



Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

We Honor Your Service

# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mary M. Kolar, Secretary

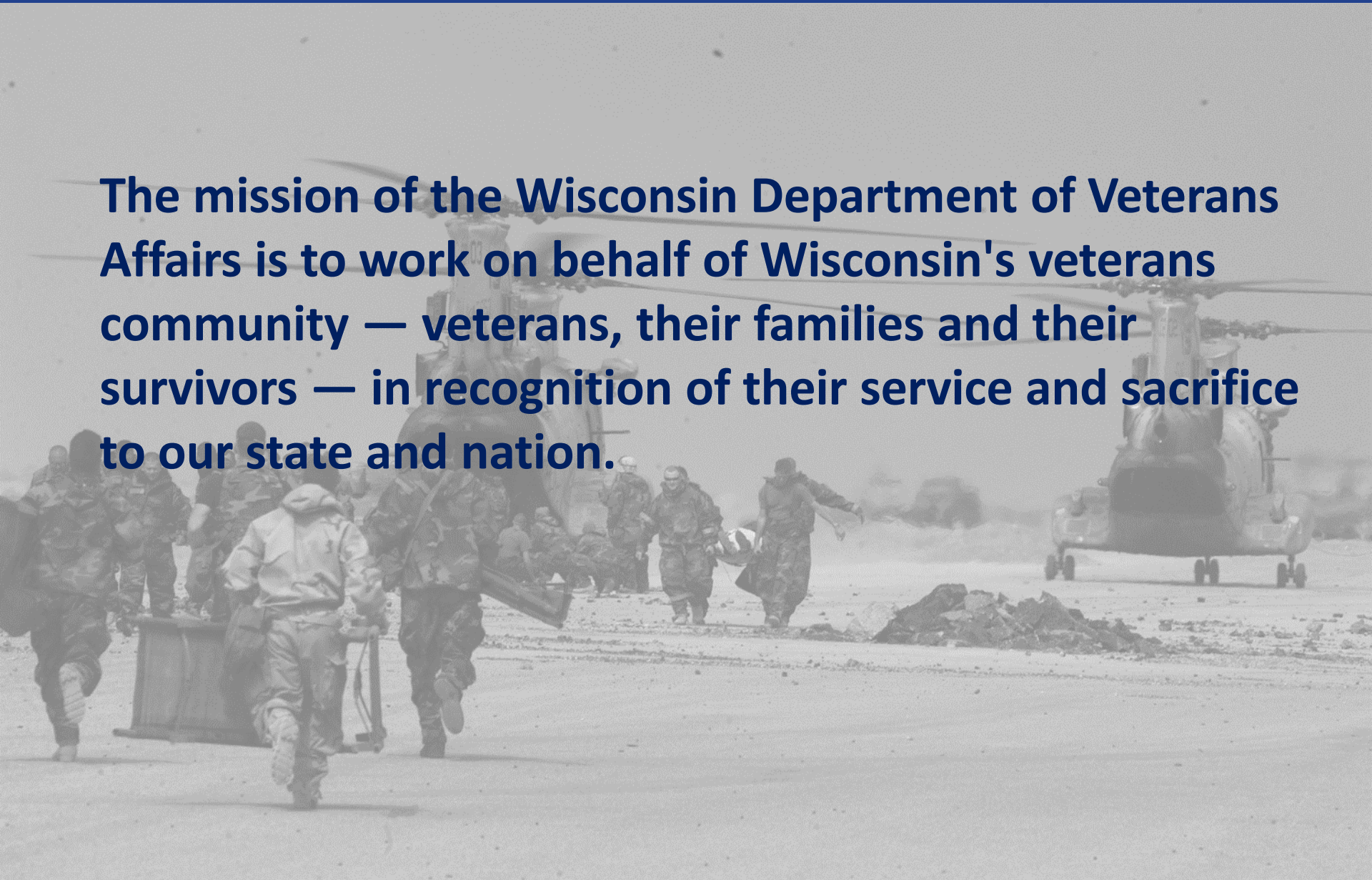




Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

We Honor Your Service

**The mission of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs is to work on behalf of Wisconsin's veterans community — veterans, their families and their survivors — in recognition of their service and sacrifice to our state and nation.**

