



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
www.samhsa.gov



PATH Projects for Assistance in
Transition from Homelessness

Technical Assistance Resource Page

Veterans Resources



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Additional SAMHSA Resources

For more information about SAMHSA resources and programs, contact the SAMHSA Health Information Network at 1-877.SAMHSA.7 (1-877.726.4727).



Technical Assistance Resource Page:

Veterans Resources



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Introduction

According to the 2005 American Community Survey, approximately 23.4 million people are veterans of the U.S. military. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that 131,000 veterans are homeless on any given night. The vast majority are single; most come from poor, disadvantaged communities; 45 percent suffer from mental illness; and half have substance abuse problems.

America's homeless veterans have served in World War II, Korean War, Cold War, Vietnam War, Grenada, Panama, Lebanon, Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the military's anti-drug cultivation efforts in South America (National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, 2005). Forty-seven percent of veterans who are homeless served during the Vietnam Era. More than 67 percent served for at least three years and 33 percent were stationed in a war zone. Veterans who are homeless have many of the same needs as other individuals who are homeless (National Coalition for the Homeless, 2007). Services, resources and information specifically for veterans include the following:

Military Benefits

Compensation and Pension

Employment

Housing

Health Care

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Education

Life Insurance



Web Sites

Direct Link: **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**
<http://www.va.gov> The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Web site has a section regarding veterans and homelessness.

Direct Link: **Homeless Veterans Section**
<http://www1.va.gov/homeless>

Direct Link: **Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents: 2010 Edition**
http://www.va.gov/OPA/publications/benefits_book.asp

Direct Link: **Locate the Nearest VA Facility**
<http://www1.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isFlash=1>

Direct Link: **Locate a Homeless Veterans Service Coordinator**
http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/docs/HCHV_Sites_ByState.pdf

Direct Link: **HUDVET-Veteran Resource Center**
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/about/hudvet/index.cfm>
 The Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Veteran Resource Center includes phone numbers and contact information regarding veterans' benefits.

Direct Link for Local Information:
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/about/hudvet/state/index.cfm>
 Direct Link for National Information:
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/about/hudvet/national/index.cfm>



Direct Link:
<http://www.nchv.org>

National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV)

The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans web site provides resources specific for veterans experiencing homelessness. NCHV assists veterans to think about what they need and how to access programs through their Getting Started guide. The NCHV Web site also posts local 'Stand Downs'. Stand Down refers to a grassroots, community-based intervention program designed to help the nation's estimated 200,000 homeless veterans "combat" life on the streets. Veterans who are homeless are brought together in a single location for one to three days and are provided access to the community resources needed to begin addressing their individual problems and rebuilding their lives.

Direct Link:
<http://www.nchv.org/gettingstarted.cfm>

Getting Started Guide

Direct Link:
<http://www.nchv.org/service.cfm>

Support for Service Providers

Direct Link:
<http://www.nchv.org/wheretogo.cfm>

Where to Go for Help

Direct Link:
<http://www.nchv.org/network.cfm>

Service Provider Locator

Direct Link:
<http://www.nchv.org/standdown.cfm>

Stand Down

Direct Link:
<http://www.samhsa.gov/vets>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Web Site for Returning Veterans

This web site provides resources to help providers find services and materials for returning veterans.

Direct Link:
<http://www.endhomelessness.org/section/data/interactivemaps/vetsmap>

Homeless Veterans In America

This interactive map provides information on the number of veterans who are homeless in each state.

Direct Link:
<http://homelessvetprovidertac.net>

Homeless Veteran Provider Technical Assistance Center

This organization provides free training, resources, and consultation for providers who work with homeless veterans.



Other Resources

Direct Link:
<http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/facts/veterans.html>

PATH Record:
<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33028>

Direct Link:
<https://woundedwarriorproject.org/>

National Coalition for the Homeless. (2008). *Homeless veterans: NCH fact sheet #14*. Washington, DC: Author.

This fact sheet includes background information on U.S veterans experiencing homelessness, demographic data, and program and policy information.

The Wounded Warrior Project

This organization, based in Jacksonville, Florida, seeks to empower veterans and their families with a variety of programs and outreach mechanisms. Programs cover a wide range of issues, including mental and physical health, general wellness, higher education, job training, employment assistance, peer mentoring, and advocacy. The organization also operates a centralized Resource Call Center (1-888-WWP-ALUM).

Direct Link:
<http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/1837>

PATH Record:
<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=32854>

Cunningham, M., Henry, M., & Lyons, W. (2007). *Vital mission: Ending homelessness among veterans*. Washington, DC: The Homelessness Research Institute at the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

This National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) report contains information about veterans who experience homelessness. Percentages of veterans who experience homelessness by state and approaches for reducing homelessness among veterans are included.

