



Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

We Honor Your Service

# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

James Bond, Secretary





# **Bureau of Health Services**

**Jenny Fahey- Director of Bureau of Health Services**

## **Veteran Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP)**

---

**Program Supervisors:**  
**Chandler Miller (Team South)**  
**Cal Stammer (Team North)**

## **Veteran Housing and Recovery Program (VHRP)**

---

**Contract Specialist:**  
**Trish O'Reilly**



**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.**

**VORP Mission: Serving those who served, where they are, to inspire change at the individual and community level.**

**VHRP Goal: To help veterans achieve stability, increase skill level and/or income, and obtain greater self determination that will enable them to reintegrate back to the community.**



## Myths

- Myth 1: Veterans are a small subset of the population.
  - Federal data show veterans make up 8 percent of the U.S. population.
- Myth 2: Veterans join the military because they could not get into college and are uneducated.
  - 35 percent of post-9/11 veterans have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 31 percent of all veterans and 32 percent of the general U.S. population.
- Myth 3: All veterans are eligible for VA Health Care.
  - Only 40% of those that serve in the Military are eligible for VA Services.



## Why People May Not Identify as a Veteran?

- “Have you ever served in the military?” vs. “Are you a veteran?”
- Don’t want to fall into the stereotypes
- Non-combat
- “Bad Paper”
- Gender, Sexual Identity
- Reserves and National Guard



## Screening

- Ensure that veterans have access to the health care and support services that they have earned
- Awareness strengths and unique challenges
- Ask client if close family members have served in military



## Definitions of a Veteran (Federal)

- The U.S. Census defines a veteran as “men and women who have served even for a short time” but are not currently serving on active duty.” (US Census Bureau)
- An individual that served 24 months on active duty. (VA.gov)
- According to Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations, a veteran is defined as anyone who served in the active military, naval, or air service and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. (VA.gov)

The statutory definition of *veteran* contains two key provisions that a servicemember must meet to be considered a veteran by law. First, the servicemember must have served and completed “active military, naval, air, or space service.” *Active military, naval, air, or space service*<sup>3</sup> includes

- Active duty;
- Any period of active duty for training during which the individual was disabled or died from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty; and
- Any period of inactive duty training during which the individual was disabled or died
  - from an injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty; or
  - from an acute myocardial infarction, a cardiac arrest, or a cerebrovascular accident occurring during such training.<sup>4</sup>



## Definitions of a Veteran (State)

**(12)** “Veteran”, except in s. [45.001](#), means any of the following:

**(a)** A person who has served on active duty for at least one qualifying term of service under pars. [\(b\)](#) to [\(d\)](#) under honorable conditions in the U.S. armed forces or in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces during a war period or in a crisis zone.

**(b)** A person who has served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces or in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces under honorable conditions, for 2 continuous years or more or for the full period of his or her initial service obligation, whichever is less.

**(c)** A person who has served on active duty for 90 days or more under honorable conditions in the U.S. armed forces or in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces during a war period or for any period of service under section 1 of executive order 10957 dated August 10, 1961.

**(d)** A person whose term of service in the U.S. armed forces or in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces under honorable conditions entitled him or her to receive the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, established by executive order 10977 on December 4, 1961, the Vietnam Service Medal established by executive order 11231 on July 8, 1965, the Navy Expeditionary Medal, the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or an equivalent expeditionary or service medal.

**(e)** A person who was honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces or from forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces for a service-connected disability, for a disability subsequently adjudicated to have been service connected, or for reasons of hardship.

**(f)** A person who was released under honorable conditions from the U.S. armed forces or from forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces due to a reduction in the U.S. armed forces.

**(g)** A person who died while in service in the U.S. armed forces or in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces.

**(h)** A person who, while serving in the U.S. armed forces or in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces, is missing in action.

**(i)** A person who died as the result of a service-connected disability.

**(j)** A person who died in the line of duty while on inactive or active duty for training purposes in the U.S. armed forces, in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces, or in the national guard.