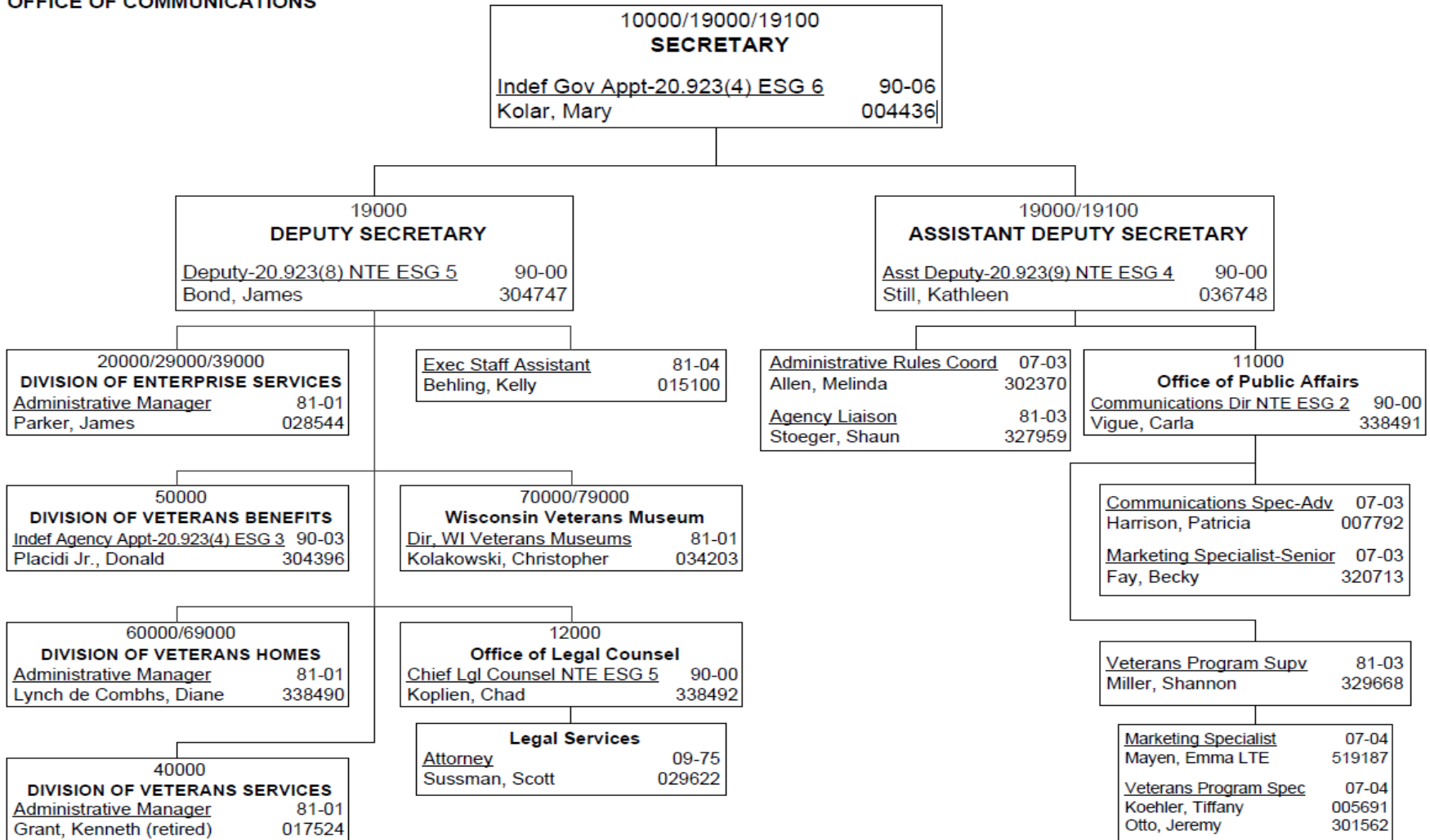




# Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

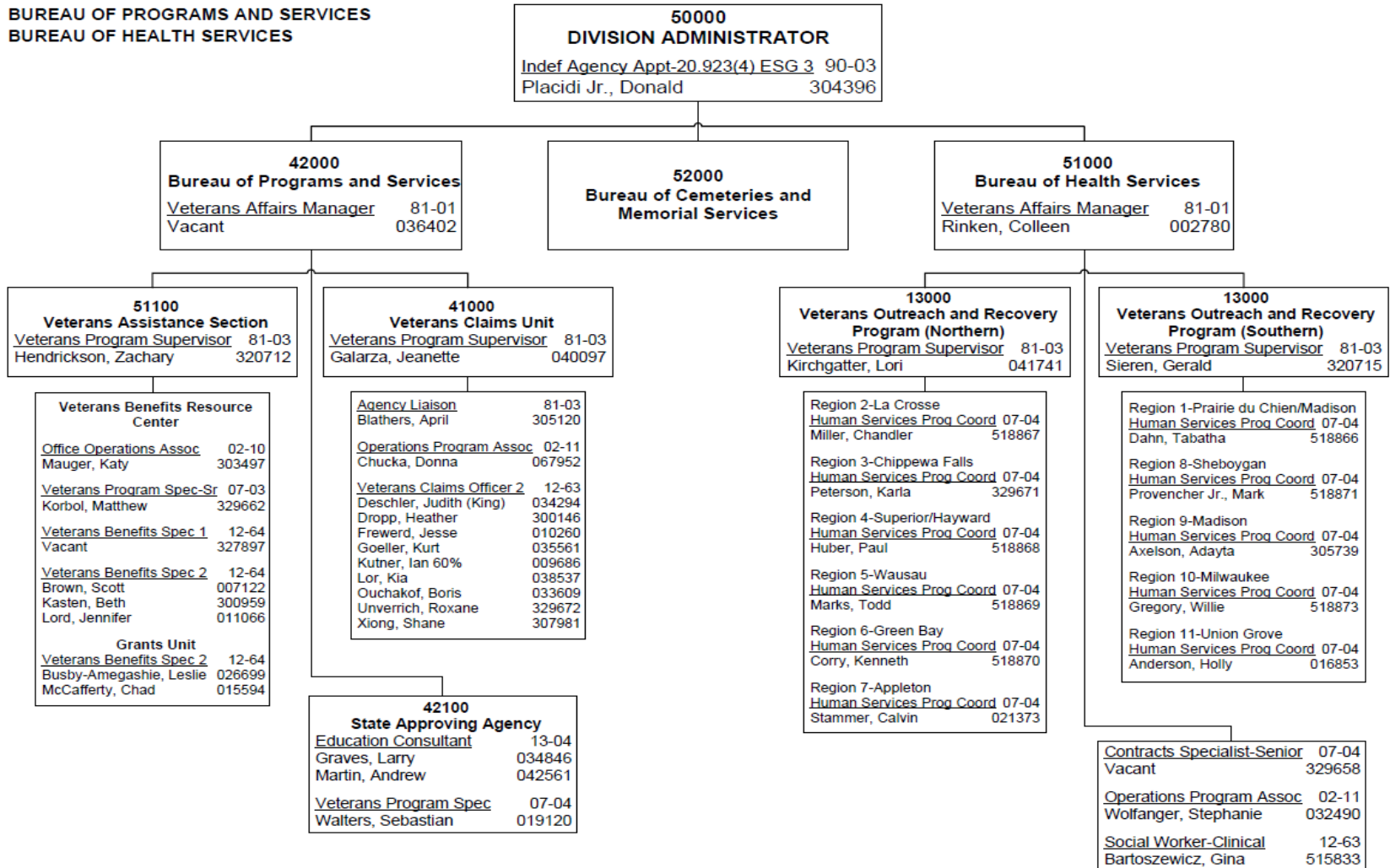
We Honor Your Service

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL  
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**





**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
DIVISION OF VETERANS BENEFITS  
BUREAU OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES  
BUREAU OF HEALTH SERVICES**





## WDVA Locations/Number of Employees

### Wisconsin Veterans Homes

Wisconsin Veterans Home  
at Chippewa Falls

Wisconsin Veterans Home  
at King

Wisconsin Veterans Home  
at Union Grove

### WDVA Central Office

### Veterans Memorial Cemeteries and Military Funeral Honors

### Milwaukee Claims Office

### Wisconsin Veterans Museum

### Veteran Housing and Recovery Program





# What does the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs do?

There are three lanes of veterans benefits.