Direct Link:
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL34024.pdf>

PATH Record:
<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33087>

Perl, L. (2007). *CRS report for congress: Veterans and homelessness*. Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service.

This report reviews issues related to veterans who are homeless including prevalence rates and federal programs serving homeless veterans.



Direct Link:
[http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/docs/challeng/
CHALENG_Report_Seventeenth_Annual.pdf](http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/docs/challeng/CHALENG_Report_Seventeenth_Annual.pdf)

PATH Record:
[http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/
Resource/View.aspx?id=50974](http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=50974)

**Kuhn, J.H. & Nakashima, J. (2011).
*Seventeenth annual progress report:
Community homelessness assessment,
local education, and networking group
(CHALENG) for veterans: Services for
Homeless Veterans Assessment and
Coordination. Washington, DC: United
States Department of Veterans Affairs.***

CHALENG, a program designed to enhance the continuum of services for veterans who are homeless, is provided by the local VA medical center and regional office and their surrounding community service agencies. Each year data are collected from a questionnaire completed by VA staff, community providers, and veterans experiencing homelessness. This report contains data from the CHALENG program.



Military Benefits

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides assistance and benefits to veterans. According to the web site <http://www.military.com>, more than 40,000 veterans who experience homelessness still receive compensation or pension benefits each year. An array of services and initiatives are available from the VA, including health care, life insurance, education, and compensation.



Web Sites

Direct Link: **Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)**
<http://www.vba.va.gov>

This web site contains a list of all veterans' benefits in English and Spanish. Pamphlets and fact sheets are available and there is an additional link to apply for benefits online.

Direct Link: **Apply for Benefits Online**
<http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>

Direct Link: **Military.com: Military Benefits**
<http://www.military.com/benefits>

This web site provides a list of benefits and resources for veterans including the GI Bill and health benefits.

Direct Link: **National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV): Seeking Federal Benefits**
<http://www.nchv.org/seeking.cfm>

This page of the NCHV site provides information on applying for benefits including eligibility, how to find help for applying, and how to apply on your own.



Other Resources

Direct Link:
http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp

PATH Record:
<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=48636>

**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (2010).
*Federal benefits for veterans, dependents
 and survivors.* Washington, DC: Author.**

This guide covers all veteran benefits including health care, service-connected disabilities, pensions, education and training, home loans, life insurance, burial and memorial benefits, benefits specific to the National Guard and other special groups, transition assistance, benefits for dependents and survivors, appeals of benefits assistance claims, military records, and benefits available from other Federal agencies. Each benefit area is covered in detail.

Direct Link:
<http://www.vba.va.gov/VBA/benefits/factsheets/general/21-00-1.pdf>

PATH Record:
<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33031>

**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (2008).
A summary of VA benefits. Washington, DC:
 Author.**

Last updated in April 2008, this pamphlet describes VA benefits in outline form.

Direct Link:
<http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10030.pdf>

PATH Record:
<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=45769>

**Social Security Administration. (2007).
Disability benefits for wounded warriors.
 Baltimore, MD: Author.**

This document provides answers to commonly asked questions about applying for disability benefits.





Compensation and Pension

Pensions are benefits paid to wartime veterans who have limited or no income and are over the age of 65 or, if under 65, are permanently disabled (VA, 2008). Veterans may qualify for over \$3,000 in monthly benefits if they match these qualifications (Military.com, 2008).



Web Sites

Direct Link:
<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/pension/vetpen.htm>

U.S. Veterans Administration: VA Pension Benefits

This web site provides information on the veterans' pension program such as eligibility and how to apply.

Direct Link:
<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/rates/index.htm>

Compensation and Pension Payment Rates

Direct Link:
<http://helpdesk.vetsfirst.org/index.php?pg=kb.book&id=5>

VetsFirst.org: VA Compensation and Pension Facts and Questions

These web sites contain facts on eligibility and types of compensation and pension benefits for veterans.

Direct Link:
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/firststep/content/vacomp-ga.html>

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services First Step

Direct Link:
<http://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/va-disability-compensation>

Military.Com: Veteran Disability Compensation

This web site has information about eligibility, compensation rates, and the application process for disabled veterans.

Photograph Courtesy of Jeff Olivet





Employment

Programs that assist veterans in finding and starting employment are crucial for preventing and ending homelessness. Many Federal programs assist with job searching, counseling, job placement assistance, remedial education, classroom and on-the-job training, and referral to supportive services. Every state has employment services that provides information and supportive services to jobseekers. Most state employment services offer veteran-specific assistance programs.

