

Veterans Homelessness and Employment (Department of Veterans Affairs)

Policy Priority: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is focused on ensuring that we end homelessness for our veterans and support them in the most effective way possible.

Problem:

Veteran homelessness is a multi-faceted problem requiring a diverse set of solutions. Veterans interact with many organizations and service providers to address career transition, health, and other challenges. These groups are not always coordinated, and also leave gaps in needed resources. For example:

- Veterans lack support for translating military skills and training to sustained post-military employment to help them more effectively transition and thrive in civilian life.
- Numerous organizations, including VA and Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs), interface with veterans and yet lack a unified communication platform, leaving the burden of organizing and coordinating information on the veteran experiencing homelessness.
- Even when a veteran is given resources for temporary housing; barriers to basic, practical needs such as a ride to and from a medical appointment or a job interview prevent veterans from regaining their independence.

In order to optimize the veteran's experience and outcomes, veterans need technology tools that will help them to connect with jobs that are suited to their individual strengths and specific skills, and connect with transportation to critical appointments such as job interviews. These tools would help veterans to feel supported by the VA and VA partners as they are better able to provide access to the critical resources veterans need.

