Locked Up but Not Locked Out: Honoring the Societal Contract with our Nation's Veterans

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Objectives

- Veteran Justice Program Overview
- Veterans Incarcerated in NC •
- Connecting with VA, Navigating Eligibility, Benefits •
- Veteran Service Officers ullet
- **Potential Opportunities** ullet
- **Contacts / Resources** ۲







VJP Mission & Vision

Mission

 To identify justice-involved Veterans and contact them through <u>outreach</u>, in order to facilitate <u>access</u> to VA services at the earliest possible point. Veterans Justice Programs accomplish this by building and maintaining <u>partnerships</u> between VA and key elements of the criminal justice system.

Vision

• Every justice-involved Veteran will have access to the care, services and other benefits to help him or her maximize their potential for success and stability in the community, including by avoiding homelessness and ending their involvement in the justice system.







VJP Outreach Services

Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO)

- Gain access to the jail
- Identify veterans and determine eligibility
- Conduct outreach, assessment, and case management for Veterans in local courts and jails
- Provide/coordinate training for law enforcement personnel
- Linkage to VA and community services/resources
- Number of VJP positions funded: 506
- Number of local jail facilities serviced: 2,007
- Number of Veterans receiving VJO services, fiscal year (FY) 2023: 41,693

Health Care for Reentry Veterans (HCRV)

- Gain access to the prison
- Educate Veterans' groups about VA and VA services
- Identify Veterans and Determine Eligibility
- Reentry Planning
- Linkage to VA and Community Services
- Number of state and federal prisons serviced: 1,070
- Number of incarcerated Veterans receiving reentry services, FY 2023: 8,438







- Can provide:
 - Outreach, assessment, referral and linkage to services
 - Treatment for justice-involved Veterans who are not incarcerated
- Title 38 CFR 17.38 (c)(5) does not allow VHA to provide:
 - Hospital and outpatient care for a Veteran who is
 - in an institution of another government agency
 - If that agency has a duty to give that care or services
 - Regulatory bar since 1999







Veterans in Prison and Jail

Estimated percent of Veterans in the U.S. resident population in prison and jail, 1978, 1985, 1998, 2004, and 2011-12

Percent



Note: For years in which prison or jail inmates were not surveyed, the total prison or jail population was multiplied by the veteran distribution from the most recent survey. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics data collections on prison and jail inmates and U.S. Census Bureau population data collections. See table 1 for complete list.







Veterans in NC Prisons

- 30,000 people in 51 NC prisons
- ~1,800 Veterans in NC prisons (6%)
- ~440 Veterans with release dates before 2027
- ~150 Veterans are parole eligible
- ~ 400 Veterans at BOP Butner Complex
- County detention / jails? Ask the Question
- Have you served in the Armed Forces?
- Have you ever





VHA Health Care Eligibility

- Length of Active-duty Service and Time Period
 - -24 months of active duty service, if enlisted after 9/7/1980
 - 1 day active duty service if before that date
 - Reservist or National Guard member activated under a Title 10 executive order for any period of time and completed activation.
- Character of Discharge
 - Honorable or under honorable conditions character of discharge ٠
 - Requesting characterization determination for OTH, BCD ٠ for VA purposes







VHA Eligibility for Housing Assistance

- Active duty service
- Unsheltered / unstable housing
- W/in Income Limits
- Discharge not dishonorable for VA purposes
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families
- Grant Per Diem Transitional Housing
- HUD-VASH





VBA Eligibility & Important Forms

- Service-Connected Compensation
- Apportionment
- Educational Benefits
- VA Home Loan Guarantee
- SF 180 to request DD214

https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records

• 1010EZ application for health benefits

https://www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/

• VA 21-0996 intent to file

https://www.va.gov/resources/your-intent-to-file-a-va-claim/







Ask for Help Navigating

- NC Department of Military Veterans Affairs <u>https://www.milvets.nc.gov/</u>
- County Veteran Service Officers
- Veteran Service Organizations
- Veterans Law Project veterans@legalaidnc.org voicemail (919) 850-5959.







Potential Opportunities



Veterans Clubs

- Barracks Behind Bars
- Local Reentry Councils
- **Community Connections**
- Hope, Education, Self-Advocacy, & Support







VA Medical Center Catchment









Veterans Justice Program Contacts

- Asheville VAMC 1100 Tunnel Road, Asheville NC 28711, 828-298-7911
 - Katherine Houghton <u>Katherine.Houghton@va.gov</u>, 828-713-8356
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Resources

- National Institute of Corrections, Justice Involved Veterans <u>Home | Justice Involved Veterans (nicic.gov)</u>
- VBA Fact Sheet <u>https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/misc/JusticeIn</u> <u>volved.pdf</u>
- Find VA Health Care for Reentry https://www.va.gov/homeless/reentry.asp
- VA Veterans Justice Outreach https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/VJO.asp







Additional Resources

- Veterans Crisis Line
 - 988 and Press 1
 - Text 838255
 - <u>https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/chat</u>
- National Call Center for Homeless Veterans
 1-877-424-3838