Web Sites

Direct Link: **U.S. Department of Labor**

<http://www.doleta.gov/programs/vets/>

The U.S. Department of Labor has various resources for veterans including state-by-state information about job searching and contact information for the state director for veterans' employment and training (DEVT). The Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) explains the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).

Direct Link: **REALifelines State-by-State Information**

<http://www.dol.gov/elaws/vets/realifelines/selectstate.htm>

Direct Link: **Veterans Employment and Training Services (VETS)**

<http://www.dol.gov/vets>

Direct Link: **VETS Eligibility Checker**

http://www.dol.gov/elaws/vets/userra/userra_1.asp

Direct Link: **Veterans Preference Eligibility**

<http://www.dol.gov/elaws/vets/vetpref/choice.htm>

Veteran Specific Job Search and Career Advice web sites

The following web sites offer job search tools specific to veterans:

Direct Link: **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: Hiring Programs and Incentives**

http://www.va.gov/JOBS/hiring_programs.asp

Veteran Specific Job Search and Career Advice web sites

Direct Link: **Veteran Careers**

<http://www.military.com/vetcareers>

Direct Link: **VeteranEmployment.com**

<http://www.veteranemployment.com>

Direct Link: **Hire Vets First**

<http://www.hirevetsfirst.dol.gov/>

Direct Link: **Vet Jobs**

<http://www.vetjobs.com>

Direct Link: **TA Online**

<http://www.taonline.com/>

Direct Link: **Career One Stop Key to Career Success Skills Translator**

<http://www.careeronestop.org/militarytransition>

One issue that veterans often face is determining how their skill set fits into the civilian workforce. "Skills translators" put military job titles into civilian terms, which is useful in determining qualifications and developing resumes.

Direct Link: **Military.com**

http://www.military.com/Careers/Content?file=skills_leader.htm&area=Content

Direct Link: **Career One Stop**

<http://www.acinet.org/acinet/moc/>



Other Resources

Direct Link:
<http://www.nchv.org/docs/Employment%20Assistance%20Guide%208.2008.pdf>

PATH Record:
<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=45777>

National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. (2008). *Employment assistance guide for service providers helping homeless veterans*. Washington, DC: United States Department of Labor.

This guide serves as a quick reference to assist government agencies, community-based organizations, social workers, case managers and others who are helping veterans who experience homelessness prepare for and obtain employment.

Direct Link:
<http://www.nchv.org/docs/HVRP%20Best%20Practices%20Project%2011.website.pdf>

PATH Record:
<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=37583>

National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. (2008). *Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Best Practice Profiles of Employment Assistance Programs*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Labor-Veterans' Employment and Training Service.

This document contains information on different homeless veteran employment assistance programs throughout the United States. It is designed to inform community-based organizations and government agencies about the essential components needed to establish programs.

Direct Link:
<http://tta.woundedwarriorproject.org/>

Transition Training Academy by the Wounded Warrior Project

The Transition Training Academy (TTA) helps participants explore information Technology (IT) as a potential career field. Students develop new career skills with real-world application, which will help secure future employment. As of the end of 2010, more than 700 active duty military personnel have completed the TTA program.



Housing

Male veterans who experience homelessness are twice as likely as their non-veteran counterparts to be chronically homeless (National Housing Conference, 2006). A variety of programs provide housing assistance, low-barrier housing, affordable housing, supportive housing, and transitional housing for male and female veterans.



Web Sites

Direct Link:
<http://www.homeloans.va.gov>

Direct Link to Housing Agents:
<http://homeloans.va.gov/sahagent.htm>

Direct Link to 2009 Veteran Annual
Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR):
<http://www.hudre.info/documents/2009AHARVeteransReport.pdf>

Direct Link to HUDVet National Resources:
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/about/hudvet/national/>

Direct Link to State and Local HUDVet Resources:
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/about/hudvet/state/>

U.S. Veterans Administration: Loan Guaranty Web Site

This government site provides information on housing finance for veterans.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

HUD recognizes the need for services that cater to veterans who are homeless. A recent survey revealed that 36 percent of Public Housing Authorities offer veterans preference. Also, HUD's new VA Supportive Housing Program (VASH) will distribute housing vouchers targeted to assist veterans who are homeless.

Other Resources

Direct Link:
<http://www.nchv.org/docs/CSHVeteransDevelopmentGuidebook2008FINAL.pdf>

PATH Record:
<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=45775>

Corporation for Supportive Housing. (2008). *Guidebook for developing permanent supportive housing for homeless veterans.* Washington, DC: Author.