1. Federal (VBA)
2. State (WDVA)
3. Local (CVSO,VSO)

The federal VA provides benefits and medical care for veterans regardless of state residency.

The WDVA is a state agency and provides benefits, programs and services to veterans and their families of the state of Wisconsin.

Local entities, such as CVSOs, TVSOs and VSOs provide both state and federal benefits at local (County) level.



Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

We Honor Your Service

# Veterans Housing & Recovery Program





## What is VHRP?

VHRP provides temporary housing, treatment, training, and supportive services to Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in order to help them obtain permanent housing.



Veterans may stay at a VHRP for up to 24 months, however the #1 goal of the program is to exit into permanent housing as quickly as possible, average length of stay for FY19 was 4 to 5 months



## Grant and Per Diem

The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) makes per diem funds available through a competitive grant process to eligible entities to provide transitional housing beds for Veterans who are homeless or at risk for becoming homeless



### Housing Models for GPD

- Bridge Housing
- Low Demand
- Hospital-to-Housing
- Clinical Treatment
- Service-Intensive



## VHRP Housing Models

### Service Intensive Transitional Housing: 53 Beds Males Only

- Provides transitional housing and a milieu of services that facilitate individual stabilization and movement to permanent housing.
- Services should incorporate tactics to increase the Veteran's income through employment and/or benefits and obtaining permanent housing.
- Services provided and strategies utilized by the applicant will vary based on the individualized needs of the veteran and resources available in the community.
- Participates with the CoC and Coordinated Entry System in their community.



## **VHRP Housing Models**

### Clinical Treatment: 25 Beds Males Only

- Targeted Population -Homeless Veterans with a specific diagnosis related to a substance use disorder and/or mental health diagnosis; Veteran actively chooses to engage in clinical services.
- Clinically focused treatment provided in conjunction with supportive housing and services
- This is not a phase of another program the intent is admission, treatment, exit to permanent housing from the CT program.



# VHRP Locations and Models

## Chippewa Falls

Minneapolis VAMC

30 SITH

## Union Grove

## Green Bay

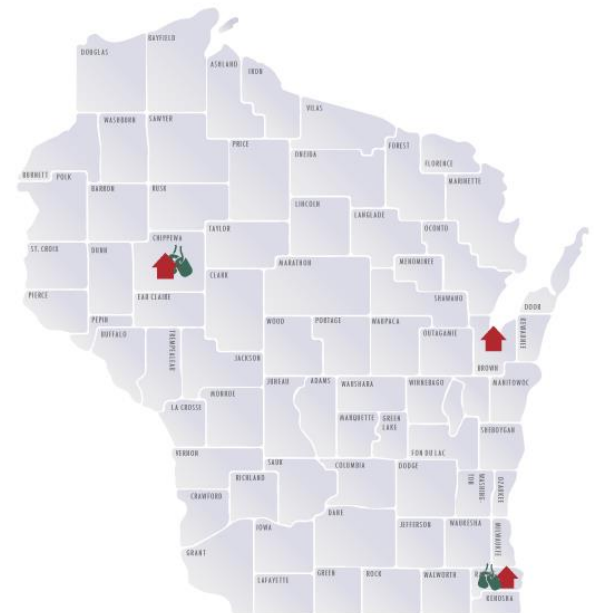
Milwaukee VAMC

15 CT

10 CT

16 SITH

7 SITH



Programs  
and Services

🏠 Veteran Housing and Recovery  
Program (VHRP) Sites

🏡 Long Term Housing



## What Services are Provided?

- Permanent Housing
- Employment Assistance
- Education & Job Training
- Healthcare & Behavioral Health Services
- Support Claims & Benefits Assistance
- Establish Community Supports