**(k)** For purposes of ss. [343.14](#) and [343.17](#) only, a person who was admitted into the United States as a refugee from Laos under [8 USC 1157](#) and served with a special guerilla unit, or irregular forces, operating from a base in Laos in support of the U.S. military during the period beginning February 28, 1961, and ending September 18, 1978. The person shall provide documentation of the person’s service with a special guerilla unit or irregular forces as provided under section 4 of the federal Hmong Veterans’ Naturalization Act of 2000, P.L. [106-207](#).





## Definitions of a Veteran (VORP)

- Currently serving/have served in the national guard and/or a reserve component of the U.S. armed forces
- Served on active duty in any of the U.S. armed forces, forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces
- Discharged under conditions other than dishonorable
  - Bad conduct and uncharacterized discharges accepted



**Current practice: “Are you a veteran?”**

**Best practice: “Have you served in the military?”**



# Levels of Veteran Services

## Local

- Veteran service organizations (VFW, American Legion, DAV, etc)
- Nonprofits (veteran-specific/community-based)
- County & Tribal Veteran Service Offices (CVSOs)
- Veteran treatment court

## State

- Wisconsin Dept of Veterans Affairs
  - Cemeteries
  - Veterans Homes
  - VORP
  - Grant Per Diem (GPD) Transitional Housing Programs
  - Education and Employment benefits

## Federal

- Healthcare/VAMC/CBOC
- Compensation & Pension
- Housing
- MH and/or SUD residential treatment
- Etc



## 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





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 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 FY22 is 6 to 10 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: 54 beds (2 female/52 male)

- 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: 51 Beds (2 Female/49 Male)

- 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  
20 CT  
28 SITH

**Green Bay:** Milwaukee VAMC  
10 CT  
7 SITH

**Union Grove:** Milwaukee VAMC  
16 CT  
24 SITH  
(4 female beds)



Veteran Housing and Recovery Program (VHRP) Sites



## What Services are Provided?

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



Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

We Honor Your Service

# Veteran Outreach & Recovery Program





# 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.



- Grant Collaboration with DHS
  - 2014 – 2017
  - 49 Counties
  - Strict eligibility
- State Pilot
  - 2018 – 2019
  - 72 Counties
  - Referral & Recovery Tracks
- Permanent Funding
  - July 2019; 11 regions
  - Recovery Track
- ARPA Expansion (ends 6/30/25)
  - 5 additional regions; total of 16 regions