This guidebook is for community-based homeless service providers who are new to housing. It introduces various supportive housing development options available for veterans who experience homelessness.

Direct Link:
<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=s110-1084>

PATH Record:
<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33038>

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Sub-Committee on Housing and Community Opportunity. (2008). *Homes for Heroes Act of 2007.* Washington, DC: Author.

The bill for the Homes for Heroes Act of 2007 would establish a \$200 million assistance program for permanent supportive housing and services for low-income veterans, including 20,000 housing vouchers. The legislation also calls for the creation of a Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Direct Link:
<http://www.nchv.org/docs/vets%20leadership%20final.pdf>

PATH Record:
<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33037>

National Housing Conference. (2006). *Ending homelessness among veterans through permanent supportive housing.* Washington, DC: Author.

This document is a collection of information on services and housing options that work for veterans who experience homelessness. It also explores policy and program changes that would further the goal of ending homelessness among veterans.



Direct Link:
<http://psychservices.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/reprint/56/3/350>

PATH Record:
<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=25250>

Schutt, R.K., Weinstein, B., & Penk, W.E. (2005). Housing preferences of homeless veterans with dual diagnoses. *Psychiatric Services, 56*, 350-352.

This study investigated residential preferences for homeless veterans with dual diagnoses. Data were collected through interviews.



Health Care

Veterans are eligible for a variety of VA sponsored health care services through insurance programs or through services provided directly by VA hospitals and clinics.



Web Sites

Direct Link:
<http://www.va.gov/health/index.asp>

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: Veterans Health Administration

Information about issues such as health care benefits, patient services, and prescriptions can be found on this site.

Direct Link:
<http://www.military.com/benefits/veterans-health-care>

Military.com: Understanding Veteran Health Care

Information on VA health care benefits, eligibility, enrollment requirements, and specialized programs is provided.

Other Resources

Direct Link:
<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/picrender.fcgi?artid=1494947&blobtype=pdf>

PATH Record:
<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=25061>

O'Toole, T.P., Conde-Martel, A., Gibbon, J.L., Hanusa, B.H., & Fine, M.J. (2003). Health care of homeless veterans: Why are some individuals falling through the safety net? *Journal of General Internal Medicine, 18*(11), 929–933.

This article discusses the results of a two-city, community-based survey of 531 homeless adults. The survey was used to analyze characteristics of veterans who are homeless and report needing VA benefits.

Direct Link:
<http://www.nhchc.org/Publications/HomelessVetsHealthCare.pdf>

PATH Record:
<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=18459>

McMurray-Avila, M. (2001). *Homeless veterans and health care: A resource guide for providers*. Nashville, TN: National Health Care for the Homeless Council.

This guide brings together resources and information about health care in a format that is useful for service providers, veterans who experience homelessness, and others concerned about the health and welfare of veterans.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

More than 25 percent of veterans who served in Vietnam and who are homeless have symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Of those with serious mental illness, 43 percent also have symptoms of PTSD (McMurray-Avila, 2001). PTSD may occur after a person experienced or witnessed events that involved death, serious injury, or mass destruction. For veterans, traumatic events include combat, training accidents, disasters, medical emergencies, and assaults. Common symptoms of PTSD include flashbacks, anger and rage, avoidance, and feelings of helplessness and hopelessness. Recognizing the symptoms of trauma and identifying resources for treatment is essential in assisting veterans from any war or branch of service.



Web Sites

Direct Link:
<http://www.ncptsd.va.gov/ncmain/index.jsp>

National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (NCPTSD)

This organization aims to advance the clinical care and social welfare of U.S. Veterans through research, education, and training on PTSD and stress-related disorders.

Direct Link:
<http://psychcentral.com/disorders/sx32.htm>

PsychCentral.com: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Symptoms

This web site gives information on specific symptoms of PTSD.

Other Resources

Direct Link:
<http://www.ptsdmanual.com>

Parrish, B. (2008). *Military veterans PTSD reference manual*. Bryn Mawr, PA: Infinity Publishing.

PATH Record:
<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33043>

This manual provides information on how to understand the effects of PTSD in veterans.

Direct Link:
<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d06397.pdf>

United States Government Accountability Office. (2006). *Post-traumatic stress disorder: DOD needs to identify the factors its providers use to make mental health evaluation referrals for service members*. Washington, DC: Author.

PATH Record:
<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33044>

This report to Congress discusses ways to identify PTSD in veterans and find health-care benefits related to PTSD.

Direct Link:
<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/index.asp>

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs National Center for PTSD "PTSD 101: Military Culture"

This website provides free online courses on PTSD and related trauma for providers, as well as other resources for assessment and treatment of PTSD. Courses offered in Flash or PowerPoint with audio, with alternative versions available for users with special needs. Continuing Education (CE) credits are available for most courses at no cost.



