

Benefits and Services for Homeless Veterans: Hampton VAMC



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VA Healthcare Benefits



◆ **ELIGIBLE** for healthcare:

1. Veterans with an Honorable or General discharge from full-time, active military service
2. Reserve duty counts only if unit is called to serve during war-time operations.
3. Must have served for two full years if discharged after August of 1980
4. Income limitations apply

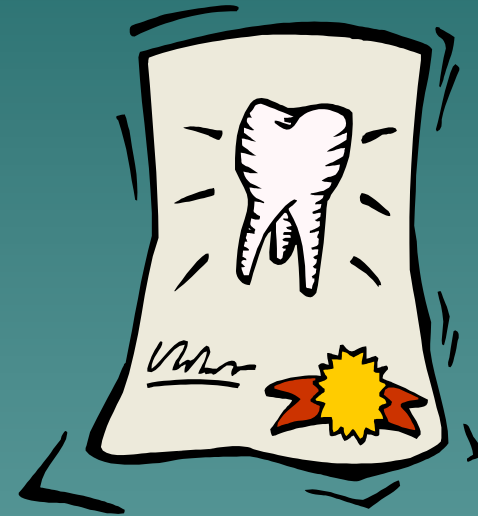
◆ **INELIGIBLE** for healthcare:

1. Veterans with other types of discharges (Other than Honorable, Bad Conduct, Dishonorable)
2. Veterans of Reserves of National Guard units who were not called up to serve during war-time operations
3. Dependents of veterans



VA Dental Benefits

- ◆ Similar to employers, VA views dental and medical benefits differently.
- ◆ ONLY 100% service connected disabled veterans and recently discharged veterans are eligible to receive VA dental services.
- ◆ There is a LIMITED VA Homeless Dental program



VA Homeless Dental Program

- ◆ A one time course of dental care is available to homeless veterans under certain conditions
- ◆ The veteran must be in a VA Domiciliary, Grant and Per-Diem or Community Residential Care program for 60 consecutive days to be eligible for the homeless dental program.



Homeless Dental Cont.

- ◆ HELP Free Clinic has a fee for service contract with VA to do exams, extractions and fillings.
- ◆ VA clinic does partials and dentures (very limited)
- ◆ Hampton VA is provided with a limited annual budget for homeless dental services.



Homeless Outreach: HCHV



- ◆ 1.5 Outreach Clinicians (Social Workers), plus assistance from an RN. Minimum of twelve outreach visits per month
- ◆ Outreach sites in Hampton, Newport News, Portsmouth, Norfolk and Virginia Beach (St. Vincent's, Church shelters, Oasis, VOA, St. Columba, Salvation Army 19th Street shelter).
- ◆ Services also provided at Project Homeless Connect and other Homeless Resource Fair events

HCHV Outreach Activities Cont.

- ◆ Snack & hygiene kit lures
- ◆ DD214 assistance
- ◆ 69 Domiciliary Residential Program admissions in FY'09
- ◆ Minimum of 20 Community Resource Residential Referrals (Vets House, ARC, Victory Home)
- ◆ Several Inpatient Admissions
- ◆ 448 intakes, 823 veterans seen in FY'09
- ◆ Over 150 Successful Disability claims since 2004!!



Office Hours



- ◆ The Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Outreach Team also sees homeless veterans at their offices at the Hampton VAMC.
- ◆ HCHV Offices are in Bldg. 148 (Dom) and Bldg. 43 at the Hampton VAMC
- ◆ Office Hours: Mon & Tues 9:00 – 11:00; Wed & Fri 10:00 – noon and 1:00 to 2:00; other dates and times by appt.

DIGMA (Drop-In Group Medical Appointment) Primary Care Clinic



- ◆ Drop-in clinic designed to reduce barriers to care faced by homeless veterans
- ◆ Full array of Primary Care services provided (except for narcotic pain medications for chronic conditions)
- ◆ Clinic meets Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings
- ◆ Health and Resource Education built in to design of clinic
- ◆ Veterans can remain in DIGMA clinic once housed if they wish.
- ◆ 240 veterans currently enrolled

Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation Programs



- ◆ DAP: Drug Alcohol Program - 80 beds
- ◆ Dom PTSD Program - 10 beds
- ◆ Rehabitat - Homeless, SMI, Dual Diagnosis, -30 beds
- ◆ General Dom "Homeless Program": life skills, Must have Rehab Goals - 40 beds
- ◆ Length of stay is individualized but generally no more than 90 days

