

WELCOME

Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services **NOVEMBER 18, 2020**

Please ensure all microphones remain muted.

--We will begin shortly--

Hover your mouse at the bottom of your screen to find these functions....

Mute

*Please remain muted.
The host can also mute
you.*

Exit Meeting

Participant List



Camera

*This has been
disabled today*

Chat Panel

*Type your name for
attendance or ask a
question.*

WELCOME

GOVERNOR WOLF



INTRODUCTIONS

OLD BUSINESS

VETERANS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. Kory Auch, Chair

2020 Recognition Campaign Employees with Military Service

- Agencies recognizing employees in November
 - COVID environment yields to creativity
- Campaign Video with Governor & The Adjutant General
 - To the employees recognized this year
 - Point them to DMVA Veterans Registry
- Principle intent: appreciation for the employee
 - Annual cycle with recognition in November
 - Going forward ... predominantly new employees
 - One pin per career
- Veteran's Day Video with Governor and First Lady to all employees recognized this year or previously

Army
Navy
Air Force
Marines
Coast Guard
National Guard
Reserve

Employees with Military Service Recognition Campaigns



2019 Campaign:

- 14000 employees
- Inaugural campaign

2020 Campaign:

- 1100 employees (estimated)
- November presentations

First Quarter 2021 Efforts

- Planning Committee: Intent & Vision
- Planning Committee: Desired Data
- Policy/Legal Review: Data sharing & use
- ***Reach out to Agencies for ViPS Representative***

1. Commonwealth continues to identify employees with military service
 - 2020 campaign results updated in December
2. Establish ViPS Committee structure and membership
 - Small planning group for intent & vision
 - Formalize agency points of contact
3. Open an internal communication network
 - Rules of engagement for outreach within respective agencies
 - Benefits, entitlements, programs, Veterans Registry, etc
4. Enable voluntary engagements
 - Stimulate unit cohesion and small group interactions
 - Awareness of public opportunity ... “veterans helping veterans”

AGING

Ms. Margo Coleman, Chair

AGING



Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Margo Coleman	DMVA	Jonathan Bowman	DHS
Samantha Cossman	DMVA	Jamie Dunlap	Pa Council on the Arts
Brian Natali	DMVA	Larry Furlong	PA Fish and Boat Commission
Kimberly Sell-Shemansky	VA (VISN 4)	Christopher Kemmerer	PA State Parks
Beth Ellis	DHS	James Fearn	DHS (OLTL)
Sierra Bilous	OMHSAS	Tim Cleveland	Tioga Co. Veterans Affairs
Kevin Longenecker	PDA	Kit Watson	American Legion
Erin Walters	PDA	Raymond Soto	Claremont Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
Julia Chagnon	DMVA		

Mission/Vision:

Expand awareness of and access to services, supports, benefits, and opportunities for Pennsylvania's aging veterans and their families and caregivers so that they may live and thrive in their communities.

Goals:

- 1) Increase awareness of services and supports for aging veterans and their families and caregivers among professionals within PA's Aging and Veteran Services networks.
- 2) Increase awareness of opportunities for community engagement among aging veterans, their families and caregivers, and those serving them.
- 3) Safeguard Pennsylvania's aging veterans from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and self-harm.

Goal 1: Increase cross-system awareness and partnerships between aging network and veterans' systems serving PA.

- Have identified sister agencies who can best facilitate outreach objectives such as disseminating information to Veterans on how to connect with services and benefits as those agencies either already hold or will assume responsibility of these objectives.
- The restructuring of objectives will allow for the aging committee to identify and adopt new objectives for 2021. The committee will utilize “Expanding Long Term Care Services to Pennsylvania Veterans” to establish new strategies that the Aging Committee may be able to act upon.
 - Of interest: Consider using public and non public nursing facility bed capacity for Veterans in need of long term care if the DMVA beds are unavailable and Improve Veterans’ access to existing Home and Community Based services and programs through education and navigation services.

Goal 3: Safeguard Pennsylvania's aging veterans from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and self-harm.

- Workgroup continues to meet monthly
- 2021 goal is to partner with the Financial Exploitation Study Interagency

Workgroup with DHS

- > Identify barriers in Long Term Care when reporting potential exploitation
- > Collaborate with agency stakeholders to identify areas for judiciary or policy change to improve reporting and outcomes

Recommendation 1

- Hold a cross-system conference for aging, long-term service and support system and veteran system stakeholders and advocates

Recommendation 2

- Educational videos jointly presented by aging and veteran system stakeholders to explain important programming and resources for aging veterans and caregivers. Post to social media, YouTube, stakeholder websites.

Recommendation 3

- Initiate the veteran pension poaching postcard effort

Recommendation 4

- Host regional or local town halls or listening forums for aging veterans, their families and caregivers to attend – time to learn about resources, voice concerns, identify service gaps, brainstorm innovative solutions

HEALTH PROMOTIONS

Ms. Donna Tilley-Hess, Chair

HEALTH PROMOTIONS



Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Donna Tilley Hess	DHS, OMHSAS	Lori Murphy	Psychological Health
Angela Keen	VISN 4	Jennifer Hagaman	VSO, Clinton Cty.
Leslie Neal & Lana Venur	VSO, Elk Cty.	Danny A. Osten	VSO, Cumberland Cty.
Frederick Nardei	Pittsburgh VA	Matthew Zamosky	VSO, West Moreland County
Jose Lopez	Resilience & Risk Reduction Prog. Coordinator, PAARNG	Ginny Mastrine	DHS, OMHSAS
Mark Todero	Suicide Prevention Program Contractor, PAARNG	Jessica Penn Shires	DHS, OMHSAS
Joann P Tresco	Alcohol & Drug Control Officer, Contractor, PAARNG	Jennifer Spitler	DMVA - RPOC
LTC Gerard M Wrazien	SMFS Director, PAARNG	Doug Snyder	DOH
Rick Hamp	DMVA	Govan Martin	Ret. PSP
Joel Mutschler	DMVA	Liz Woodley	PMHCA
Jeff Geibel	DDAP	Roy Remone	Compeer/Vet2Vet
William A Charpentier	Eastern Lead Military & Family Readiness Specialist, PAARNG	Perri Rosen & Lori Mentzer	OMHSAS SUICIDE PREVENTION
Laura Cunningham	Retreat	Michael Volz	VBA
Dr. Noretta Kime	PA Air NG	Dorothy Watkins	Resilience and Risk Reduction Program Coordinator

Mission:

Using a holistic approach, the Health Promotion Committee will identify physical, behavioral health and other wellness service providers to foster relationships and build resource awareness among service members, veterans and their families across the Commonwealth. Ongoing collaboration with federal, state, local government and community partners will facilitate and identify effective prevention and treatment approaches, share training and education resources and promote communication of these resources to Pennsylvania Service Members, Veterans, and their family members to assist in reducing unhealthy behaviors and the number of suicides in Pennsylvania.

Vision:

Our overarching vision is to see thriving Service members, veterans, and their families across the Commonwealth with zero suicides among those who have served our nation.

Goals:

1. Continued provision of trainings such as: Mental Health First Aide (MHFA), Question Persuade Refer (QPR), and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST). Trainings will occur through DMVA's regional program, 3 per quarter annually (1 per month based on region would be a minimum starting point).
2. Create 2 Fairweather Lodges annually.
3. Hold evidenced-based training annually providing a specific modality known to be an effective treatment for veterans, and continue collaborative MH/BH training summits in PA.

The Health Promotion Branch of **Service Member Family Support** collaborated with community resources, ensuring Service members recognize risk/warning signs and receive needed care.

Accomplishments and pending events FY 2020:

- Resilience and Engage Distance Learning – **Sound Mind During Uncertainty**, 10 seats per class, **8 classes offered, 40 completions**
- **Start Program by Living Works** (ASIST creators) 1.5 hour class, what intervention looks like
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (**ASIST**) - Completed in January, 18 Army personnel trained, 22 in February completed, **11 in September completed. 7 workshop scheduled in FY21.**
- Ask Care Escort-Suicide Intervention (**ACE-SI**) – **7 workshops scheduled for FY 21**
- Out of the Darkness Walks, Not being conducted due to Pandemic
- Master Resilience Trainers, **trained 22 in FY 20, projected another 24 in FY 21**
- Master Resilience Trainers, Level II Facilitators, trained 3 Soldiers
- Supporting local community resource exchange as well as other FRG events.

***Follow PNG Service Members & Family Support Division on Facebook to see upcoming events for Veterans and families.**

HEALTH PROMOTIONS



TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Understanding the military experience

Providing care to service members, veterans and their families

Service members, veterans and their families make sacrifices for all of us. **STAR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS** offers training to help you better understand their experiences and an online registry that will help them find you.

SBHP training is comprised of three tiers that must be taken sequentially:

- **Tier One:** One day, covers military culture and the impact of deployments on families.
- **Tier Two:** Two days, covers issues associated with military service including military family resilience, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse, sleep disorders, suicide, PTSD, and 3 hours of ethics.
- **Tier Three:** Two days, teaches evidenced-based psychotherapies for treating particular behavioral health conditions facing service members, veterans and families.

Space is limited—register today!
Trainings & CEs are FREE.

Continuing Education Credits Pending



Upcoming Online Trainings

Tier Ones:

September 28, 2020
October 28, 2020
November 2, 2020

Tier Twos:

October 8- 9, 2020
December 3-4, 2020

..... For more information or to register, visit www.starproviders.org



Star Behavioral Health Providers Program (SBHP – PANG joined Dec. 2019)

Number of SBHP online training attendees in last quarter: 204 * 106 PA attendees

Upcoming trainings offered to PA

Tier Ones:

- October 26, 2020 (49 signed up*)
- November 2, 2020 (38) Co-Trainer Lori Murphy

Tier Twos:

- December 3-4, 2020 (68 signed up*)

Total number of BH providers on the SBHP registry (from 16 states): 955

Total number of PA BH providers on the SBHP registry: 5

Year 2: 37 trainings planned for this fiscal year, covering 20 states.

*Trainings will remain online until at least March 2021. SBHP is monitoring COVID-19 and will make appropriate decisions going forward.

Star Behavioral Health Providers Program continued

New Intervention to increase PA registry:

- SBHP Provider and NGB engagement calls.
- Monthly calls focused on developing relationship between NG and community Behavioral Health Providers.
- Personal opportunity for BH providers who have attended the SBHP Trainings to learn about how referrals are made and how they can partner with NG on behalf of the Service Member.

Lori Murphy, LCSW
Director of Psychological Health
Office of The State Surgeon
Office: (717)861-3930 / Gov't Cell: (717)507-2849
Email: Lori.L.Murphy13.civ@mail.mil

Federal Partnerships & Collaborative Efforts:

Community Engagement and Partnerships Coordinators (CEPC).

State Suicide Prevention Plan

State Suicide Prevention Task Force

VA/SAMHSA Governors Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among SMVF

Mayors Challenge – City of Pittsburgh / City of Philadelphia SP Task Force

SAMHSA Technical Assistance Learning Seminars

Together With Veterans – Carbon County

Reach Out PA

Updated Guidance will be incorporated into Governor’s Challenge Initiatives

CDC Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Grant (\$1M/5 Years or \$5M total)

PA VETConnect Region 1 (15 counties)

Includes VA/SAMHSA Logic Models and Priority Action Plans

USDVA Tele-Town Halls

USDVA Veteran Experience Office (VEO)

VA Community Veterans Engagement Boards (CVEB)

Virtual Veteran Engagement Action Center (V-VEAC)

Rally Point

DDAP Substance Use Disorder Grants (\$2M)

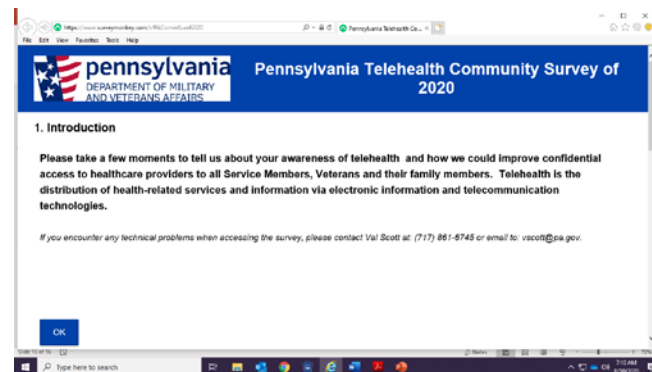
- Just For Today Recovery
- Valhalla Veterans Services
- Jarett Yoder Foundation
- Treatment Court Advocacy Center of Lackawanna County
- Veterans Multi-Service Center
- Robert M. Jackson Veterans Center
- Veterans Place of Washington Blvd

PENNSYLVANIA TELEHEALTH SURVEY 2020

Be part of “our call to action” by completing the survey, and passing it along to other service members and veterans.