## **On Site Collaboration Weekly**

- WDVA VORP Outreach and Recovery Regional Coordinator (ORRC)
- DWD/Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Representative (DVOP)
- WDVA Certified Claims Representative
- WDVA Certified SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Representative
- VAMC Substance Use Counselor



## **On Site Collaboration As Needed**

- HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)
- Spiritual or Legal Support
- County Veteran Service Officers

## Off Site Collaborations

- Continuum of Care (CoC) Program
- Institute for Community Alliances
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Veteran Service Organizations (Adopt a Suite and Transportation)







## VHRP Metrics for Success

Federal Guidelines:

- >65% Exit to Permanent Housing
- >50% Employed at Exit
- <23% Negative Exit Rate

Three (3) Year Average for VHRP

Exit to Permanent Housing	Employed at Exit	Negative Exit Rate	Veterans Graduating from the program
68%	64%	23%	84



## VHRP Successes

- Veteran painted mural on wall in CF VHRP to give back, “This place gave me my life back.”; resulting in a “Painting” job offer for a city out East.
- Veteran contact stating “on vacation from work” getting ready to go on a fishing trip with a friend. “I never thought I’d be able to say that, thank you!”
- Veteran contacted WDVA to say he completed his training as a Substance Abuse Counselor because of the change we made in his life, he wants to do that for others.



## **GPD Notice Of Funding Availability**

- NOFA was due March 2, 2020
- Explore the Gap Analysis
- Collaborate with VAMCs and CoCs
- Make a determination of beds to request



**Gaps as of the end of December 2020 Balance of State CoC**

Need	Programs meeting the need	Permanent Housing (PH) Needed Jan 2019-Dec 2020	PH placements possible with available assets Jan 2019-Dec 2020	Gap in PH Placements Jan 2019-Dec 2020
Chronically Homeless-not VA Eligible	Non-VA PSH	23	8	15
Chronically Homeless-VA eligible	<u>Non-VA PSH Excess</u>	130	-	29
	HUD-VASH, alone, with SSVF RRH, or other VA residential		101	
Episodic and Short-term Homeless who need RRH or other intervention	<u>SSVF RRH alone</u>	942	10	830
	<u>Non-VA RRH</u>		-	
	<u>VA Residential Programs alone or with SSVF-RRH</u>		102	
	Non-VA Residential Treatment Programs		-	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,095</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>874</b>
	Episodic and Shot-term homeless who will self-resolve and do not need any interventions	314		
		<b>1,409</b>		



## NOFA Request

Changes	Chippewa Falls		Union Grove*		Green Bay		Totals	
Type	CT	SITH	CT	SITH	CT	SITH	CT	SITH
Previous	0	30	15	16	10	7	25	53
Request	20	28	16	24	10	7	46	59
Addition	20	-2	1	8	0	0	21	6

\* In Union Grove, WDVA has requested to add three (3) **Female Beds**



# What is VORP

## Pillars of Excellence Award Winner



The Veterans Outreach & Recovery Program is a comprehensive, coordinated outreach program serving Veterans who would benefit from connection with community services and who may need support in navigating those service systems with a special focus on treatment and recovery support.

## History

- Grant Collaboration with DHS
  - 2014 – 2017
  - 49 Counties
  - Strict eligibility
- State Pilot
  - 2018 – 2019
  - 72 Counties
  - Referral & Recovery Tracks
- Permanent Funding
  - July 2019
  - Recovery Track



## VORP Today

- Permanent funding through State of Wisconsin
- No requirement of homelessness or diagnosis
- Provide case management
- Serve veterans who are in crisis
- Serve 72 counties, in 11 Regions, with 11 outreach staff and 1 clinician

