

WELCOME

August 10, 2022

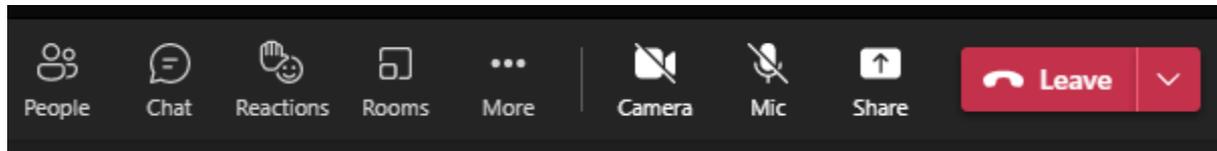
Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services

NCTC Classroom

Bldg. 8-63, Fort Indiantown Gap

Annville, PA 17003

Chat function is used to collect attendance and allows guests to submit any comments or questions





INTRODUCTIONS

OPENING COMMENTS

OLD BUSINESS

GUEST SPEAKERS

Mr. Randy Wright

Mr. Dennis Ero

Mr. Dave Cummiskey

DOL – HVRP Program



Veterans' Employment
and Training Service

Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP)

Pa GAC-VS Meeting
August 10, 2022



Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP)

- Competitive Grant/Intent of Grant
- VETS HVRP Mission (overview/monitoring of grant)
- Timeline of major actions
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania currently has 9 HVRP grants
- Total statewide funds \$2,773,204 to assist Homeless Veterans
- Total number of participants during PY 21 was 938 through 3rd quarter
- Average employment wage PY 21 was \$15.81
- 44 counties are currently served in the Commonwealth



HVRP Grantee

- **COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**
- **Main Office Address:** 165 Amber Lane, Wilkes-Barre, PA, 18703-1124
- **Website:** <https://www.ceopeoplehelpingpeople.org/>
- **Counties Served:**
- **PA:** Luzerne, Lackawanna, Monroe
- \$200,000 grant



HVRP Grantee

- **IMPACT SERVICES CORPORATION**
- **Main Office Address:** 1952 East Allegheny Avenue, Philadelphia, PA, 19134-3122
- **Website:** <https://www.impactservices.org/>
- **Counties Served:**
- **PA:** Bucks, Montgomery, Philadelphia
- \$500,000 grant



HVRP Grantee

- **VETERANS MULTI-SERVICE CENTER, INC.**
- **Main Office Address:** 213-217 N. 4th Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19106-1801
- **Website:** <https://www.vmcenter.org/>
- **Counties Served:**
- **PA:** Philadelphia
- **\$388,939**



HVRP Grantee

- **VETERANS MULTI-SERVICE CENTER, INC.**
- **Main Office Address:** 213-217 N. 4th Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19106-1801
- **Website:** <https://www.vmcenter.org/>
- **Counties Served:**
- **PA:** Centre, Clinton, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Juniata, Lycoming, Mifflin, Northumberland, Snyder, Union
- \$277,546



HVRP Grantee

- **YWCA GREATER HARRISBURG**
- **Main Office Address:** 1101 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA, 17103-2225
- **Website:** <https://www.ywcahbg.org/>
- **Counties Served:**
- **PA:** Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon, Perry, York
- \$275,000



HVRP Grantee

- **VETERANS PLACE OF WASHINGTON BLVD.**
- **Main Office Address:** 945 Washington Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA, 15206-4143
- **Website:** <https://www.veteransplaceusa.org/>
- **Counties Served:**
- **PA:** Allegheny, Butler, Washington, Westmoreland
- \$364,000



HVRP Grantee

- **VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA, INC.**
- **Main Office Address:** 2934 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 15201-1523
- **Website:** <https://www.veteransleadershipprogram.org/>
- **Counties Served:**
- **PA:** Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Mercer, Venango, Warren
- **OH:** Ashtabula
- **NY:** Chautauqua
- \$213,093