Education

The GI Bill was first passed in 1944 and provided veterans with both college and vocational education opportunities. On June 30, 2008, President Bush signed the new GI Bill into law. The new bill covers full tuition costs at any public school (or private school equivalent), a living stipend, and a \$1,000 stipend per year for books (GI Bill 2008, 2008).



Web Sites

Direct Link:
<http://www.gibill.va.gov>

GI Bill Web Site

This is the official web site for the GI Bill and it contains forms that can be downloaded for printing or submitted online.

Direct Link to Forms:
<http://www.gibill.va.gov/apply-for-benefits/road-map/6-apply.html>

Direct Link:
<http://www.gibill2008.org>

GI Bill 2008

This web site contains information about the new GI Bill.

Direct Link:
<http://www.gibillexpress.com>

GI Bill Express

On this web site, veterans can request a GI Bill guide with information specific to their branch of the military.

Direct Link:
<http://education.military.com/money-for-school/veteran/gi-bill/veteran-gi-bill-users-guide>

Military.com: Veteran GI Bill User's Guide

The guide offers ideas about how to maximize the GI Bill and its educational benefits.

Other Resources

Direct Link:
http://www.issueLab.org/research/new_gi_bill_rewarding_our_troops_rebuilding_our_military

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. (2008). *Issue report: A new GI Bill: Rewarding our troops, rebuilding our military.* Washington, DC: Author.

This report gives information on how the GI Bill developed and information about the need for a new GI Bill.

PATH Record:
<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33033>

Direct Link:
http://www.gibill.va.gov/pamphlets/ch33/ch33_pamphlet.pdf

Veterans Benefits Administration. (2009). *Post 9/11 Veterans educational assistance act of 2008.* Washington, DC: Department of Veterans Affairs.

This pamphlet provides information regarding the benefits and eligibility of the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

PATH Record:
<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=45773>

Life Insurance

Veterans, particularly those with a service related disability, may have difficulty accessing private insurance. The VA developed insurance programs for veterans and service members who may not be able to get insurance from private companies.

Web Sites

Direct Link:
<http://www.insurance.va.gov/miscellaneous/index.htm>

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: Life Insurance

This VA web site provides information about how to obtain life insurance.

Direct Link:
<http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/veterans-life-insurance>

Military.com: Veterans Life Insurance

This web site summarizes veteran's life insurance benefits and what you need to know before you apply.



Recent Legislation

Congress addresses legislation pertaining to veterans on a regular basis. Updated information is available via the resources below.

Web Sites

Direct Link: **VA Congressional and Legislative Affairs**
http://www.va.gov/oca/Vet_Legis.asp Information about legislation significant to veterans is found here.

Direct Link: **National Association of State Veterans Homes**
http://www.nasvh.org/leg_issues/leg_recent.cfm This site contains information about legislative issues and recent legislation.

Direct Link: **Policy and Legislation**
http://www.nchv.org/policy_legislation.cfm This web site contains links to policy and legislation updates.



WHAT IS PATH?

The PATH program—or Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness—was authorized by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1990. PATH funds community-based outreach, mental health and substance abuse services, case management, and limited housing services for people experiencing serious mental illnesses—including those with co-occurring substance use disorders—who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless.

PATH funds stimulate State & local contributions

PATH funds are worth more than their face value because they are matched with State and local resources. For every \$3 in Federal funds, State or local agencies must put forward \$1 in cash or in-kind services. At a minimum, a \$52 million Federal allocation would result in a \$17 million match. In some states PATH funds and the State and local match are the only resources specifically for serving people experiencing homelessness and mental illnesses.

PATH providers deliver innovative services

PATH providers work with service delivery systems and embrace practices that work. These include:

Partnering with housing first and permanent supportive housing programs

Providing flexible consumer-directed and recovery-oriented services to meet consumers where they are in their recovery

Employing consumers or providing consumer-run programs

Partnering with health care providers, including Health Care for the Homeless to integrate mental health and medical services

Assertively improving access to employment

Improving access to benefits, especially through SSI/SSDI Outreach, Advocacy, and Recovery (SOAR)

Using technology such as PDAs, electronic records, and HMIS

PATH providers are strong community partners

PATH providers and State PATH Contacts are involved in local and regional planning efforts to end homelessness, including Continuum of Care, 10-Year Plans to End Homelessness, and other planning efforts. PATH providers and State PATH Contacts work to ensure that services are coordinated and available to people experiencing homelessness.

For more information about PATH, please visit <http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/>