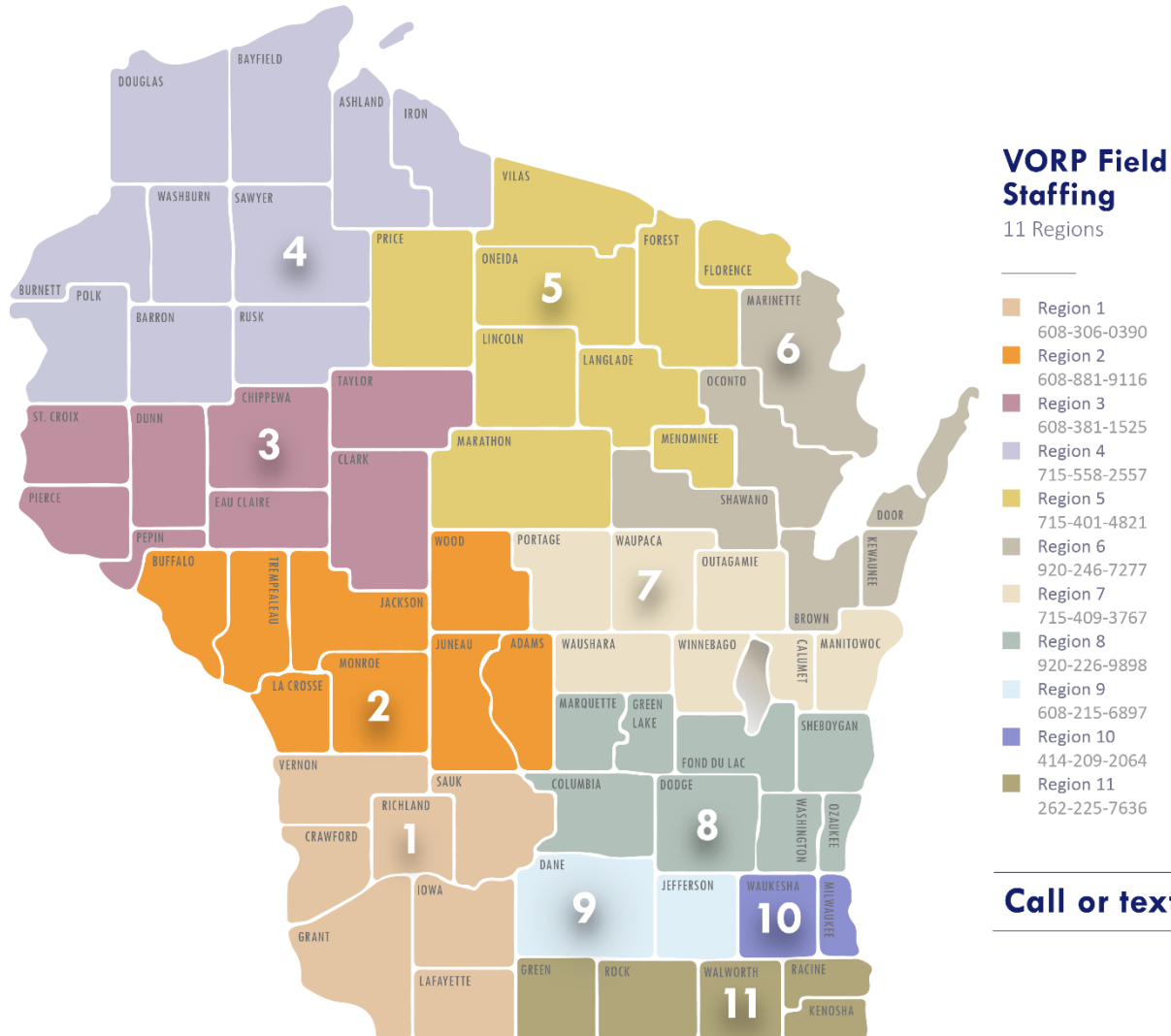






## Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program Locations

72 Counties - 11 Regions





## Criteria for Enrollment in VORP

Verification of the following:

- Are serving in the national guard of any state or a reserve component of the U.S. armed forces
- Served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces, forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces, a reserve component of the U.S. armed forces, or the national guard of any state and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable



## Where We Serve Veterans

Taking our programs and services to the Veteran.  
Into the family home, on the street, in the jails,  
in the parks and forests, homeless shelters, and  
even in a disabled or roadside parked car.