Support interagency collaboration, planning and implementing suicide prevention best practices and policies for service members, veterans and their families statewide.

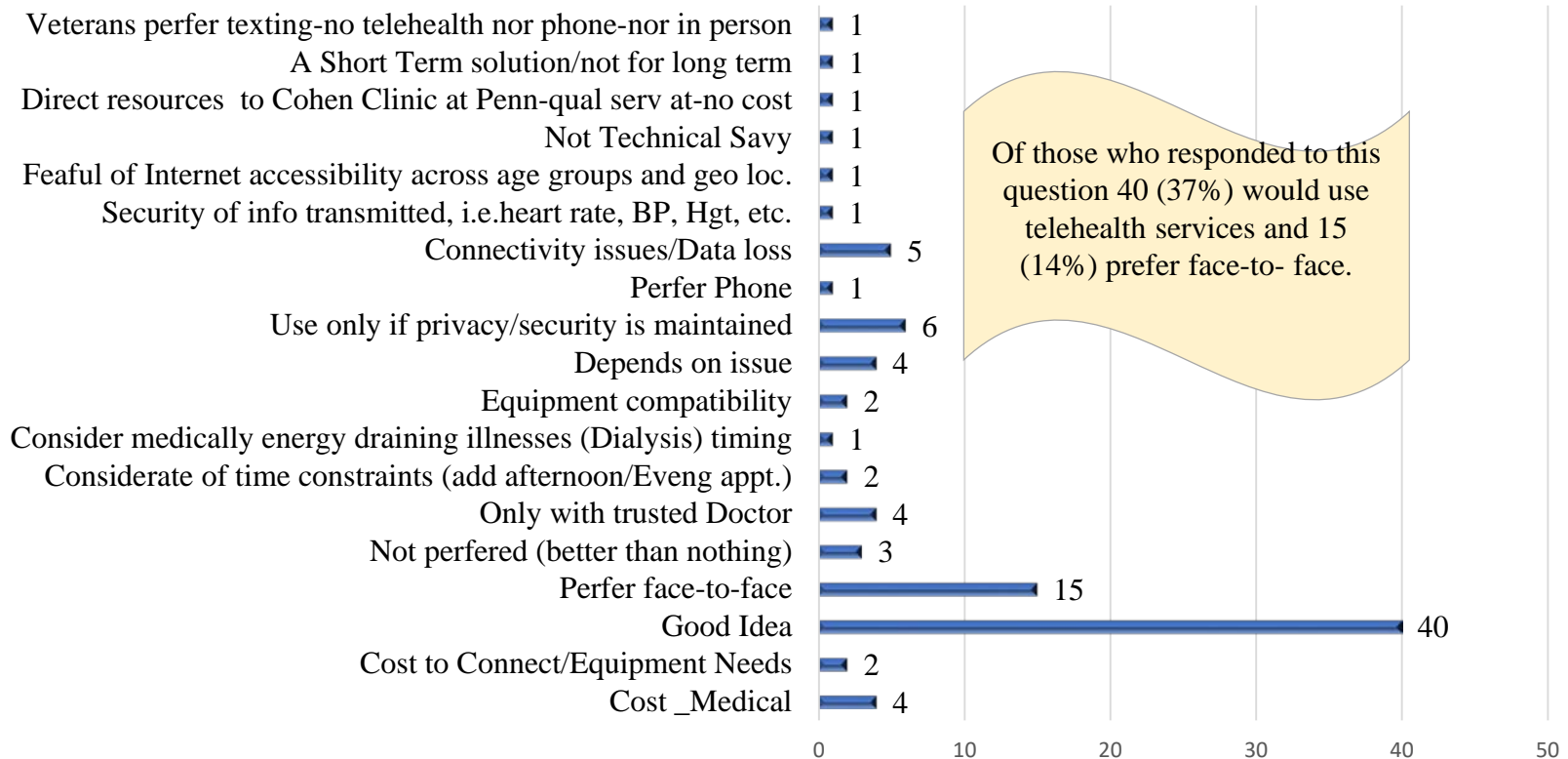
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PACommSuof2020>



OVERALL THOUGHTS ABOUT TELEHEALTH SERVICES

Q15. Considering telehealth services overall, please take a moment to share your thoughts about using this type of service in the comment box below.

(Note: 109 responded to this question and 42 skipped the question.)



HOMELESS

Mrs. Samantha Cossman, Co-Chair

HOMELESS



Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Joel Mutschler (co-chair)	DMVA	Samantha Cossman (co-chair)	DMVA
Bill Cress	VISN 4	Michael Wehrer	Erie VAMC
Missy Russell	Lawrence Co. Social Services; Western PA CoC Veterans Committee co-chair	Bill Reed	YWCA Greater Harrisburg
Laura Maggiorini	Volunteers of America; Eastern PA CoC VLEC co-chair	Hayley Miller	Veterans Leadership Program of Western PA; Eastern PA CoC VLEC co-chair
Angela Susten	DCED	Danielle Rudy	PHFA
Jeff Geibel	DDAP	Donna Tilley-Hess	OMHSAS
Tom Snedden	PACE	Tom Applebach Brian Querry Danny Osten	Lehigh County Veterans Affairs Centre County Veterans Affairs Cumberland County Veterans Affairs

Vision:

Be the premier forum for seamless communication and collaboration in effectively understanding and responding to Veteran homelessness within Pennsylvania.

Mission:

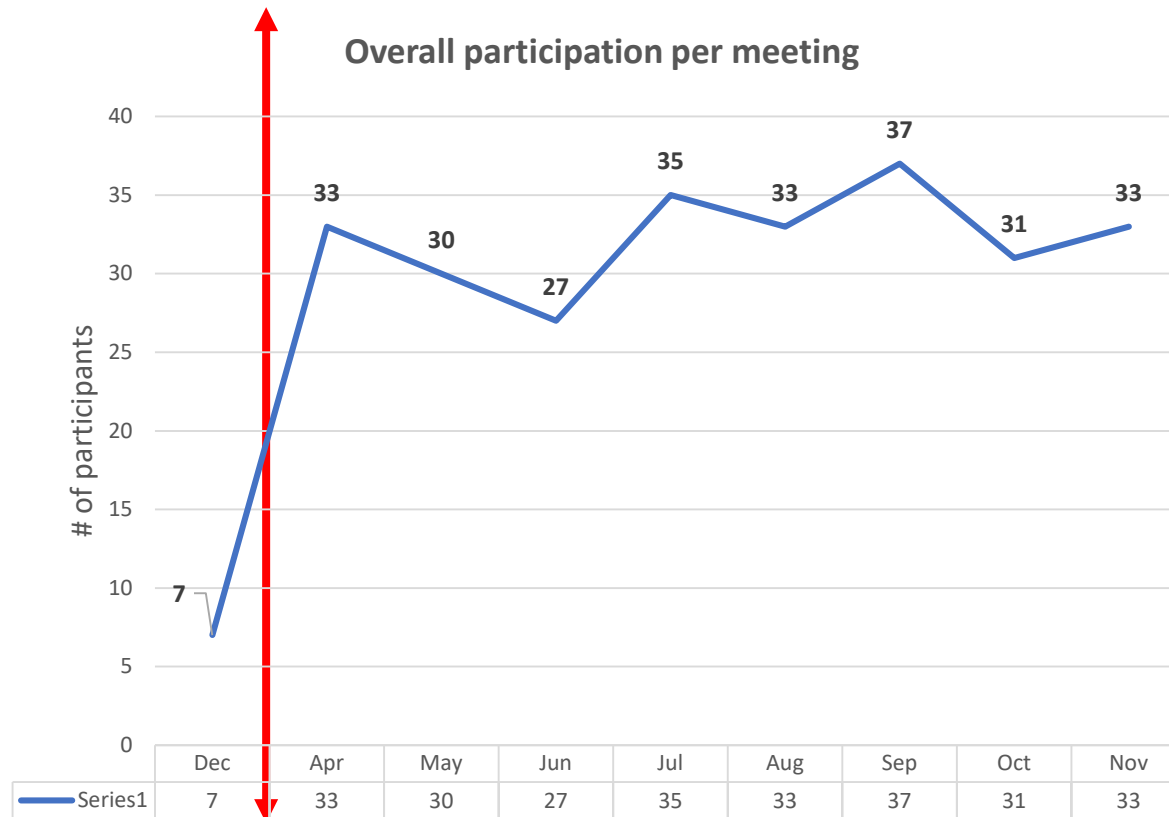
Build collaborative intergovernmental and community-based relationships to identify and promote awareness of the resources that could help veterans experiencing or at risk for housing instability.

HOMELESS



Broke down silos by fostering relationships with and between federal, state and local homeless and housing advocates, resulting in increased participation in our meetings.

(Data source: Homeless Committee meeting summaries)



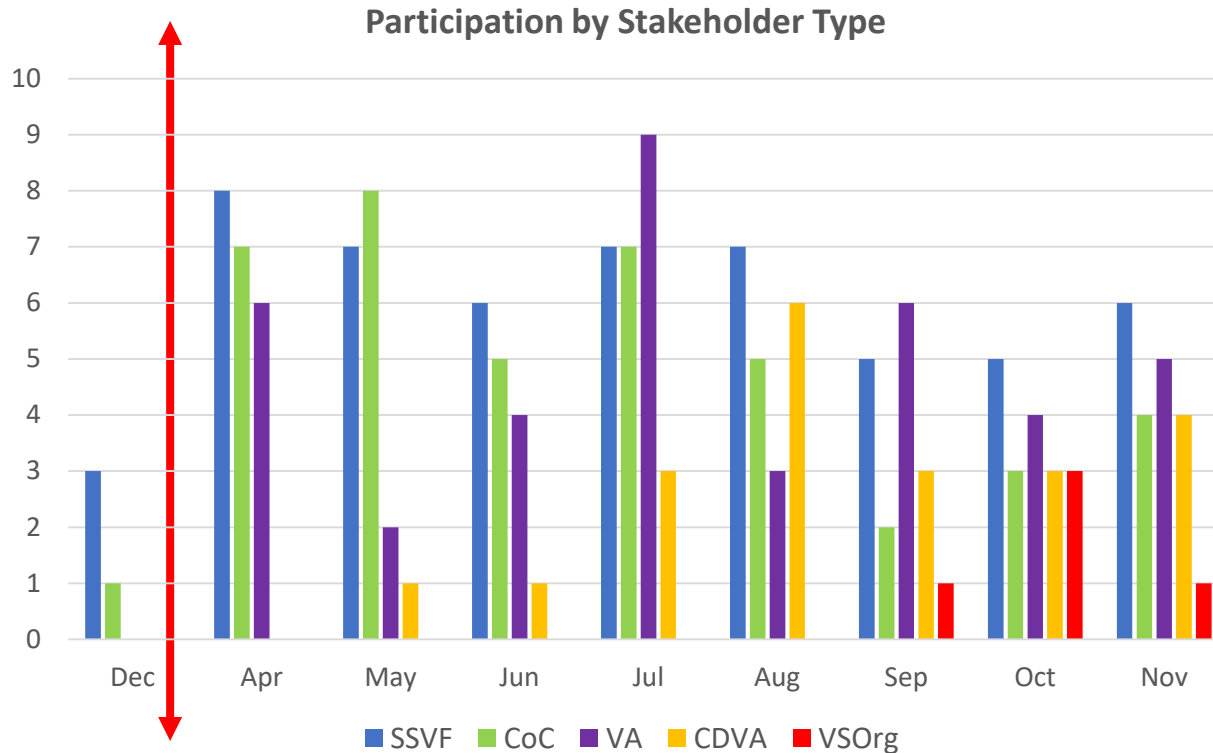
*Note:
The red arrow represents a 3-month period in which this committee focused on outreach to specific systems in order to increase engagement.*

HOMELESS



All stakeholder groups are more engaged following focused conversations and outreach in early 2020 (red arrow). SSVF, CoC and VA representatives participate each meeting with number of staff dependent on presentation topic. Participation from County VA offices (orange) and Veteran Service Organizations (red) has increased.

