



RESOURCES FOR SERVING WOMEN VETERANS

Many women veterans face challenges when returning to civilian life, including finding and keeping employment, parenting (often as single parents), healing from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or Military Sexual Trauma (MST), and maintaining housing. Without the right services, these and other issues can put women veterans at risk of homelessness and unemployment. Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HRVP) grantees can access the following resources and put women veterans in touch with organizations who can help their specific barriers to employment, housing, healing, and well-being.

[VA Programs to End Homelessness Among Women Veterans](#)

This website lists a variety of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) programs that strive to address the individualized needs of women throughout its specialized programs for homeless veterans. Programs include [Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program](#) (SSVF), [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and VA Supportive Housing Program](#) (HUD-VASH), and the [Grant and Per Diem](#) (GPD) Program.

[VA Center for Women Veterans \(CWV\)](#)

The Center for Women Veterans was established by Congress in November 1994 to:

- Monitor and coordinate the VA's administration of health care and benefits services, and programs for women veterans.
- Serve as an advocate for a cultural transformation (both within VA and in the general public) in recognizing the service and contributions of women veterans and women in the military.
- Raise awareness of the responsibility to treat women veterans with dignity and respect.

This CWV website lists resources, answers frequently asked questions, offers information about mental health, and has information about the National Women Veterans Summit. The CWV specifically addresses the health care needs of eligible women veterans, providing appropriate, timely, and compassionate health care at the facility level.

[Women Veterans Call Center \(WVCC\)](#)

The WVCC staff is trained to provide women veterans, their families, and caregivers about VA services and resources. The call is free, and people can call as often as they like until they have the answers to their questions. The Call Center is available Monday through Friday 8 AM - 10 PM ET, and on Saturdays from 8 AM - 6:30 PM ET. It also provides an online chat for those who prefer online communication.

[VA Military Sexual Trauma \(MST\) Coordinators](#)

MST is sexual assault during military service. It includes uninvited sexual advances or contact or forced sex while in the military and happens to men and women. MST can cause mental and physical problems. Every VA facility has a designated MST Coordinator who serves as a contact person for MST-related issues. More information about [MST counseling](#) is also available through the VA.

[National Veterans Foundation \(NVF\)](#)

The NVF has a website devoted to listing resources for women veterans, including social and legal support.

[U.S. Department of Labor's Women Veterans Website](#)

This website from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) focuses on women veterans and includes links to webinars about topics such as employment assistance for women veterans, women veterans in the workforce, gender and demographics, and education, along with infographics and fact sheets related to women veterans.

[U.S. Department of Labor's Women's Bureau Website](#)

This resource provides information and links that will help women veterans understand their rights and connect to organizations providing assistance and services.

[Women Veterans: Equally Valued. Equally Qualified. Equally Served.](#)

This short fact sheet discusses the fact that women veterans are equally valued with their male counterparts, equally qualified for employment opportunities, and equally served, as veterans receive priority of service for all employment and training programs funded directly, in whole or in part, by DOL. These include programs operated by nearly 2,500 American Job Centers nationwide.

[Homeless Women Veterans Listening Sessions](#)

The DOL's Women's Bureau hosted a series of 28 moderated listening sessions with formerly and currently homeless female veterans, and service providers to this population, in New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Kansas, California, Oregon, and Washington. The sessions focused on obtaining information related to 1) factors that lead to homelessness for women veterans, 2) improving services/resources for homeless women veterans, 3) increasing participation and engagement in programs/services, and 4) the role of the military and the VA in combating homelessness among women veterans. This website offers a summary of the listening sessions' results.

[National Summit on Women Veteran Homelessness: A Leadership Dialogue](#)

This document provides a summary of the National Summit on Women Veteran Homelessness, held in Chicago in May 2013 and hosted by the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University. Over two days, some of the nation's leading experts on homelessness among veterans, especially among women veterans, applied their expertise to help attendees understand the roots of women veteran homelessness so that it can be prevented; the policy, programs, and services that women veterans need so to escape homelessness; and the gaps that better research, policy, and practice can fill so no woman veteran or her family need ever fear becoming or remaining homeless.

[Lessons Learned from the U.S. Department of Labor Grantees: Homeless Female Veterans and Homeless Veterans with Families](#)

This Issue Brief report was developed to help HVRPs and leaders better understand the challenges and facilitators to employment of veterans who are homeless, including women veterans, and address them through direct training and technical assistance to DOL-funded HVRPs. This National Veterans Technical Assistance Center report captures and transmits lessons learned so that the needs of these populations can be better met in the future.

[Trauma-Informed Care for Women Veterans Experiencing Homelessness: A Guide for Service Providers](#)

This "Trauma Guide," was created by the DOL to address the psychological and mental health needs of women veterans. The guide is also a compilation of best practices aimed at improving effectiveness in engaging women veterans. Written for service providers, the guide offers observational knowledge and concrete guidelines for modifying practices with the goal of increasing re-entry outcomes. It includes a User's Guide, Organizational Self-Assessment for Providers, and resource lists.