## Services

- Home – Assistance in having a stable, safe place to live
- Motivation – Assistance finding the internal motivation needed to change behavior
- Recovery – Assistance with mental health and/or substance use issues
  - Payment of treatment for mental health and/or substance use disorders



## Services

- Health – Assistance in managing conditions and making choices that support well-being
- Purpose – Assistance in conducting meaningful daily activities for the independence, income, and resources to participate in society
- Community – Assistance in building relationships and social networks





## **VORP Network**

- Work with local shelters and others to find temporary, transitional, and permanent housing
- Establish a network that makes treatment options more accessible to Veterans
- Connection to benefits, employment, and education specialists
- Educate service providers on military culture and Veterans benefits



Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

We Honor Your Service

# Outreach and Recovery Regional Coordinators(ORRC)





## Community Partnership Examples

- County/Tribal Veterans Service Officers
- HUD – VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH), Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), and other housing programs
- USDVA Medical Centers, Community-Based Outpatient Clinics, and Vet Centers
- Private and non-profit clinics
- County behavioral health services
- Heat for Heroes
- American Red Cross
- DVOPs





## VORP Data

<b>As of March 2, 2020</b>	
<b>Contacts</b>	664
<b>Referral Enrollees</b>	547
<b>Recovery Enrollees</b>	223
<b>Services</b>	3894
<b>Referrals</b>	1964



## VORP Successes

- Veteran's mother contacted WDVA to thank VORP for "saving her son's life", thanks to the treatment and support from VORP. "
- "Just wanted you to know that you are a huge reason I'm alive today and made it to **where** I'm at."
- He said his friend is, "So happy, upbeat, and overall pleased. In the past, when we've talked, he sounded very depressed and despondent. Now he sounds like a different guy."



## Program Connection

VORP to VHRP	VHRP to VORP
Conduct outreach for each others programs	
Make referrals to one another	
Resource sharing	
Transportation into/out of program	Involve in discharge planning
On site support and connection	Staffing cases
Location assistance if AWOL	



## Unmet Community Needs

- Transportation and access to community resources
- Affordable housing
- Landlord participation in housing programs
- Female transitional housing options throughout the state



# Assistance to Needy Veterans Grant (ANVG)

- The ANV Grant provides limited financial assistance to veterans, and in limited cases, family members.
- Applicants must have applied for all county, state, and federal aid before applying for the ANV Grant.

## Maximum Award

There is a lifetime cumulative grand award limit of \$7,500 per veteran.





## **ANVG: Two Types Available**

1. Health Care Aid: If not covered by the VA medical care system.
  - Vision – Exam and prescription
  - Dental – Restorative Care
  - Hearing – Including aids



## **ANVG: Two Types Available**

### 2. Subsistence Aid:

- Can pay the veterans lost income for up to 90 days after a loss of income due to injury, illness, or natural disaster.



## **ANVG Assistance for Needy Families**

- Spouses and dependents of service members who died on active duty or in the line of duty, and whose income is within the income limit.
- Spouses and dependents who have lost income due to deployment or activation of a U.S. Armed Forces service member and have suffered an economic emergency.





Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

We Honor Your Service

**GOVERNOR'S CHALLENGE  
TO PREVENT SUICIDE AMONG  
SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS, AND  
THEIR FAMILIES**



## Who & What

- Partnership with Veterans Health Administration (VHA) & Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Technical Assistance (SMVF TA) Center
- State military and civilian interagency teams collaborating, planning, and implementing suicide prevention best practices and policies
- Objective to develop and implement a strategic action plan to prevent and reduce suicide



## Homelessness and Suicide

- Shared risk factors increase risk for suicide: substance use, mental illness, adverse childhood experiences, social isolation, and unemployment
- Twice as likely as non-Veterans who have experienced homelessness to report lifetime suicide attempts
- Nearly four times as likely as other Veterans to have ever attempted suicide
- Veterans with past-year housing instability six times as likely as those who did not experience housing instability to report suicidal ideation
- Veterans who experienced homelessness more likely than male counterparts to have suicidal thoughts or attempted suicide, although male veterans more likely to complete suicide



## Priority Areas

- Priority 1: Address and raise awareness of the high rate of suicide among SMVF and their unique needs
- Priority 2: Improve and promote connectedness across the state
- Priority 3: Promote lethal means safety and safety planning