HVRP Grantee

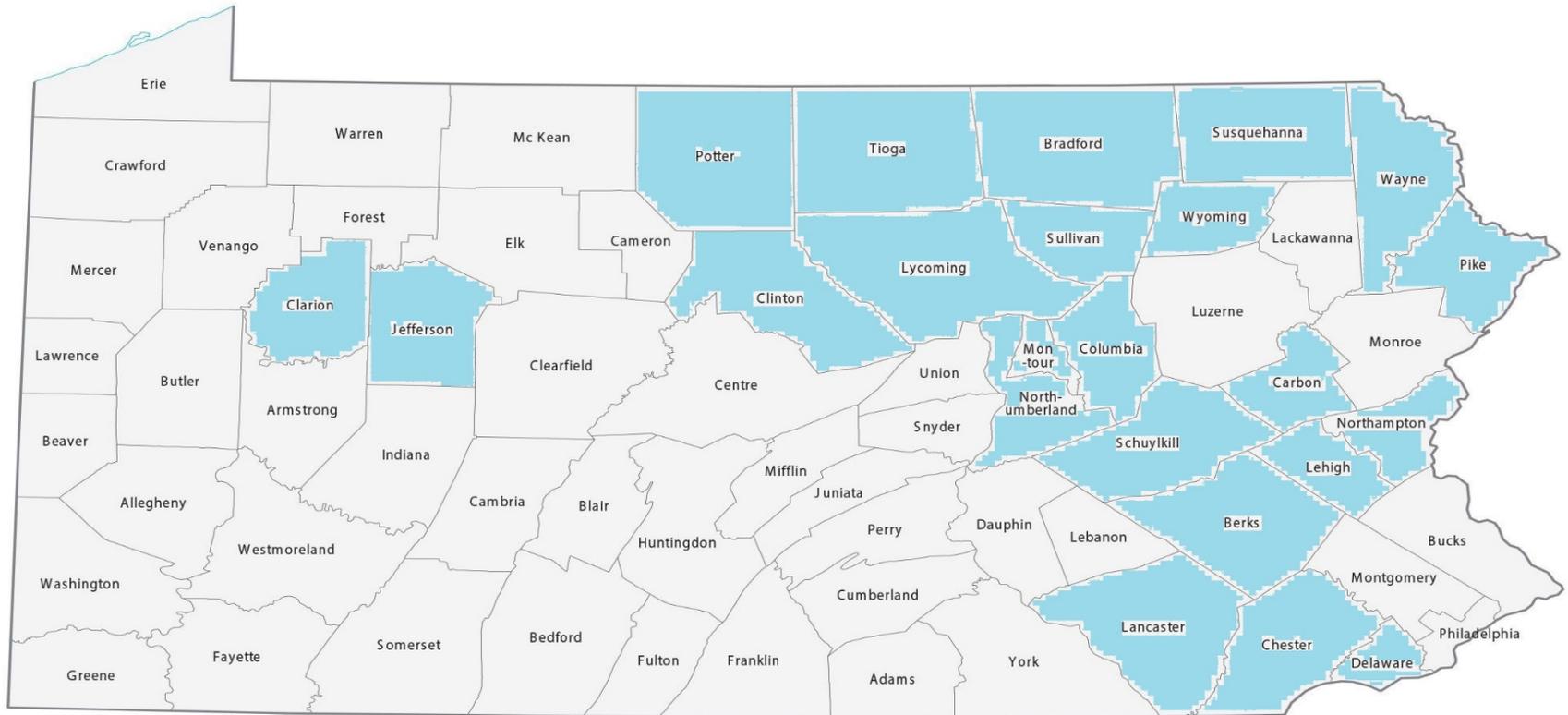
- **VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA, INC.**
- **Main Office Address:** 2934 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 15201-1523
- **Website:** <https://www.veteransleadershipprogram.org/>
- **Counties Served:**
- **PA:** Armstrong, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Fulton, Huntingdon, Indiana, Somerset
- \$213,717



HVRP Grantee

- **VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA, INC.**
- **Main Office Address:** 2934 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 15201-1523
- **Website:** <https://www.veteransleadershipprogram.org/>
- **Counties Served:**
- **PA:** Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Lawrence, Washington, Westmoreland
- \$340,999

Unserved Counties HVRP





Homeless Veteran Stand Down

- Stand Downs are typically 1-3-day events providing supplies and services, such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings and VA Social Security benefits counseling.
- Veterans can also receive referrals to other assistance such as health care, housing solutions, employment, substance use treatment and mental health counseling.
- They are collaborative events, coordinated between local VA Medical Centers, the Department of Labor (DOL), other government agencies and community-based homeless service providers.



Homeless Veteran Stand Down

- **Funding Resources**
- DOL's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) awards Stand Down funding through the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) on an annual basis, pending funding reauthorization.
- This noncompetitive grant is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to support one day or multi-day events at up to \$7,000 or \$10,000, respectively.
- Eligible entities include:
 - state workforce agencies
 - state and local workforce investment boards
 - veterans service organizations
 - local public agencies and nonprofit organizations, including community and faith-based organizations



Email:

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ADVET

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AGING

Mr. Jonathan Bowman, Co-Chair

Goals/Initiatives

- Increase awareness of services and supports for aging veterans and their families and caregivers among professionals within PA's Aging and Veteran Services networks.