(Data source: Homeless Committee meeting summaries)

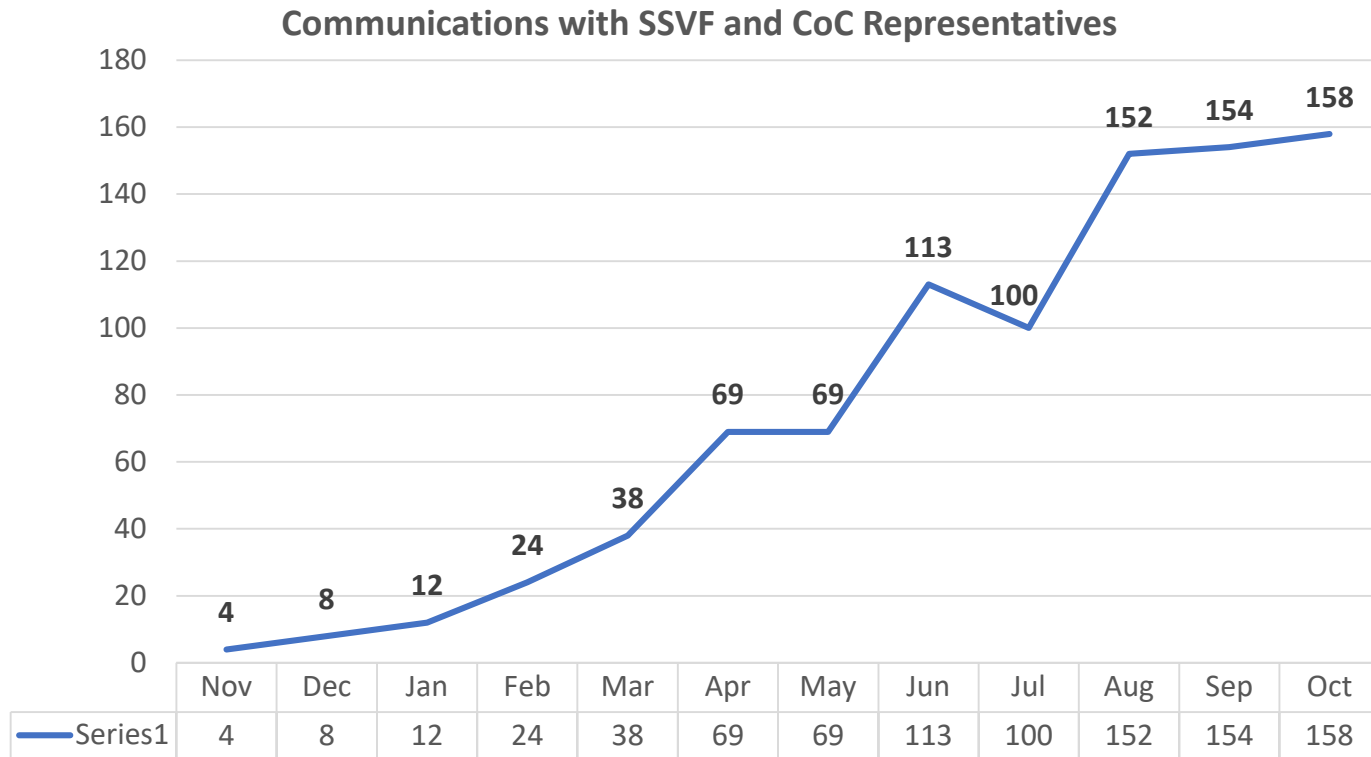


HOMELESS



Communication with stakeholders has consistently increased over the past year due to Committee Co-chair and PA VETConnect RPOC outreach to SSVF and CoC staff via email, phone and virtual meetings. Communication with VA or VISN Homeless staff is not reflected in these totals.

(Data source: PA VETConnect metric reports)



Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF)

Enrollments from 10/1/19 to 9/30/20

(Data source: SSVF grantees)

Total for 12 SSVF providers – 2,460 Veteran households

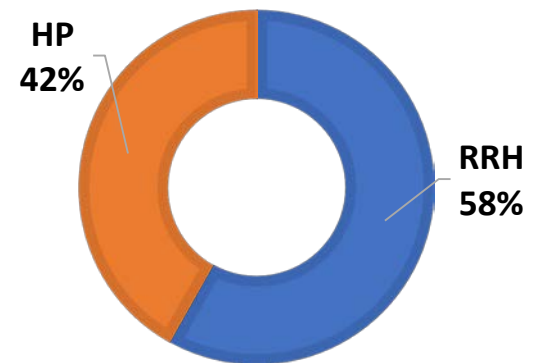
Rapid Rehousing enrollments – 1,430 Veteran households

Literally homeless; lacked a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (e.g. a place not meant for human habitation, a shelter, exiting institution after 90 days or less and homeless prior to entering, or fleeing/trying to flee domestic violence)

Homeless Prevention enrollments – 1,030 Veteran households

Imminently at risk for becoming homeless; SSVF enrollment is preventing it (e.g. needed assistance to retain current permanent housing or help in finding better suited housing)

**RAPID REHOUSING (RRH) VS
HOMELESS PREVENTION (HP)
ENROLLMENTS FOR SSVF
(10/1/19 TO 9/30/20)**



HOMELESS



PA VAMC Permanent Housing Placements using one or more VA Homeless Programs for timeframe of 11/2019 - 10/2020. Programs include: HUD VASH, SSVF, GPD, Contracted Emergency Residential Services (CERS), and Homeless Dom/CWT Programs

(Data source: VA HOMES Report)

VAMC	
Altoona	32
Butler	88
Coatesville	319
Erie	36
Lebanon	194
Philadelphia	343
Pittsburgh	222
Wilkes Barre	105
Total:	1,339

Despite the restrictions of COVID-19, 88.26% of Veterans in VISN 4 with HUD VASH vouchers have found permanent housing (HMLS3), which was the third in the nation.

New pilot – one staff within Lebanon VAMC Homeless programs is now serving as a Coordinated Entry Specialist Access Site for Veterans within the Eastern CoC counties of Adams, Cumberland, Lebanon, Perry and Schuylkill.

Raised awareness of substance use and mental health case management programs as well as programs available to help with accessing public benefits, legal assistance for evictions, and other social and life supports. Raising awareness of the topics in *italics* was recommended in the Expanding LTC report.

- 6/2020 – PACE and PACENet
- 8/2020 – Eviction Process / Legal Assistance (RHLS and MPLS)
**CHC* was scheduled but presenter asked to reschedule
- 9/2020 – *Case Management at Single County Authorities (DDAP), County Mental Health Offices (OMHSAS)*
- 10/2020 – The Clearinghouse

Three information papers pertaining to Veteran housing stability were completed:

- Veteran Homelessness in PA
- SSVF Program
- Funding to Address Veteran Housing Instability

- **Recommendation 1**

- Consider action on issues deemed most pressing by stakeholders: lack of warming shelters, lack of emergency shelter beds, lack of affordable housing

- **Recommendation 2**

- Advocate for the expansion of Coordinated Entry Sites to more VA Medical Centers

- **Recommendation 3**

- Seek to uncover more resources for National Guard who do not qualify for SSVF or traditional Veteran homeless programs

- **Recommendation 4**

- Have PA VETConnect RPOCs routinely engage in CoC scrub calls and homeless Veteran list reviews

- **Recommendation 5**

- Collaborate with Women Veterans committee to seek more solutions for women Veterans and families experiencing homelessness

- **Recommendation 6**

- 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.

- **Recommendation 7**

- Partner with Judiciary Committee to discuss potential solutions for hard to place Veterans exiting incarceration who have been historically hard to place (medically compromised, certain offenses, homeless upon entry but incarcerated longer than 90 days so not meeting HUD definition of literally homeless)

- **Recommendation 8**

- Obtain data from all CoCs, all SSVFs and all VA Medical Centers on a quarterly basis in order to better understand Veteran homelessness across PA

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Crystal Houser, Chair

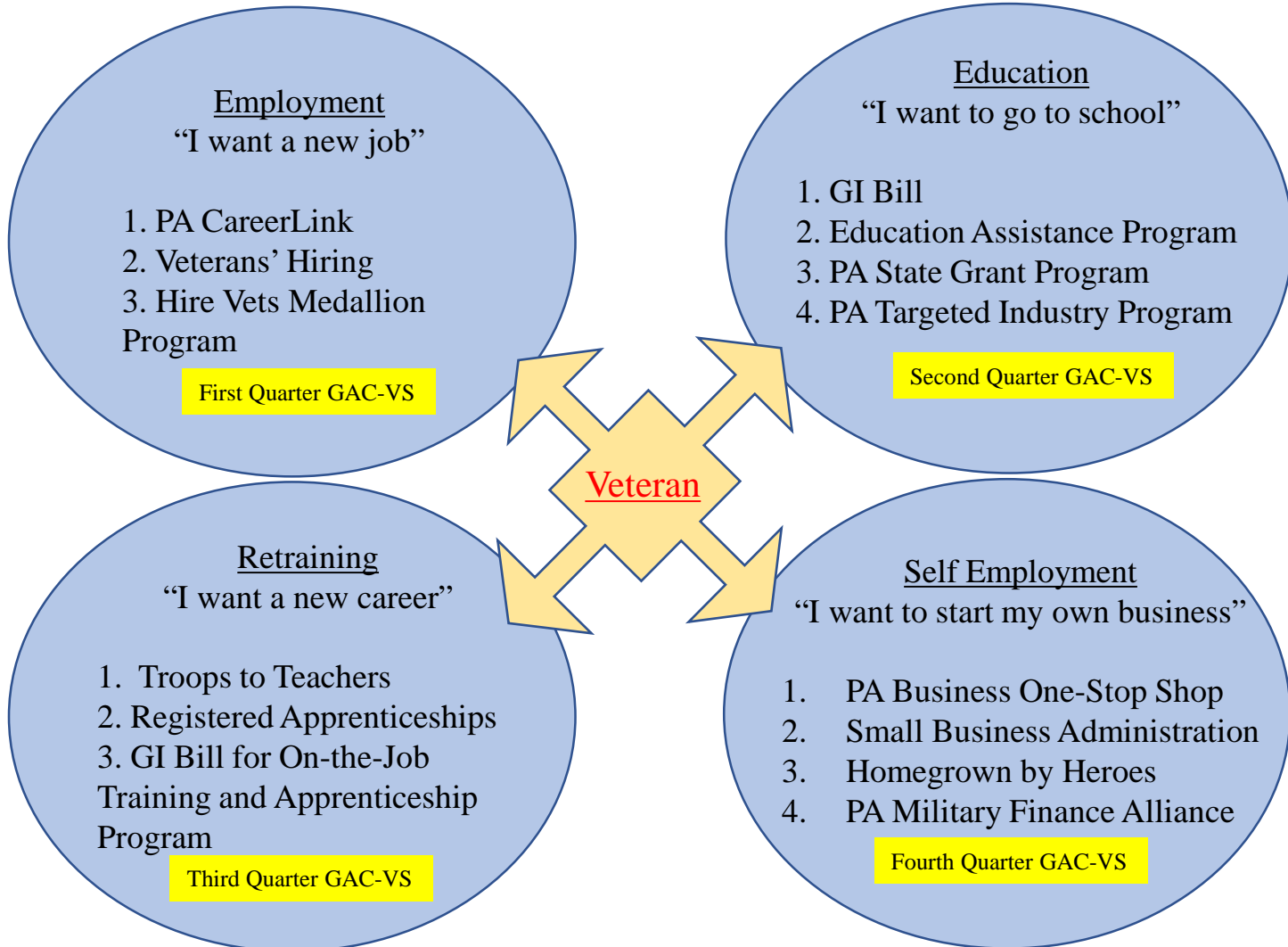
Name	Affiliation
Thomas Applebach	County Directors
Kory Auch	Administration
Cory Bender	Military & Veterans' Affairs
Chelsea Ellsworth	Military & Veterans' Affairs
Lawrence Furlong	Fish & Boat Commission
Kimberly Gerlach	Labor & Industry
Crystal Houser	Labor & Industry
Christina Kotsalos	Banking & Securities
Billy Lanham	US Dept of Labor/VETS
Terrell Martin	Community & Economic Development
Joshua Scheinberg	Department of Agriculture
Denise Verchimak	Department of Education

VISION

To create greater awareness and synergy among government entities that serve veterans at the point they are asking themselves ‘what do I want to do next’ as it relates to employment, self-employment, education or retraining.