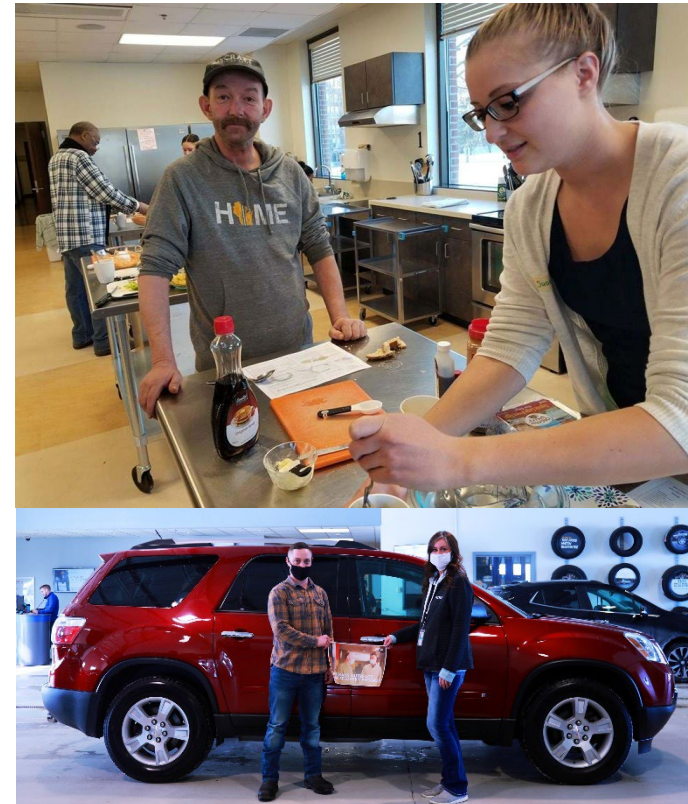
## History





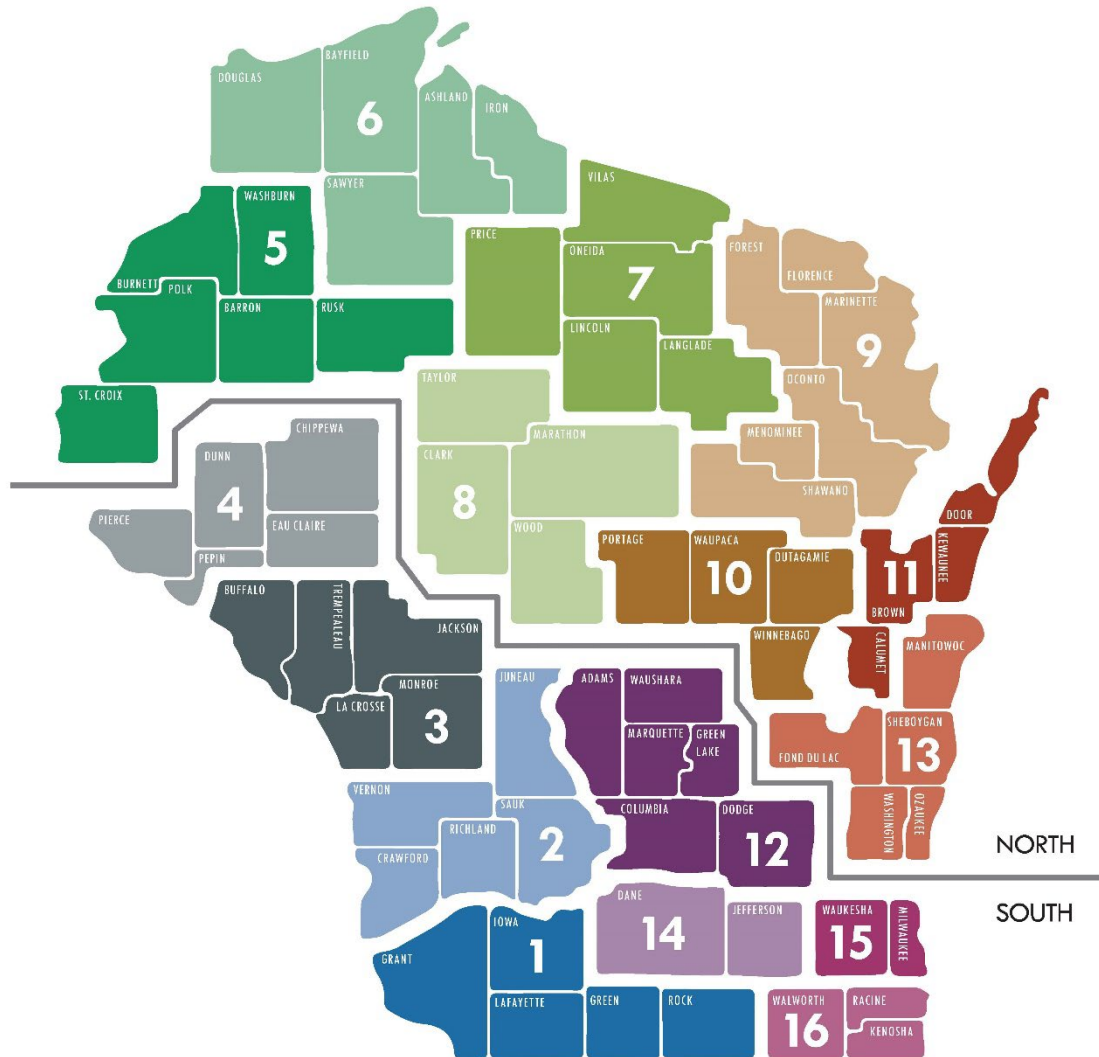
## VORP Today

- Permanent funding through State of Wisconsin
- No requirement of homelessness or diagnosis
- Provide case management
- Serve veterans who are in crisis
- Serve all 72 counties, in 16 Regions, with 16 outreach staff and 3 clinical coordinators





