterans of Foreign Wars
  - ◆ Disabled American Veterans
  - ◆ American Veterans (AMVETS)
  - ◆ Vietnam Veterans of America