Grant and Per Diem Transitional Housing for Homeless Veterans

- ◆ Community Agencies partner with VA to provide transitional housing to homeless Veterans. Currently, we have two Grant and Per Diem (GP&D) programs.
- ◆ Grant and Per Diem (GP&D) Liaison is David Wall: 722-9961 ext. 2137.
- ◆ 1. **Salvation Army TR**: On VA grounds. Rent of 30% of income, must provide own food. Clean/Sober, transitional environment. Stay from several weeks up to several months.
- ◆ 2. **Malachi House**: For female veterans and veterans with dependents. Apartment units – stay up to two years.

Other Related Programs

- ◆ SATP: Outpatient Substance Abuse Program
- ◆ Mental Health, PCT (PTSD), Primary Care Mental Health Clinics
- ◆ Homeless Hospice – Medical Foster Care
- ◆ MHICM: MH Intensive Case Mgmt.
- ◆ Supported Employment
- ◆ CWT: Compensated Work Therapy
- ◆ CWT/TR: Community Residential program for veterans enrolled in CWT
- ◆ PRTP: Psychosocial Rehabilitation treatment program (new)
- ◆ HUD-VASH: Permanent, supportive, subsidized housing for homeless veterans (includes families)

OIF/OEF (Iraq/Afghanistan) Veteran Benefits

- ◆ Wounded Warrior Program
- ◆ TBI
- ◆ Enhanced GI Bill
- ◆ OIF/OEF Case Management Team
- ◆ Claims expedited
- ◆ Enhanced eligibility for care for 5 years.

VA Monetary Benefits: Service Connection



- ◆ A service connected disability rating is awarded to veterans whose health problems were caused or made worse by their military service
- ◆ Conditions are rated from 0 to 100% based on the disabling effects of the condition
- ◆ For a claim to be awarded, generally there must be documentation related to the condition in the veteran's military medical record
- ◆ The veteran must also have sought care for the condition regularly after military discharge (when possible)
- ◆ The longer a veteran is separated from the military the harder it is to prove a claim
- ◆ Service Connected claims take a long time – often years
- ◆ It is difficult to expedite service connected claims

NSC Pension



- ◆ Non-Service Connected VA Pension is the only cash benefit available for disabilities not caused or made worse by military service
- ◆ Veterans **MUST** have served during war-era to receive an NSC pension
- ◆ NSC pension requires being deemed unemployable due to medical and/or psychiatric conditions
- ◆ Pension rate is \$985 per month, means tested (like SSI)
- ◆ Aid and Attendance also possible
- ◆ Can be expedited due to homelessness

How to File a Claim

- ◆ Virginia Department of Veterans Services (VDVS): 2019 Cunningham Drive, Hampton: 825-7893. Open 8:00 to 4:00 Mon-Fri, walk-in's accepted
- ◆ Veterans Service Organizations: DAV, American Legion, VFW Officers can assist with claims: most posts have posted hours for this help
- ◆ Veterans can file online: www.va.gov/benefits
- ◆ Virginia VBA Homeless Coordinator: Ed Heath (540)

Other VA Benefits



- ◆ Home Loan Program: 1-800-827-1000 for more information
- ◆ GI Bill: old GI bill usable for ten years after discharge; new GI bill much more comprehensive
- ◆ VA Vocational Rehabilitation: for veterans 20% or more service connected who would like re-training

Contract Funding



- ◆ Hampton VAMC was awarded funds in 2008 to re-establish contract care for veterans with SMI who may not be appropriate for other VA programs
- ◆ VA requires 24 hour, on-site staffing; most local agencies have phased out overnight staffing
- ◆ Due to the on-site staffing issue, it has been difficult for us to find an appropriate vendor
- ◆ A solicitation is currently out for vendors who may be interested in providing these services.
- ◆ If the current solicitation is awarded we are very likely to receive more contract funding in the near future.

Opportunities to Partner with VA to Help Homeless Veterans

- ◆ The VA is seeking partners for our Grand and Per-Diem transitional housing program and contract funding.
- ◆ Please visit www.va.gov/homeless for more information
- ◆ Also contact David Wall (GP&D Liaison) at 722-9961 ext. 2137 or Marti Chick-Ebey ext. 1285.