GOALS

1. Establish a recurring rhythm to present program information, magnitude, results and initiatives to the GAC-VS
2. Use program understanding to better connect the information to the entities that need it most ... those that engage veterans daily
3. Fully synergize agency programs into the PA VETConnect model





Employment
“I want a new job”

PA CareerLink (L&I)

57 offices statewide / priority of service to all veteran / 14,508 served

Veteran Hiring in Government (OA)

1,128 veterans hired for full-time commonwealth positions

HIRE Vets Medallion Program (US DoL)

27 PA businesses recognized / 6th most in the nation

www.employment.pa.gov





Education

“I want to go to school”

GI Bill (PDE)

22,549 beneficiaries receiving \$277.5M

Education Assistance Program (PHEAA / PA National Guard)

1,966 recipients receiving \$11.8M

PA State Grant Program (PHEAA)

1,944 veterans awarded \$4.6M

PA Targeted Industry Program (PHEAA)

70 veterans awarded \$244K



Retraining

“I want a new career”

*Registered Apprenticeships (L&I)
Veterans are 8.7% of all active apprentices*

*Troops to Teachers (PDE)
43 veterans hired / 349 veterans registered for the program in PA*

*Vocational Rehabilitation (L&I)
1,380 veterans served / 196 achieved employment outcomes*



Self Employment
“I want to start my own business”

PA Business One-Stop Shop (DCED)
110 veteran-owned businesses served since launch

Boots-to-Business/Re-Boot (US SBA)
483 participants @ 41 events across PA since 2014

Homegrown by Heroes (Ag)
60 farms in 30 counties (Farmer Veteran Coalition); 3 Apprenticeships

PA Military Finance Alliance (DoBS)
1030 participants @ 12 events across PA since 2014



“I WANT TO START MY OWN BUSINESS”

1. PA Business One-Stop Shop
2. Small Business Administration
3. Home Grown by Heroes
4. PA Finance Alliance

PA Business One-Stop Shop

Concept

- One-Stop Shop to Start or Grow a Business
 1. business.pa.gov
 2. 1-833-722-6778
 3. Dedicated Office Housed in DCED

- PLAN, REGISTER, OPERATE & GROW

State Participation

- Community & Economic Development
- Labor & Industry
- Revenue
- State

PA Key Data/Trends

- 235,000+ Website Users

- 20,000+ Inquiries Received by Phone and Emails

- 110+ of Identified Veterans Assisted

Key Changes/Initiatives

- **Phase II**
 - Business Registration Checklist (October 2019)
 - Single Login & Business Profile (August 2020)

- **Phase III**
 - Enhance the Business Checklist
 - Integration with Department of Revenue
 - PA-100 and e-Tides implement Keystone Login
 - Attachment Uploads (pertinent documents to the Business Owner to be readily accessed)
 - Status Updates
 - Notification of Application Status



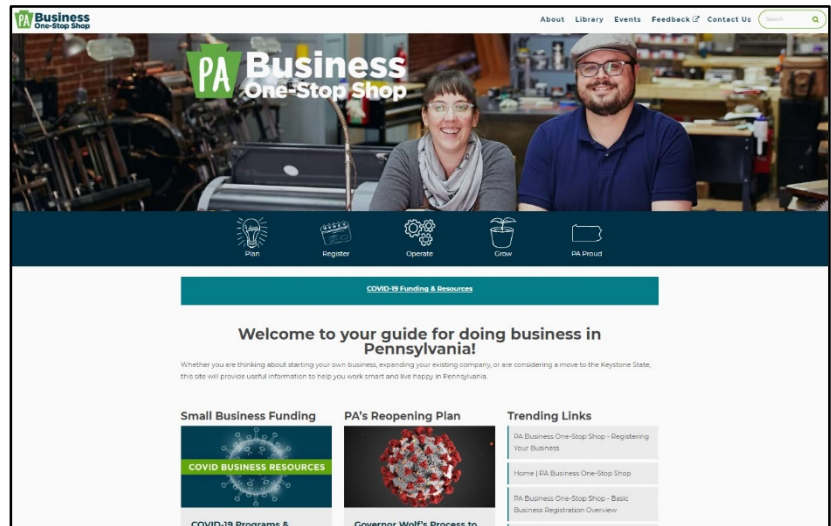
Business
One-Stop Shop

What is the PA Business One-Stop Shop Office?

- The Pennsylvania Business One-Stop Office was established at the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) in 2018.
- The Pennsylvania (PA) Business One-Stop Shop role is to serve as a sole source to guide entrepreneurs and small to medium sized businesses through all stages of development, from planning and startup to operation and expansion.

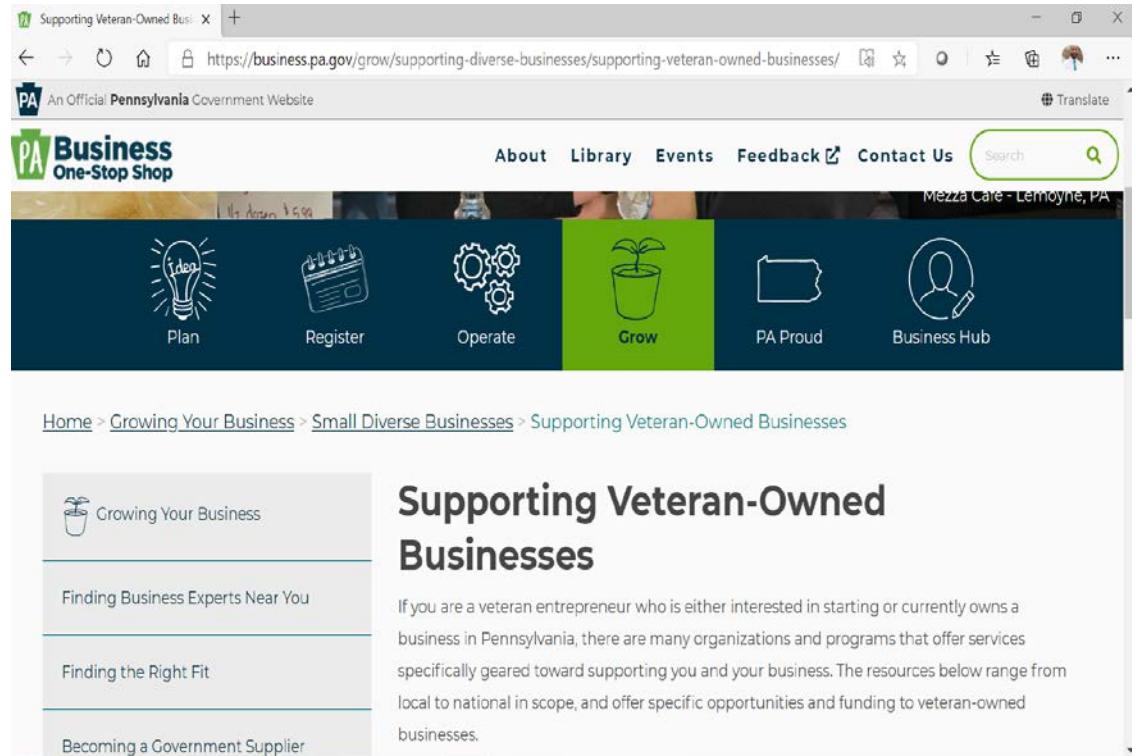
What is the PA Business One-Stop Shop Office?

- The PA Business One-Stop Shop can be found at business.pa.gov and includes resources for planning a business, registration and permitting, hiring employees, receiving funding, technical assistance, and more.
- For any questions that can't be answered using the website, questions can be directed to a single phone number that provides one-on-one customer service by phone (1.833.722.6778) as well.



Website – Resources for Veterans

- business.pa.gov > Grow > Small Diverse Business > Supporting Veteran-Owned Businesses



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Pennsylvania Business One-Stop Shop website. The URL in the address bar is <https://business.pa.gov/grow/supporting-diverse-businesses/supporting-veteran-owned-businesses/>. The website header includes the PA Business One-Stop Shop logo, navigation links for About, Library, Events, Feedback, and Contact Us, and a search bar. A dark blue navigation bar features icons for Plan, Register, Operate, Grow (highlighted in green), PA Proud, and Business Hub. Below the navigation bar, a breadcrumb trail reads: Home > Growing Your Business > Small Diverse Businesses > Supporting Veteran-Owned Businesses. The main content area is titled "Supporting Veteran-Owned Businesses" and includes a sub-section "Growing Your Business" with a list of links: Finding Business Experts Near You, Finding the Right Fit, and Becoming a Government Supplier. The introductory text states: "If you are a veteran entrepreneur who is either interested in starting or currently owns a business in Pennsylvania, there are many organizations and programs that offer services specifically geared toward supporting you and your business. The resources below range from local to national in scope, and offer specific opportunities and funding to veteran-owned businesses."

Information on State, Regional and Federal Resources

Supporting Veteran-Owned Bus x +

https://business.pa.gov/grow/supporting-diverse-businesses/supporting-veteran-owned-businesses/

An Official Pennsylvania Government Website

PA Business One-Stop Shop

About Library Events Feedback Contact Us Search

State Resources

Small Diverse Businesses

Supporting Women-Owned Businesses

Supporting Minority-Owned Businesses

Supporting Veteran-Owned Businesses

State Funding

Veterans and reservists starting a small business in Pennsylvania are exempt from paying a business fee, which is any fee required to be paid to the state government or a political subdivision for starting or opening a business in the state. Visit the Pennsylvania Department of State website to learn more about the [Veteran-Owned Business Fee Exemption](#) and its requirements. For more general information about registering a business in Pennsylvania, make sure to view our [Register](#) section.

Veterans have a significant impact on the economy as owners of their own businesses. The Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) provide services to all small business populations and make special efforts to reach members of all historically underrepresented and underserved populations, including veterans. Learn more about the targeted [SBDC resources for veteran-owned businesses](#) in Pennsylvania.

Supporting Veteran-Owned Bus x +

https://business.pa.gov/grow/supporting-diverse-businesses/supporting-veteran-owned-businesses/

An Official Pennsylvania Government Website

PA Business One-Stop Shop

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Regional Resources

The [Veterans Business Outreach Center \(VBOC\)](#) program is a one-stop-shop for transitioning service members, veterans and military spouses looking to start, purchase, or grow a business. VBOCs provide transition assistance programs, including nationally-acclaimed Boots to Business and Boots to Business Reboot, as well as business development assistance such as training, counseling and mentoring, and resource referrals. The Community Business Partnership VBOC serves Pennsylvania residents.

Federal Resources

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) services are designed to help a services-connected disabled veteran with job training, employment accommodations, resume development, and job seeking skills coaching. Its Education and Career Counseling program is a great opportunity for Veterans and Service members to get personalized counseling and support to help guide their career paths, ensure the most effective use of their VA benefits, and achieve their employment goals. Learn more and apply for education and career counseling on the [VR&E website](#).

Pennsylvania Business One-Stop Shop – Phase II

- Phase II began in February 2019 and concludes in November 2020.
- The two main objectives are:
 - Establish an interactive Question and Answer application (known as the Business Checklist).
 - Enhancing the website to provide a Customer Portal (Hub Application) with a single sign-on login (Keystone Login) and Business Profile account management.

Pennsylvania Business One-Stop Shop – Business Checklist

- The interactive Question and Answer application, known as the Business Checklist (<https://business.pa.gov/register/>) went live in October 2019.
- The Business Checklist provides small to medium sized businesses with customized instruction for registration based upon User responses.

//hub.business.pa.gov/Checklist/ChecklistPdf/aa382228-9e65-401c-8fe6-69d3c11c3070

Step 1 Some institutions may have requirements beyond those required by the Commonwealth. Check with your bank or financial institution and insurance company regarding what their account opening requirements may be.

Step 2 Before proceeding, contact the following county government(s) and local municipality(s) concerning taxes, zoning requirements, local licenses and permits, and any other regulations: (county/municipality/etc., as determined by address search). After you have received direction, proceed with the steps below and be sure to come back and register with any applicable county governments and local municipality(s).

Based upon the location information you entered, please see below:

Name:	Kirk Petroski
Address:	City Government Center, Room 305, 10 North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101 HARRISBURG CITY, DAUPHIN County
Contact:	(717) 255-3060 (phone), (717) 255-3081 (fax) Kpetroski@harrisburgpa.gov

Step 3 Be sure to reach out to the appropriate state agency(s) or organization(s) which handles any special permits, authorizations, or licenses that the business will be subject to in order to apply for those items. After you have received direction, proceed with the steps below and be sure to come back and register with any applicable agency(s) or organization(s). Please [contact us](#) if you need further assistance regarding special permitting.

Step 4 Verify the legal name you chose is available in PA at <https://www.corporations.pa.gov/search/corpsearch/> If the name of your choice

Pennsylvania Business One-Stop Shop – Hub Application

- The Business Profile Customer Portal, known as the Hub Application, is provisioned through an single sign-on login (Keystone Login) and Business Profile account management.
- Once a User logs in and is authenticated by Keystone Login they will be provided with links/buttons on a Dashboard which will pass the authenticated user to the Department of State's PENN File application seamlessly.

Pennsylvania Business One-Stop Shop – Phase III and beyond...