[National Association of State Women Veteran Coordinators](#)

This mission of this organization is to advocate for women veterans through partnerships, training, and the exchange of information; identify barriers to successful transition of women veterans and military women to the civilian community; and recommend solutions through legislative, programmatic, and outreach activities.

[The American Legion: Women Veterans](#)

The American Legion has a website devoted to the challenges of serving women veterans and their unique challenges. It includes links to resources, statistics, and a comprehensive [Guide for Women Veterans](#) about identifying risks, services, and prevention efforts.

[Operation We Are Here](#)

This organization has a website for women veterans that has a robust list of support organizations for women veterans, many of which are state specific. It also includes descriptions and links to books about, and for, women veterans.

[Fatigues to Fabulous](#)

Fatigues to Fabulous[™] (*F2F*) is a national campaign designed to support those women serving in our nation's military, and the unique issues faced by women veterans. The campaign supports three nonprofit organizations, including [Grace After Fire](#), which provides support for and helps women veterans of the United States military who are returning from active duty. *F2F* is working to help women make the transition from military to civilian life, navigate the healthcare system for their unique needs, raise awareness of the challenges women face upon return, and harness resources to support them. *F2F*'s goal, along with its partners, is to provide valuable job training skills, including resume building, interviewing skills and workplace attire advice.

[One Savvy Veteran](#)

One Savvy Veteran's mission is to encourage, educate, and empower women veterans experiencing economic hardships with comprehensive assistance needed to successfully navigate the transition from military service to civilian life.

[Operation Reinvent](#)

Operation Reinvent supports women veterans from the time they leave military service, until they have successfully reinvented their lives and transitioned to a new normal—as happy, healthy, productive civilians in the workplace and in the community. During this process, Operation Reinvent guides, mentors, educates, and makes the transition process smoother. It is exclusively dedicated to women veterans. It contains every step necessary to give women veterans the confidence and the heightened self-esteem that comes from a polished professional image. From a well-constructed resume, winning interview tactics and understanding the language, currency, and the culture of their new civilian workplace to regular, biweekly, woman veteran-to-woman veteran peer support.

[She S.E.R.V.E.D. Inc.](#)

This service-driven, charitable organization was developed to Support, Enhance and Restore Veterans Every Day (SERVED). It supports women veterans by educating them about available gender-specific benefits, helping them receive the benefits to which they are entitled, and connecting them to community resources that can assist in providing those benefits. This organization helps women veterans during their transition into the civilian sector with its "Fatigues to Corporates" workshops, which assists them in preparing for and securing a job and assists them in retaining their new positions, succeeding in the mainstream workplace, as well as other helpful career tips to present themselves in the best possible light during job interviews. The "Wall Locker" provides them with new or gently used job interview attire. It also helps with immediate needs, such as shelter, food, clothing, and transition aid through existing networks and resources and offering financial assistance to low-income veterans, and serving as a navigation support for women veterans as they transition into a civilian lifestyle.

[SHOUT! For Women Veterans \(Swords to Plowshares\)](#)

SHOUT! For Women Veterans, is a project by Swords to Plowshares. This yearly event in California celebrates women veteran and was inspired by the notion that the arts encourage expression and healing. This event attracts hundreds of veterans and supporters to share in the artistic expression of women veterans through photography, painting, and spoken word. SHOUT! raises awareness about the issues facing women veterans and explores the intersections of art, community, health, and healing.

[The National League of Female Veterans, Inc.](#)

The National League of Female Veterans was created to act as an advocate for the issues facing women veterans and their families.

[WINC for all Women Veterans](#)

WINC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing women who were served in the Armed Forces, including those injured either physically, mentally, emotionally, or even spiritually, with the tools they need to enter the world again as a woman, not a service member; while also increasing national awareness about the need to successfully integrate the woman warrior veteran back into society. It offers retreats, meet-ups, etc., and raises awareness of the issues that affect women veterans in the VA system through symposiums and collaborating with other organizations to help raise awareness of the issues that women veterans face both in and out of the military.

[Women Veterans Interactive](#)

This organization meets women veterans at their point of need and supporting them through advocacy, empowerment, interaction, outreach, and unification.

[Women Veteran Social Justice](#)

Women Veteran Social Justice is a support organization with the vision to identify, connect, educate, and empower veteran women about programs, benefits, social, and professional networking opportunities. Initially started in 2006 as a local support group for employment networking, it was expanded in 2008 to social networking and online media giving a broader range and a deeper impact because of collaboration relationships with multiple veteran groups.

[Women Veterans Rock](#)

This is a coalition of women veteran organizations and women advocacy organizations supporting women veterans and military families in the areas of housing, employment, education, financial stability, health, and wellness.

[American Women Veterans Foundation](#)

American Women Veterans is a nonprofit organization that serves, honors, and empowers women veterans and their families from all eras and branches of service. It engages and advocates for new or improved policies that enhance the lives of women veterans and our families. It also sponsors retreats, conferences, and symposiums focused on empowering members and communities.

NVTAC

National Veterans Technical Assistance Center

View more NVTAC success stories at NVTAC.org