Updates

- June elder Abuse Awareness Month. Pension Poaching informational email sent to 60 contacts/36 entities
 - Discussed the campaign to address pension poaching, provide insight on strategy development and program execution to protect elderly veterans at a state-level, identify how predators target financially vulnerable elders
- Papa Pals guest speaker discussed program history and current efforts serving 5 million+ Americans over several health plans. They serve 64 out of 67 counties and work with Medicare Advantage plans and Medicaid for the referral process
- Center for Combating Elder Financial Abuse and West Chester University Department of Criminal Justice collaboration with DMVA
- Protective Services Guest Speaker discussed identifying, reporting and preventing abuse.

Challenges/Barriers

- Papa Pals: Insurance contracted carriers, work with Medicare Advantage Plans and Medicaid for referral process. Need to establish relationship with VA payor source.
- CCEFA/WCU: collaborate with other Universities and their criminal justice departments to expand awareness.

HOMELESS

Mr. Brendan Auman, Co-Chair
Mr. Micah Snead, Co-Chair

Goals/Initiatives

- Training/Information sharing on various programs to improve service delivery and available resources for homeless veterans
- Partner with Aging Committee to discuss potential solutions for aging veterans who experience housing instability and discuss ways to promote better communication with long-term care industry
- Partner with Judiciary Committee to discuss potential solutions for veterans exiting incarceration who have been historically faced many barriers to stable housing
- Collaborate with Women Veterans committee to seek more solutions for women veterans experiencing homelessness

Updates

- Legal Services and Fair Housing
 - Soliciting future spotlight sessions
- 2022 CHALENG Survey
- DMVA Virtual Town Hall on Resources for Homeless Veterans Recap

Challenges/Barriers

- Rent Is Too High
- Lack of Shelter Capacity, Type, Availability
- Collaboration with CoC's Coordinated Entry System for all Veterans

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Crystal Houser, Chair

Goals of PA Apprenticeship and Training Office (ATO)

- Increase the number of Registered Apprenticeship opportunities in Pennsylvania
- Expand into non-traditional occupations and serve traditionally underrepresented populations
- Raise Awareness about the benefits of Registered Apprenticeships and how to access them
- Advocate for apprenticeship as a premier solution to meet workforce needs
- Provide programs to support and resources needed to align with PA standards and practices, assist in the program registration process and provide technical assistance.

Updates

- Increased staffing compliment
- Fully revamped webpages: <https://www.pacareerlink.pa.gov/jponline/Apprenticeships>
- Creation of more inclusive and equitable opportunities for underserved populations
- Substantial progress developing knowledge products and tools
 - Veterans- “Quick Guide-Apprenticeship Benefits for Veterans”
- Awarded \$3.9 million Apprenticeship Building America (ABA) grant through the USDOL

Challenges/Barriers

- Combating misconceptions and miseducation on Registered Apprenticeships
- Reaching the audiences needed

Goals of the Troops to Teachers (TTT) Program

- Assist transitioning service members with meeting necessary requirements for teaching certification
- Provide individualized counseling to assist program participants in exploring and selecting the best pathway to teach based on unique needs, goals, and skills
- Address teacher shortage areas in K-12 schools that serve low-income families in critical shortage areas

Updates

- Great news! TTT has been reauthorized through the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act
- Over 7,000 veterans have received information about TTT
- Graduated 35 who have obtained teaching certification
- Approximately 25 veterans are in the process of enrolling in certification programs
- Over 300 veterans have expressed interest in PA teaching certifications since Oct. 1, 2021
- Provided direct employment counseling to 20+ veteran interested in moving to PA and currently have certification in another state
- Currently working with Mercyhurst University to reach 9,500 veterans across the country to provide information on PA teaching opportunities

Challenges/Barriers

- Tuition funding for the TTT participants

Goals of PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)

- Assist all eligible veterans with a disability served by OVR to prepare for, enter into, and retain complete integrated employment in a career of choice suited to their interests, strengths, and overall abilities
- Increase referral timeliness from initial contact to receiving services and successful outcome

Updates

	FFY 2021		FFY 2022	
Number of Individuals Served	41,097		33,093	
Number of Individuals Opening New Cases	7,980		2,123	
Number of Veteran's (Disability after service) Receiving Services; # and % of total	909	2.21%	641	1.94%
Number of Veteran's (Service-Related Disability); # and % of total	12	0.03%	10	0.03%

Challenges/Barriers

- Awareness of OVR and how to apply via CWDS or calling a local OVR office
- Ability to advocate for needs and request reasonable accommodations to be successful
- Transportation resources in rural parts of PA
- Needing skill and credential attainment to unlock middle income career opportunities
- Understanding how both OVR, WF programs & USDVA can collaborate and braid funding

--SHORT BREAK--

HEALTH PROMOTIONS

Ms. Erica Nocho, Chair

Goals/Initiatives

- Report on, and work to improve, any programs that promote whole health and trauma-informed care for veterans.
- Continue to promote and share resources or information regarding suicide prevention and intervention.