- Phase III
 - Enhance the Business Checklist
 - Integration with Department of Revenue
 - PA-100 and e-Tides implement Keystone Login
 - Attachment Uploads (pertinent documents to the Business Owner to be readily accessed)
 - Status Updates
 - Notification of Application Status
- Streamline data exchange across all agencies and provide for the retention of all data and forms for every registered customer

Contact

- **Website:** business.pa.gov
- **Email:** business.dced@pa.gov
- **Phone:** 1.833.722.6778, Option 0



Business
One-Stop Shop

Small Business Administration

Concept

- Boots to Business/Reboot entrepreneurial training for vets
<https://sbavets.force.com>
- Local 1- or 2-day workshops
 - B2B quarterly @ Carlisle Barracks
 - Reboot offered geographically
 - Classes currently offered online only

Participants

- SBA Resource Partner Network
 - Small Business Development Center
 - SCORE
 - Vet. Business Outreach Center
 - Women’s Business Centers
- Local lenders, lawyers, ED orgs

PA Key Data/Trends

- >100,000 grads since inception 2013
- Legislation passed to continue program for the next 5 years
- FY20 98 attendees; 9 classes
- All classes online, uptick in attendance

Key Changes/Initiatives

- SBA Guaranty Fee for SBA Express loans permanently waived for veterans and spouses
- Focus Area: Improving online delivery / making it more interactive
- Follow On Courses added through Mississippi State University: Revenue Readiness

Department of Agriculture – Veterans in Agriculture

Concept

- Supports veterans interested, entering or already involved in agriculture
 - Engagement
 - Apprenticeships
 - Homegrown by Heroes marketing campaign (Farmer Veteran Coalition)

Participation

- Actively engage with organizations which support veterans in agriculture.
- PDA integrates Homegrown by Heroes within the PA Preferred Program.
- Actively support development of apprenticeships and collaborate with PDE to approve use of GI Bill benefits.

PA Key Data/Trends

- Homegrown by Heroes
 - 39 participants in 28 counties.
- Apprenticeship
 - Veteran Farmer Program – Rodale
 - Diversified Vegetable and Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship – PASA
 - Agricultural Equipment Technician Apprenticeship - NEDA

Key Changes/Initiatives

- PDA Veteran Coordinator Established
- PA Preferred Marketing Campaign
 - Homegrown by Heroes Member Survey.
- Farmer Veteran Coalition – PA Chapter Creation.
- Penn State Extension Butcher Program

PA Military Finance Alliance WEBINARS

Concept

- Webinars that provide financial education to service members, veterans and their families
 - Why? Financial problems are most common reason for security clearance denials and revocations

State Participation

- PA Military Finance Alliance members:
 - DMVA, PHFA, BBB, Clarifi, PHFA
 - PA National Guard, PA Dept of Banking and Securities, Attorney General's Office, Army Community Service, Advantage Credit Counseling
 - Military OneSource

PA Key Data/Trends

- 12 in person Making \$ense of Finance events since 2014
 - Total of 1030 members attended
 - **First webinar will take place in January 2021**

Key Changes/Initiatives

- **Move to a virtual platform for the first time**
- Continue to focus on buy-in from leadership
- More veteran focused events
 - Identify opportunities to expand

Sessions

Getting Your
Financial House in
Order

Budgeting: Build
Wealth Not Debt

Credit Reports and
Credit Scores

Investing Basics

Scambusters

Investing 101 –
Building a Nest Egg
for Long Term
Goals

Understanding Your
Military Benefits

Protecting Your
Identity

Estate Planning –
“Preserving and
Transferring”
Your Assets

Maximizing Your
Retirement Through
Thrift Saving Plan

PA MILITARY
FINANCE ALLIANCE

Making \$ense of Finance

FREE noncommercial workshops to help with the unique challenges facing military and veterans in financial and investment decisions

August 22, 2015

9:30am - 3:00pm

Zem Zem Banquet and Conference Center
Erie, PA

Event supported by
members of the PA Military
Finance Alliance



WOMEN VETERANS

Col Christine Munch, Chair

WOMEN VETERANS



Members	Affiliation
Christine Munch	Department of Military and Veterans Affairs – PA Air National Guard
Lisa Kaye	County Directors for Veterans Affairs, U.S. Army Veteran
Marilyn Kelly-Cavotta	Moravian College, U.S. Army Retired
Constance Snavelly	State Veterans' Commission, U.S. Army Retired
JoAnn Tresco	Service Members and Family Support Branch, PA Army National Guard, Veteran Retired
Patricia Conroy	Women Veterans Program Manager, Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center
Rhonda Smith	Air Force Veteran, Veteran small business owner
Althea Cirillo	Mentor, Veterans' Court of Dauphin County, USAR Retired
Sierra Bilous	DHS, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services , PA Air National Guard
Dwaneen Hicks	Department of Human Services, U.S. Air Force Veteran
Elizabeth Cooper	PA CareerLink – Adams County, U.S. Army Veteran, PANG Veteran

Goals:

- Hold events to gather information on what special issues surround women veterans and educate the community on women veteran's resources
- Collaborate with other state agencies to address the issues of women veterans

Critical Needs:

- Marketing materials for military out-processing sites, etc. (Ms. Krolczyk is already working this)

Next Steps:

- Revise Town Hall slides to include additional info to allow info to be accessed at any time by our Vets
- Develop woman-centric info section on PA VETConnect
- Develop Women Veterans Outreach Toolkit (CA has an excellent version to work from)

JUDICIARY

Mr. Podguski, Acting Chair

JUDICIARY



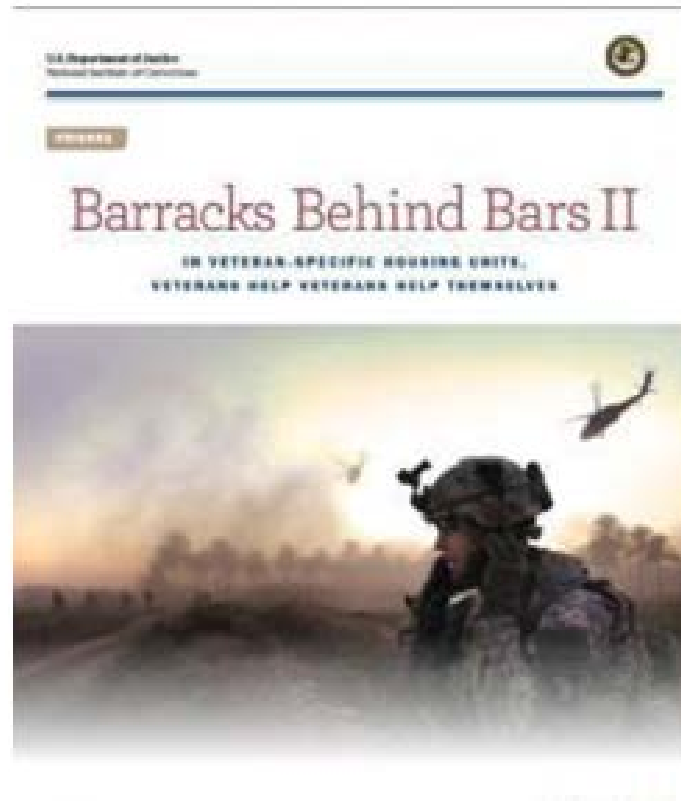
Name	Affiliation
Tammy Ferguson	DOC Council Designee, for Secretary Wetzel
Richard Podguski (Acting Chair)	PA Department of Corrections (Chief of Reentry Programs)
Andy Simpson	Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC)
Nicholas “Chip” Gilliland	PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA)
Norm Marden	Office of the Attorney General
Jessica Penn-Shires	Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OHMSAS)
Lisa Grayson, Esq.	Cumberland County Courthouse: Chair, PA Bar Association, Military & Veterans Affairs
Ward Adams	GAC-VS (Member at Large)
Joe Daly (NEW)	Chief, Springfield Police Department
Dan Lynch (NEW)	Lt. University of Pittsburgh Police Department

Measuring Success

- 7% of the total DOC population are Veterans.
- The DOC has established five (5) regional Veterans Service Units (VSUs) which are designed to prepare Veterans for successful transition back into the community.
 - ◊ SCI Dallas (Male | Eastern Region)
 - ◊ SCI Houtzdale (Male | Central Region)
 - ◊ SCI Phoenix (Male | Eastern Region)
 - ◊ SCI Mercer (Male | Western Region)
 - ◊ SCI Muncy (Female | Central Region)
- VSU's provide Veteran-specific programs, workshops and services including:
 - ◊ life skills
 - ◊ home/employment plans
 - ◊ mental health services, including PTSD
 - ◊ assistance in obtaining DD214 / forms of identification
 - ◊ substance abuse
 - ◊ education/vocational programs
 - ◊ assistance with VA benefits and services
- The VSU Unit Management Team consists of:
 - ◊ Unit Manager
 - ◊ Facility Veterans Coordinator
 - ◊ Social Worker
 - ◊ Counselor
 - ◊ Psychological Services Specialist
 - ◊ Corrections Officers
 - ◊ Re-entry Parole Agent

Measuring Success

- “Barracks Behind Bars” from print to audio.
- Published a VSU Brochure and Poster.
- “Time Served’ : Two very different ways that prisons and courts help some veterans. A new PA Post documentary looks at how some veterans can successfully receive treatment using alternatives to incarceration.
- Due to COVID-19, the DOC is currently utilizing video conference technology to provide informational seminars and outside programming opportunities to the VSUs.
- Participation on VA/SAMHSA Suicide Prevention Team.
- PA DOC/ Federal VA Compensation and Pension Exams for Incarcerated Veterans.



JUDICIARY



REENTRY SUPPORT

Once you qualify for transfer to a VSU, your custom reentry plan will be developed based on your needs. VSU Staff will help to connect you with important tools and services for living on your own. These include:

- Obtaining a copy of your Military Discharge or DD 214.
- Upgrading Character of Military Discharge.
- Applying for health care benefits through the VA.
- Military Pensions
- Housing through HUD-VAS/H (Housing and Urban Development -Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing) and SSVF (Supportive Services for Veteran Families)
- Employment through LVER/DVOP (Local Veterans Employment Representative and Disabled Veteran Outreach Program).

REENTRY SERVICES

Reentry support includes veteran-specific Community Corrections Centers (CCCs) if required upon release:

- Region # 1: Coleman Hall - Philadelphia, PA
- Region # 2: ADAPPT - Reading, PA
- Region # 3: Tomorrow's Hope - Coalport, PA

The intent is that Incarcerated Veterans receive seamless continuity of veteran services and support from incarceration through the CCC to the VA.

WHAT ABOUT PAROLE?

Facts about Parole and the VSU:

- Parole will not be delayed if you have not finished your workshops.
- The VSU is designed to help you become better prepared for when you are paroled. A Reentry Parole Agent (RPA) is assigned to each VSU.
- Your likelihood of recidivating is reduced if you take advantage of DOC Veteran Services and eligible VA military benefits.

INTERESTED?

If you wish to participate in the VSU, send a request slip to your Facility Veterans Coordinator, Corrections Counselor, or Unit Manager, and ask to participate in the VSU.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Ryan Yoder, M.S.
Statewide Veterans Coordinator
PA Department of Corrections
Executive Deputy Secretary's Office
1920 Technology Parkway
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
Office: 717.728.2038
Mobile: 717.562.3252
Fax: 717.728.4178
www.cor.pa.gov ryyoder@pa.gov



PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Veterans Service Units
For Incarcerated Veterans

JOHN E. WETZEL, SECRETARY
PA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Attention Incarcerated Veterans!



- Are you an incarcerated veteran with verified military service, who is looking to be part of an all veteran transitional housing unit specifically designed for veterans?
- Are you 12-36 months from your minimum or release date, who has maintained a positive institutional adjustment record?
- Are you a long-term incarcerated veteran looking for an opportunity to contribute to the veteran community as a peer facilitator and mentor?
- Are you interested in obtaining all of your entitled VA benefits as well as your DD-214, PA I.D. Card, Birth Certificate and Social Security Card?
- Are you interested in learning more about the American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, Vet Center, VFW and other veteran- related organizations?
- Are you program compliant and willing to voluntarily participate in various re-entry workshops specifically oriented towards veterans' needs and services as you transition back into society?
- The Department of Corrections currently offers Veterans Service Units (VSU's) in each region. If you are an incarcerated veteran who meets the minimum criteria and wants to volunteer for the VSU, please contact your Unit Management Team or your Facility Veterans Coordinator for additional information.

AOPC UPDATE

PA VETERAN TREATMENT COURTS (VTC) – 2019 DATA:

25 total VTCs in operation

- *Note: 51 out of 67 counties (76%) currently have at least one treatment court (Drug, DUI, Mental Health, VTC, etc.) available for eligible participants.*

303 veterans admitted into a VTC

- Male 92% & Female 8%
- Average age: 44 years old
- Army (41%), Marines (19.5%), Navy (11.5%), Air Force (11%), Coast Guard (2%), Unreported (15%)

189 successful graduates with a 46% increase in employment

Statewide data: <http://www.pacourts.us/news-and-statistics/research-and-statistics/>

AOPC UPDATE

MOVING FORWARD – CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR VTCs & VET PROGRAMMING:

- 1) DMVA’s “*VTC Information Paper*” in collaboration with AOPC
- 2) Training and resources provided by Justice for Vets - <https://justiceforvets.org/>
- 3) Statewide Veterans Treatment Court Symposium in 2021 – date/format TBD
- 4) Awareness Campaign - publications for MDJ offices (500+) and county courthouses
- 5) Encourage all justice-involved veterans to connect with VA Veteran Justice Outreach (VJO) specialists:
<https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/VJO.asp>
- 6) Senate Bill 976 & Title 42 Section 916 – *adding “veterans courts,” VTCs may provide for 1) participation by defendants from adjacent counties, 2) join together to create multicounty VTCs, and 3) create vet tracks in existing treatment courts*

PA Problem-Solving Courts: <http://www.pacourts.us/judicial-administration/court-programs/problem-solving-courts>

Mission for 2021

- **Veterans Courts**
 - Establishment of new Veterans Courts in counties/regionally
- **VSU in County Facilities**
 - Provide encouragement and guidance to appropriate counties to establish VSU in county facilities and work release centers.
- **C and P Exams**
 - Work to establish process for completing VA Compensation and Pension Exams for Incarcerated Veterans.

