



Veterans and their Families

Volunteers of America embodies President Lincoln’s promise to care for those “who shall have born the battle.” Currently, there are 18.2 million veterans in the United States according to the latest statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau. According to the 2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report, 37,878 veterans experience homelessness each evening. Ninety percent of those experiencing homelessness are men, with an increasing number of women with children now experiencing homelessness.

- Proudly serving more than 27,000 veterans with support services and affordable housing, including over 10,000 homeless veterans.
- More than 50 percent of veterans who live in our transitional housing for six months achieve our target outcome of stable, adequate permanent housing, and half of those are still in permanent housing after 12 months.

Volunteers of America is committed to promoting the well-being of all veterans and their families, whether they are newly transitioning from military to civilian life or have long been returned but are struggling with homelessness, unemployment,

mental health and substance use challenges, suicide risks, and the effects of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and sexual trauma. Every veteran deserves dignity and respect.

Our services, from housing and employment support to mental health care, help veterans overcome the barriers that stand between them and long-term stability. Through prevention, rapid rehousing, interim housing, transitional housing, permanent housing, job training and compensated work programs, we make it possible for veterans to have a roof over their heads and the professional opportunities they deserve.

Our housing units provide case management services for veterans and families and many of our offices support outreach centers where veterans can receive treatment for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injuries and addictions. We ensure veterans connect to the benefits they are entitled to, and we make use of the strong bonds forged between veterans by incorporating mentoring and peer-to-peer support.

We also provide employment services that include assessment, training and placement.



Volunteers of America®

FACTS & FIGURES

				
PEOPLE SERVED 1.5 million annually	FINANCIALS \$1.34 billion in revenues in fiscal year 2018	AFFORDABLE HOUSING Over 20,000 units housing more than 25,000 residents	SENIORS 8,000 provided skilled nursing care and assisted living	VETERANS Proudly serving more than 27,000 veterans with support services and affordable housing, including over 10,000 homeless veterans

[Learn more at voa.org](http://www.voa.org)

Compensated work programs offer a stipend while training veterans for a new career, and help is available with everything from resume preparation to job interviewing, clothing and transportation. Finding work is an important part of building back confidence and pride and sustaining independence.

Volunteers of America's moral injury repair initiatives have increased our capacity to serve veterans in crisis and at risk of suicide. Engaging staff who are veterans and who are certified mental health specialists (via certification as Veteran Peer Support Specialists, a recognized mental health specialty), our training programs offer critical skills to strengthen veterans against the challenges they face.



Key Policy Issues:

1.

Support increased authorization to 400 million for the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Social Services for Veterans Families Program (SSVF) which serves about 100,000 veterans and 35,000 children annually

2.

Support continued appropriation of 257 million for the operation of and transformation of the Grant and Per Diem Transitional Housing Program (GPD)

3.

Continue to support the addition of HUD Housing Choice vouchers and VA case management through HUD/VA Affairs Supportive Housing Program (VASH) which has served approximately 100,000 veterans since its inception in 2008

4.

Advocacy and development of new mental health processing program, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense and others, for all those leaving military service called "Boot Camp Out" to address Moral Injury as informed by Volunteers of America moral injury programs.

For more information, contact Barbara Banaszynski, bbanaszynski@voa.org



Volunteers of America is a national, faith-based nonprofit that provides hundreds of human services programs, including health-care and housing, to almost 1.5 million people in over 400 communities around the nation.



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