Updates

- VISN 4 programs has been hiring mental health providers to integrate in the primary health care.
- The VISN 4 programs have been working with Suicide Prevention staff with the launch of 988 crisis hotline that kicked off in July 16.
- Veteran Fairweather Lodges – work is being done to implement a model to use HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Vouchers within the lodges.
- **Suicide Prevention-** to include the VA SAMHSA Governor’s Challenge have started to expand efforts into the community using the regions outlined within PA VETConnect and by leveraging the various resources that have been developed as part of that community-based outreach effort.
- Veteran and First Responder Healthcare will continue to do free telehealth services for first responders, veterans and their families.

Challenges/Barriers

- Continuing to address stigma around mental health and substance use services
- Awareness of services and how to access services
- Outreach, engagement, other strategies and interventions to assist people to service member, veteran and families get the services they need

WOMEN VETERANS

Ms. Elizabeth Cooper, Chair

Goals/Initiatives

SCI Muncy VSU

- Connected with Carol Loveland-Master Gardeners of Lycoming Co about providing a training class for the VSU

Reaching Older Women Veterans

- Possible September mass mailing through PACE for women veterans 50+

PA Women Veterans Toolkit

- Model Women Veterans Toolkit from the California Women Veterans Toolkit.

Updates

WoVeN

- PA Women's Commission 2022 Honorees Letter
- P2P Support Group completed

Women Veteran Homelessness

- DOL-HVRP-HFVVWF-IVTP
- Connected with Robins House in Butler Co.

Challenges/Barriers

- Reaching older women veterans.

JUDICIARY

Mr. Michael Carrington, Chair

Goals/Initiatives

- Improve outreach efforts to veteran staff within the Department of Corrections (DOC) through collaboration with external agencies
- Identify veteran inmates within the DOC at classification in order to place them in veteran designated facilities (VDFs)
- Expand/enhance programming, workshops, and educational/employment opportunities within the veteran service units (VSUs)
- Increase the amount/availability of veteran-specific trainings and/or educational opportunities for employees/spouses/dependents
- Promote/advocate for the creation/enhancement of veteran courts/tracks
- Promote criminal justice careers to students and job seekers

Updates

- Inaugural Veteran Employee Symposium held at SCI Albion 7/21/22
- SCI Mercer VSU approved for a Post by the American Legion (Post 110)
- Dept. of Agriculture working on MOU with DOC/DMVA in order to provide funding for VSU greenhouses
- DOCs updated classification tool with built-in veteran component in final stages; tool will substantially increase ability to identify/search for incarcerated veterans
- Syracuse University has expressed an interest in touring the VSU at SCI Houtzdale and exploring educational opportunities for veteran staff and inmates
- DMVA and DOC IT still attempting to secure a viable option to deliver PA VETConnect to inmate veterans

Challenges/Barriers

- DOC staffing shortages impact employee's ability to attend veteran-related events
- Working with IT departments in order to increase virtual capabilities for targeted population
- Many veteran inmates within the DOC are not interested in VSU placement because it will interrupt a lifestyle they have become comfortable with (jobs, cellmates, distance from loved ones, etc.)
- Homeless veterans/redefining “homeless” for the incarcerated veteran population

VETERAN SERVICES EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Outreach Specialist Lee Mix has served the Veterans Multi-Service Center since 2020.

Prior to serving the VMC, Lee held the following positions:

- State parole agent with the Pennsylvania Parole Board (2012-2020)
- Equal Employment Opportunity Director with the Pennsylvania Parole Board (2007-2012)
- Civil Rights Enforcement (2000-2007)
- Criminal Justice Legal Advocate (1993-2000)



Lee Mix

*Outreach Specialist
The Veterans Multi-Service Center*



GOOD OF THE ORDER

DMVA WEBSITE: www.dmva.pa.gov

Sign up for the Veterans Registry and DMVA Digest!

www.register.dmva.pa.gov

NEXT MEETING:

November 2 at 1:00PM

Location: TBD

***All 2023 GAC-VS quarterly meetings will take place
on the 1st Wednesday of the month**