TECHNOLOGY

Ms. Sandra Patterson, Chair

Name	Affiliation
Tim Irvin	DMVA – IT Director DMVA
Manisha Arya	Health & Human Services Delivery Center - Project Manager
Eric Felty	DMVA – Project Manager/BRM
Shawn Moyer	DMVA – Applications Development
Joe Smolock	DMVA – Telecom
Kory Auch	HR - Office of Administration

* As projects dictate, members may be added to the Committee

Committee Purpose

To support GAC-VS committees as requested to help facilitate business needs with potential IT solutions.

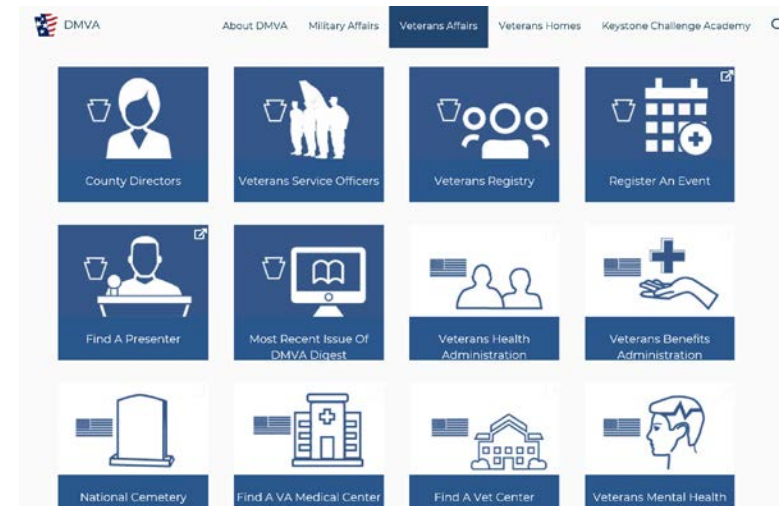
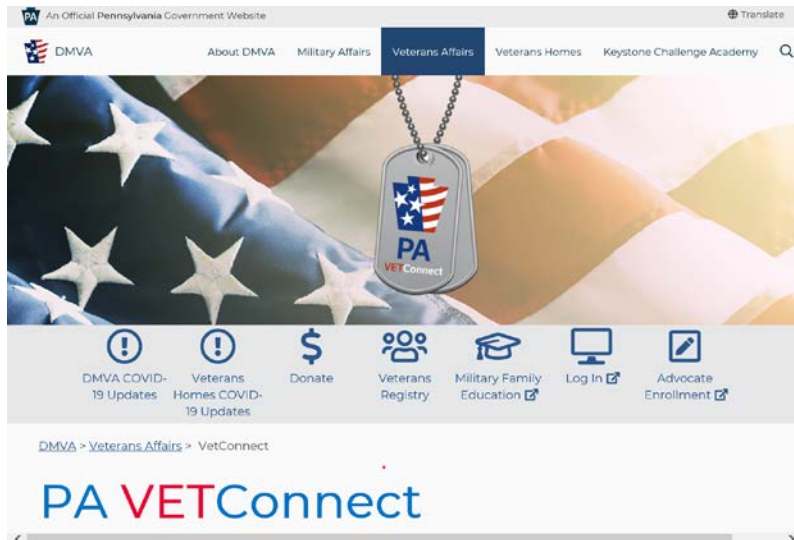
- **Voter Registration via Veterans Registry**

This project added a feature to the “thank you” page of a completed Veterans Registry asking if the individual would like to register to vote. If they select “yes,” we transfer name, address and county to the Department of State to continue with the voter registration application.

- The application has been developed and has been tested by the PAI team.
- Dept. of State asked for a 3-week period till they do their testing because of the election. They will start their UAT on 11/9, testing packets sent to Dept of State, have not heard anything on testing.
- Deployment is still scheduled for 12/3, but may be delayed due to election.

- **PA VETConnect Project enhancements**

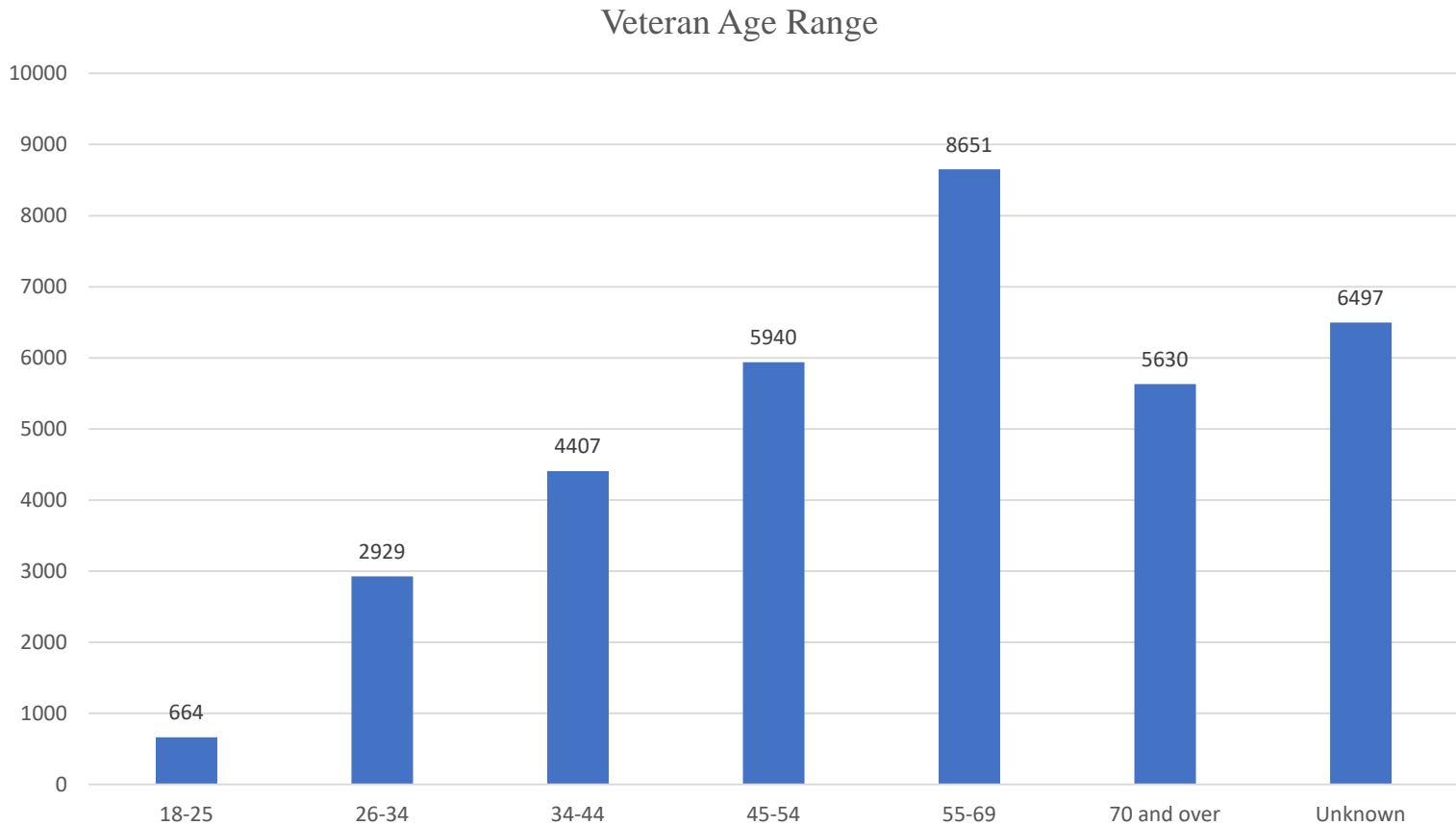
- New Website for PA Vet Connect unveiled on 11/09/2020.
 - Dedicated log in for county representatives to download the tool and access veteran information.
 - One-stop-shop for citizens to get veteran-specific information.



Veterans Registry Statistics

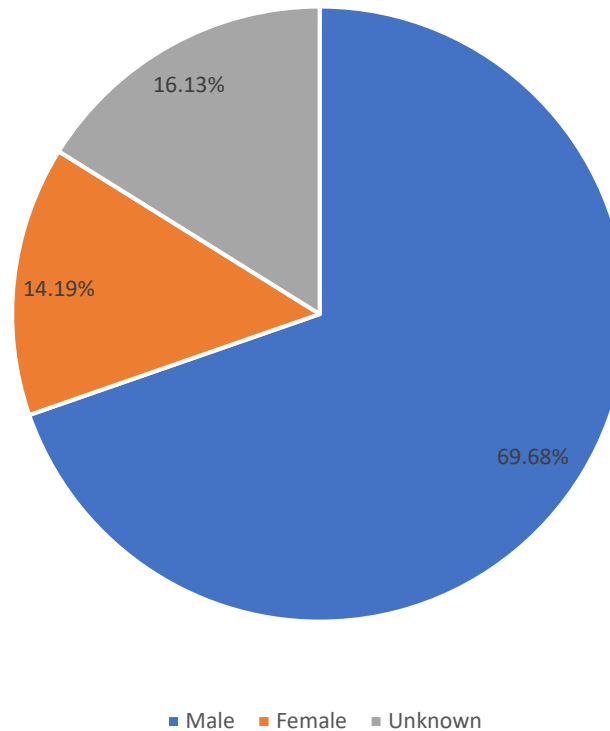
Time frame	Counts
10/23/2015 to 12/31/2015	234
01/01/2016 to 12/31/2016	5436
01/01/2017 to 12/31/2017	5621
01/01/2018 to 12/31/2018	6397
01/01/2019 to 12/31/2019	10107
01/01/2020 to 10/31/2020	6817
Total as of 10/31/2020	34718