## VETERANS OUTREACH AND RECOVERY PROGRAM 72 COUNTIES - 16 REGIONS







## Criteria for Enrollment in VORP

Verification of the following:

- Are serving in the national guard of WI 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, treatment facilities, 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





## 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 (only if enrolled in VORP prior to program entry)	Involve in discharge planning
On site support and connection	Staffing cases
Location assistance if AWOL	



# Unmet Community Needs and Barriers Experienced by Veterans

- Transportation
- Accessible and equitable community resources (i.e. rural vs. urban Wisconsin services)
- Affordable housing (i.e. eviction history/credit scores, limited low-income housing (waitlists), criminal backgrounds)
- Landlord participation in housing programs
- Female/Family transitional housing options throughout the state
- Program discharge planning and program release planning (i.e. treatment facilities, prisons, hospitals)
- Wait times/lists for SUD and MH programs (i.e 3+wk wait times)
- Pets/ESAs



## 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



# QPR



ASK A QUESTION.  
SAVE A LIFE.

Suicide Prevention Training

**QPR is intended to offer hope through positive action, this is not intended to be a form of counseling or treatment**

Learn to recognize the warning signs of suicide and how to

## QUESTION

someone about potential suicidal thoughts

## PERSUADE

them to seek help

## REFER

them for professional assistance



- **To find out more information contact Cal Stammer at 608-733-1791 or email: [calvin2.stammer@dva.wisconsin.gov](mailto:calvin2.stammer@dva.wisconsin.gov)**





## QPR

- Training lasts about an hour and a half
- VORP staff will provide the training free of cost
- Cal Stammer and VORP staff will work with interested party to schedule the training
- Materials will be provided by VORP staff
- VORP Clinical Coordinator will be on site
  - We have seen people get triggered during the training
- Participants will receive a 1-hour QPR Certificate
- Projector and speaker can be provided by VORP staff
  - We would like to use the technology at the local agencies if they are on site



## FY24 QPR Trainings Completed Examples

- La Crosse Warming Shelter
- La Crosse Independent Living Resource
- American Legion Post 487-Cable, WI
- Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Stoughton VFW
- Oshkosh CORP
- Fox Valley Veterans Council
- Manitowoc Police Station
- Phillips VFW
- WDVA Claims & VBRC teams
- WEHR Nature Center-Franklin, WI



# Gunshop Program

- [Live Today-Put It Away - Captain John D Mason Veteran Peer Outreach Program](#)
- [Introduction to Wisconsin's Gun Shop Project and Safe Storage Program | The Captain John D. Mason Program, on behalf of the Southeastern Wisconsin Suicide Prevention Taskforce and BeThereWis, is working to promote Wisconsin's... | By Captain John D. Mason Veteran Peer Outreach Program | Facebook](#)
- 47 Gun Shops and Ranges have signed up since the start of the Gun Shop Program
  - The firearm facilities noted on this map in **PURPLE** are voluntarily providing storage of firearms outside of your home as a way to help prevent suicide.
- 8 Law enforcement agencies
  - The following police/sheriff departments noted on the map in **BLUE** are part of Voluntary Firearm Safekeeping Program and voluntarily provide this service to the community. Be sure that you have the firearm(s) unloaded when you take them in. See below the map for additional information for each Law Enforcement Location.
- Questions or more information please reach
  - [TaskForce@betherewis.com](mailto:TaskForce@betherewis.com)



Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

We Honor Your Service

# Questions?

Visit [WisVets.com](https://www.wisvets.com) to learn more >>