Metric 1 – Veterans Age Range

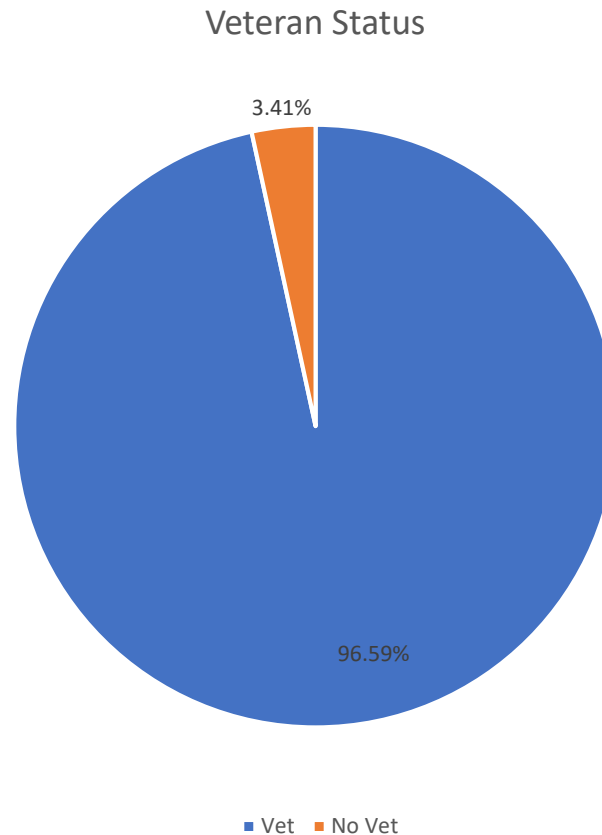


Metric 2 – Veteran Gender

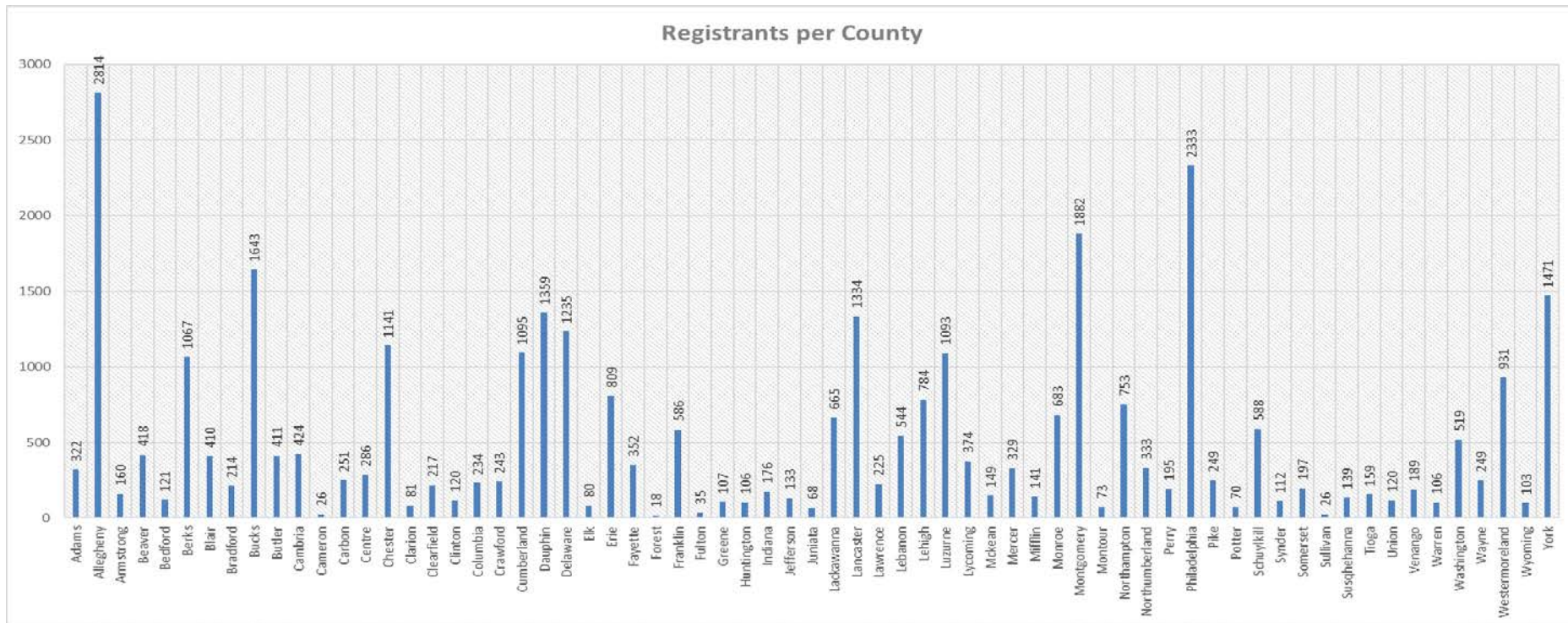
Veteran Gender



Metric 3 – Veteran Status



Metric 4 – Registered Veterans per County



*Note – Number of Veterans with County Unknown is 838



Goals

- Identify the needs of our veterans, their family members and the surviving family members of veterans.
- Create partnerships within their communities and in all regions across the commonwealth.
- Connect them with the resources, benefits & services they need and have earned through their military service.



DMVA Regional Program Outreach Coordinators (RPOCs)

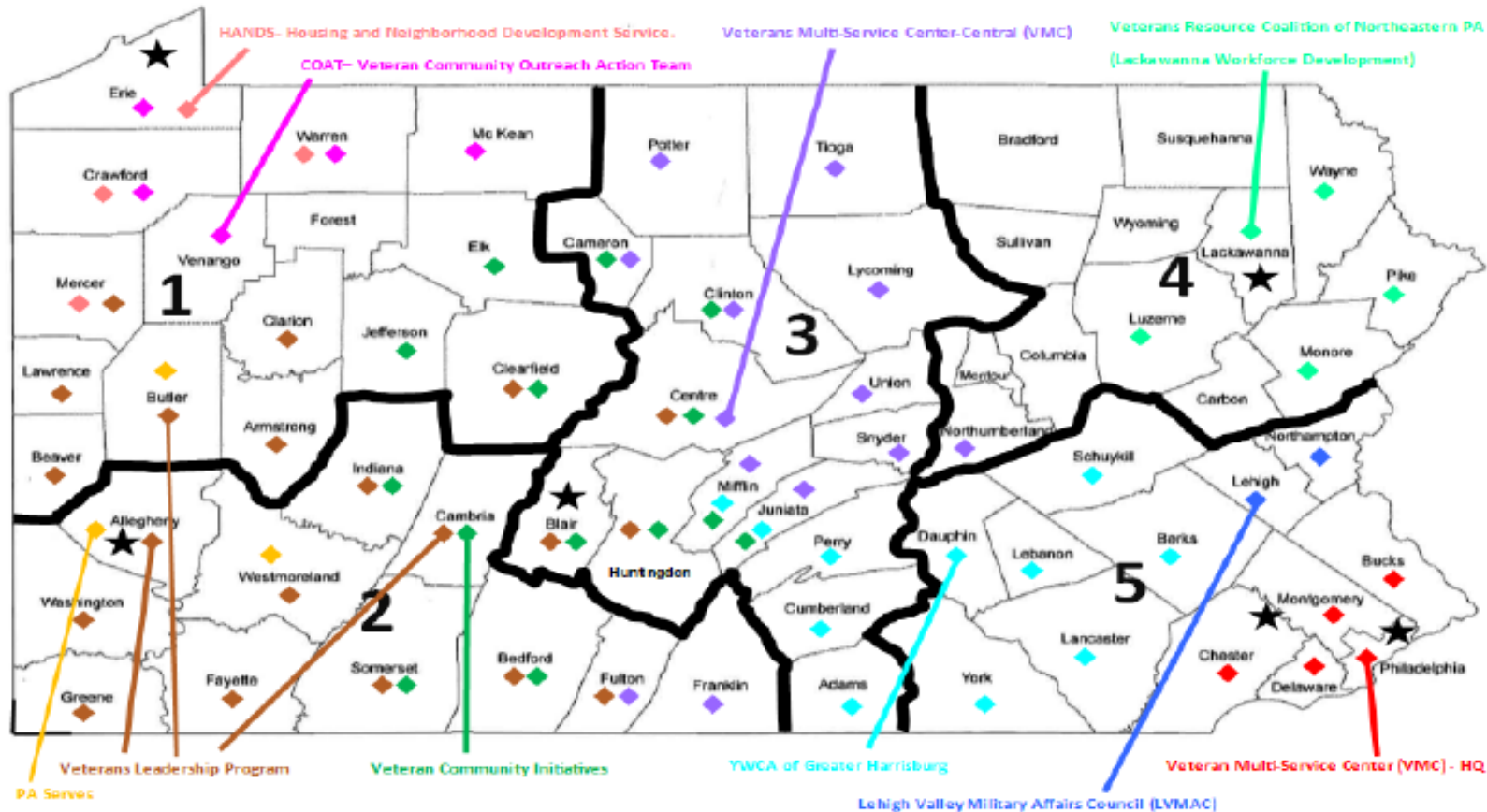
Region 1 – Chelsea Ellsworth
(O) 814.878.8080 (M) 814.323.8006
cellsworth@pa.gov

Region 2 - Mike Palarino
(O) 412.204.8221 (M) 412.500.6109
mipalarino@pa.gov

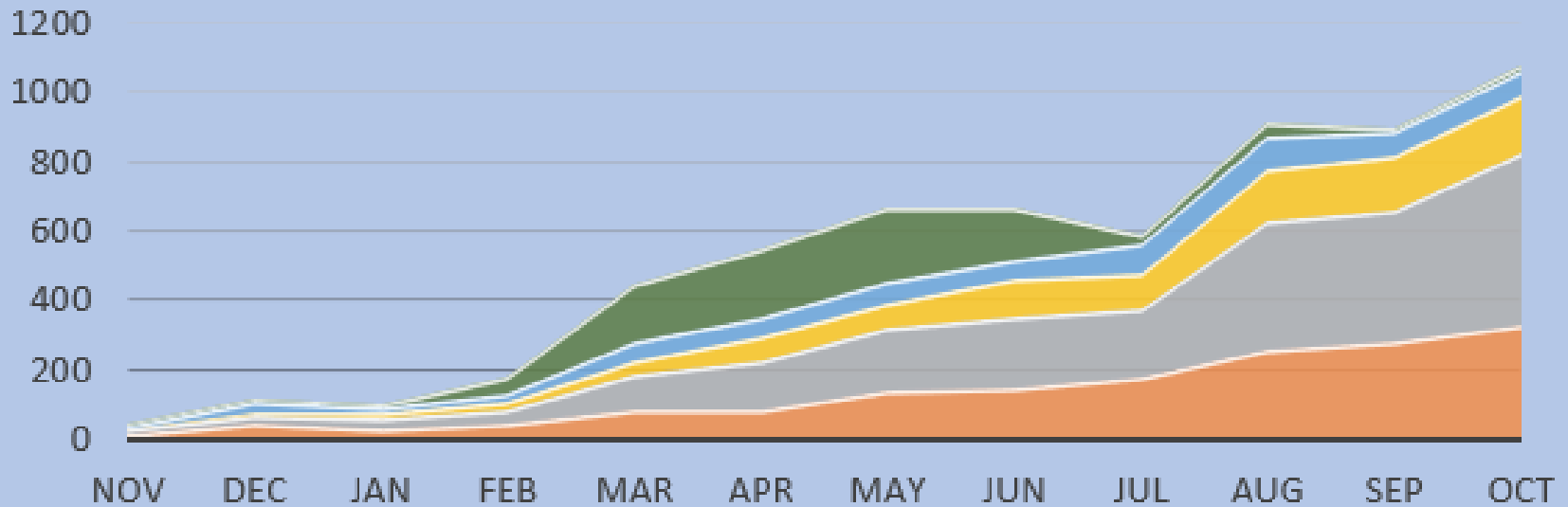
Region 3 – Samantha Cossman
(O) 814.696.5525 (M) 814.502.9900
scossman@pa.gov

Region 4 – Jennifer Spitler
(O) 570.961.4472 x 472 (M) 570.445.8255
jespitler@pa.gov

Region 5 – Erica Moore
(O) 717.861.9251 (M) 717.507.3057
ericamoore@pa.gov



RPOC Contacts



- Government Contacts Actual
- CDVA Contacts Actual
- COC & SSVF Contacts Actual
- Non-Profit Contacts Actual
- Resources added to Database Actual

Examples of the relationship building and collaboration these team members are making in service to the veteran's community:

- RPOC R1 interacted with the Forest County CDVA who was assisting the county with recent elections and was not in his office. Together they assisted a veteran who was suffering from cancer and needed transportation assistance while staying in Pittsburgh for medical treatment. Through the I&R tool they were able to find transportation providers and financial resources to assist the veteran during this critical time of treatment.
- RPOC R2 worked with a justice-involved veteran on a housing/care matter involving Allegheny County CDVA and Allegheny County Prison. The veteran was not eligible for admission to the Pennsylvania Veterans Homes based on various factors. Through this collaborative effort the veteran was transferred to another long-term care home in his area.

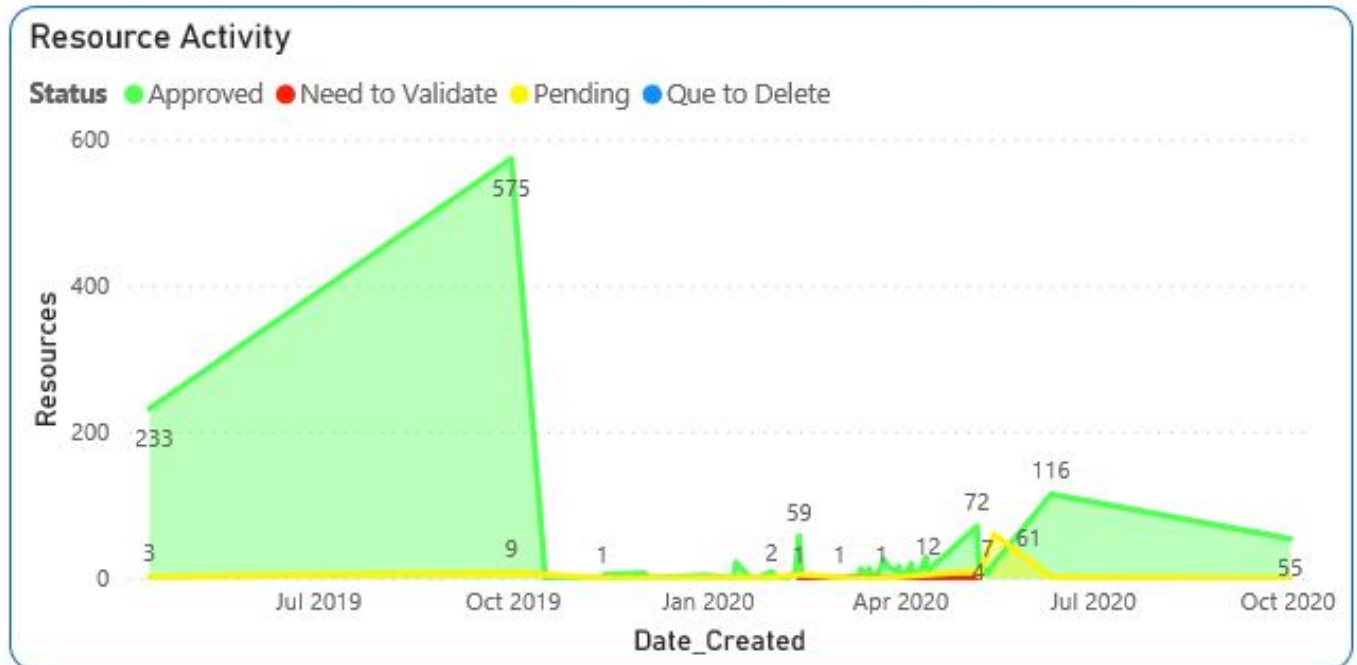
- RPOC R3 learned of an unfortunate situation for a family via a collaborative group listserv. A 2-yr.-old girl died unexpectedly during routine surgery and this lower-income family could not pay for the burial/funeral. This case was not veteran-related, but the RPOC used what she knew through her community contacts to connect the family with resources that assisted with funeral expenses.
- RPOC R4 continues to work towards identifying a county within the region to connect with Together with Veterans (TWW) and received a positive response from at least one county. This USDVA-funded program enlists rural veterans and their local partners to join forces to reduce veteran suicide in their community. There will be a continued effort to explore areas within the commonwealth to partner and assist in this program.
- RPOC R5 connected with a local PA Link Coordinator and staff from the Lancaster VET Center to assist a veteran with a Veterans Temporary Assistance (VTA) grant application. This interaction allowed for intergovernmental collaboration, provided an opportunity for the RPOC to educate others about DMVA programs, and the veteran was approved for the VTA grant within three days.

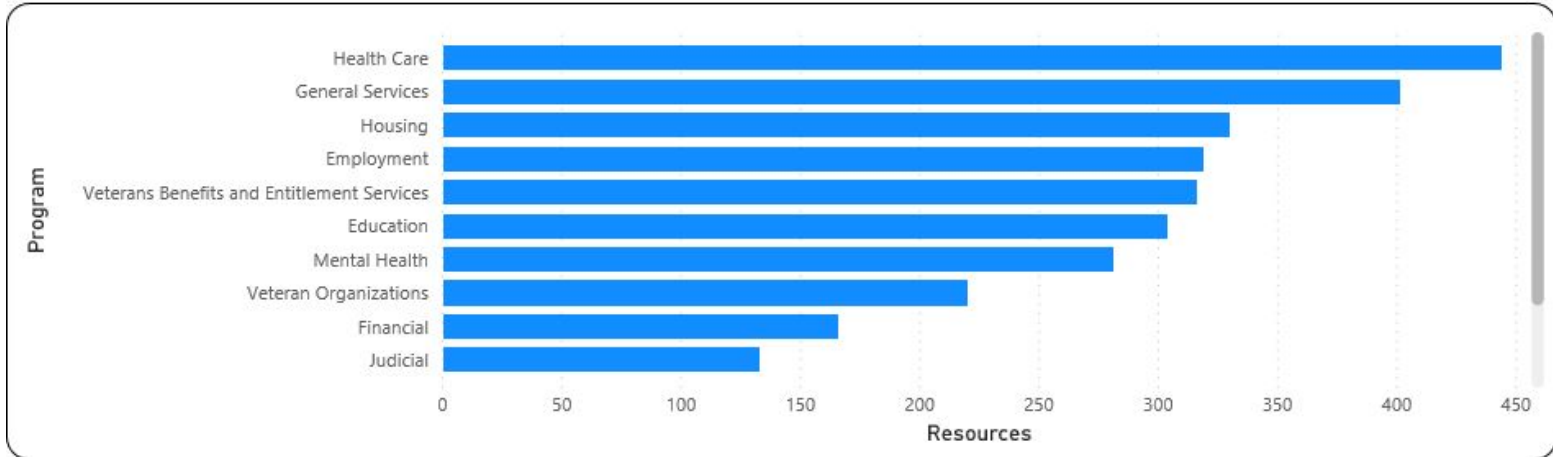
PA **VET**Connect Information and Referral Database Tool

Totals / Regional Totals

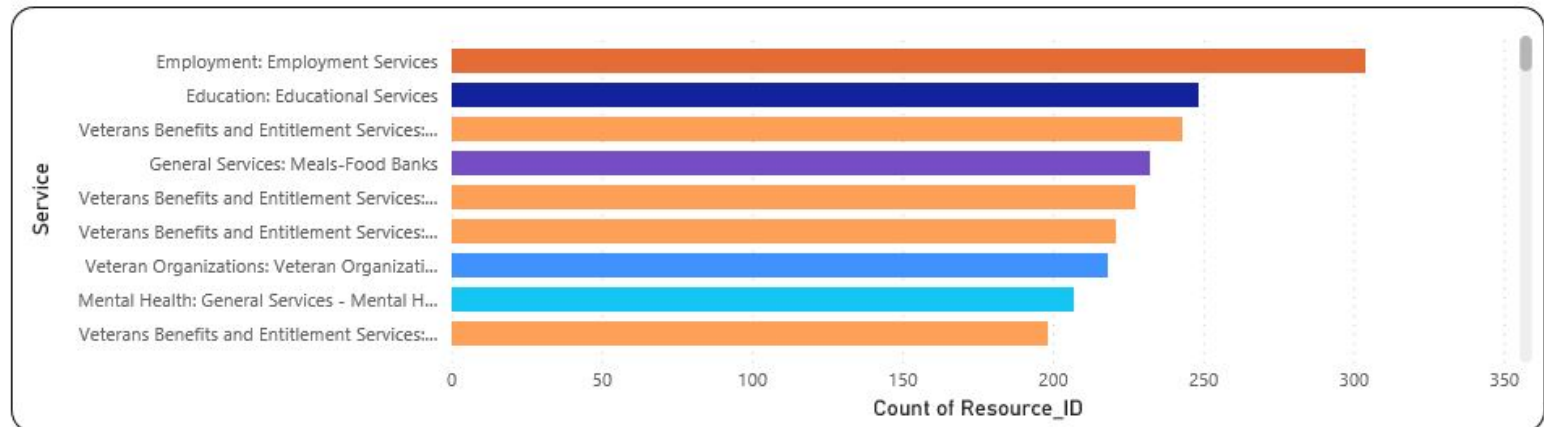


Resource Data Entry Activity





Top Ten Programs With Resources In Database



Top Nine Services With Resources In Database

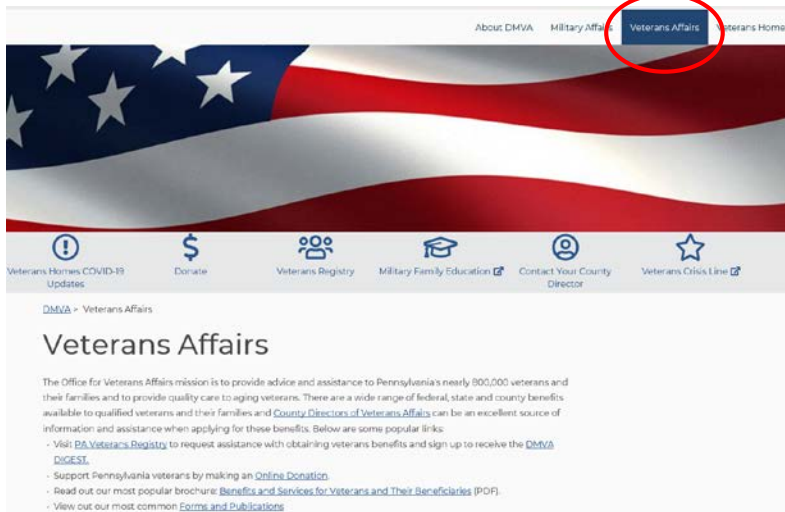
Sustainability & Beyond Phase II

- Identify emerging needs.
- Evaluate our existing partnerships with sister agencies and community partners to determine best practices and services that can be leveraged for veterans.
- Identify what other DMVA programs will work best under a regional concept.
- Examine the strengths and challenges within each respective region to assist in building a better I & R resource database of service providers.



NEW BUSINESS/ GOOD OF THE ORDER

www.dmva.pa.gov



About DMVA | Military Affairs | **Veterans Affairs** | Veterans Homes

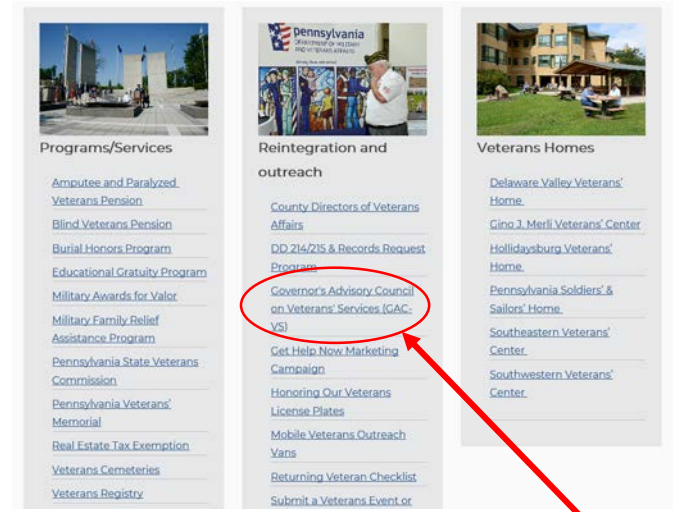
Veterans Homes COVID-19 Updates | Donate | Veterans Registry | Military Family Education | Contact Your County Director | Veterans Crisis Line

DMVA > Veterans Affairs

Veterans Affairs

The Office for Veterans Affairs mission is to provide advice and assistance to Pennsylvania's nearly 805,000 veterans and their families and to provide quality care to aging veterans. There are a wide range of federal, state and county benefits available to qualified veterans and their families and [County Directors of Veterans Affairs](#) can be an excellent source of information and assistance when applying for those benefits. Below are some popular links:

- Visit [PA Veterans Registry](#) to request assistance with obtaining veterans benefits and sign up to receive the [DMVA DIGEST](#).
- Support Pennsylvania veterans by making an [Online Donation](#).
- Read out our most popular brochure: [Benefits and Services for Veterans and Their Beneficiaries](#) (PDF).
- View out our most common [Forms and Publications](#).



Programs/Services

- [Amputee and Paralyzed Veterans Pension](#)
- [Blind Veterans Pension](#)
- [Burial Honors Program](#)
- [Educational Gratuity Program](#)
- [Military Awards for Valor](#)
- [Military Family Relief Assistance Program](#)
- [Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission](#)
- [Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial](#)
- [Real Estate Tax Exemption](#)
- [Veterans Cemeteries](#)
- [Veterans Registry](#)

Reintegration and outreach

- [County Directors of Veterans Affairs](#)
- [DD 216/215 & Records Request Program](#)
- [Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans' Services \(CAC: VS\)](#)
- [Get Help Now Marketing Campaign](#)
- [Honoring Our Veterans License Plates](#)
- [Mobile Veterans Outreach Vans](#)
- [Returning Veteran Checklist](#)
- [Submit a Veterans Event or](#)

Veterans Homes

- [Delaware Valley Veterans' Home](#)
- [Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center](#)
- [Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home](#)
- [Pennsylvania Soldiers' & Sailors' Home](#)
- [Southeastern Veterans' Center](#)
- [Southwestern Veterans' Center](#)

Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans' Services

On Veterans Day 2013, the Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services was established as Pennsylvania's first interagency cooperative approach to Veterans services. The council reviews, evaluates and assesses state Veterans programs in collaboration with senior staff from state agencies and commissions. It increases information sharing, ensures program fidelity, coordinates complementary programs and facilitates meaningful enhancements in service accessibility to Veterans benefits and services within Pennsylvania.

- [Updated Executive Order establishing the Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services](#) (PDF)

2021 MEETING DATES:

3 FEB 2021 – 1:00pm

19 MAY 2021 – 1:00pm

11 AUG 2021 – 1:00pm

3 NOV 2021 – 1:00pm

Sign up for the Veterans Registry and DMVA Digest!

www.register.dmva.pa.gov

NEXT MEETING:

February 3 at 1:00PM
Arrowheads Community Club (Tentative)
Bldg. 9-65, Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville, PA 17003

***Meeting location subject to change, please remain flexible**