

CONNECTING WITH VHA HOMELESS PROGRAMS

HOW VHA CAN HELP YOU NAVIGATE HOUSING INSTABILITY

VA

U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

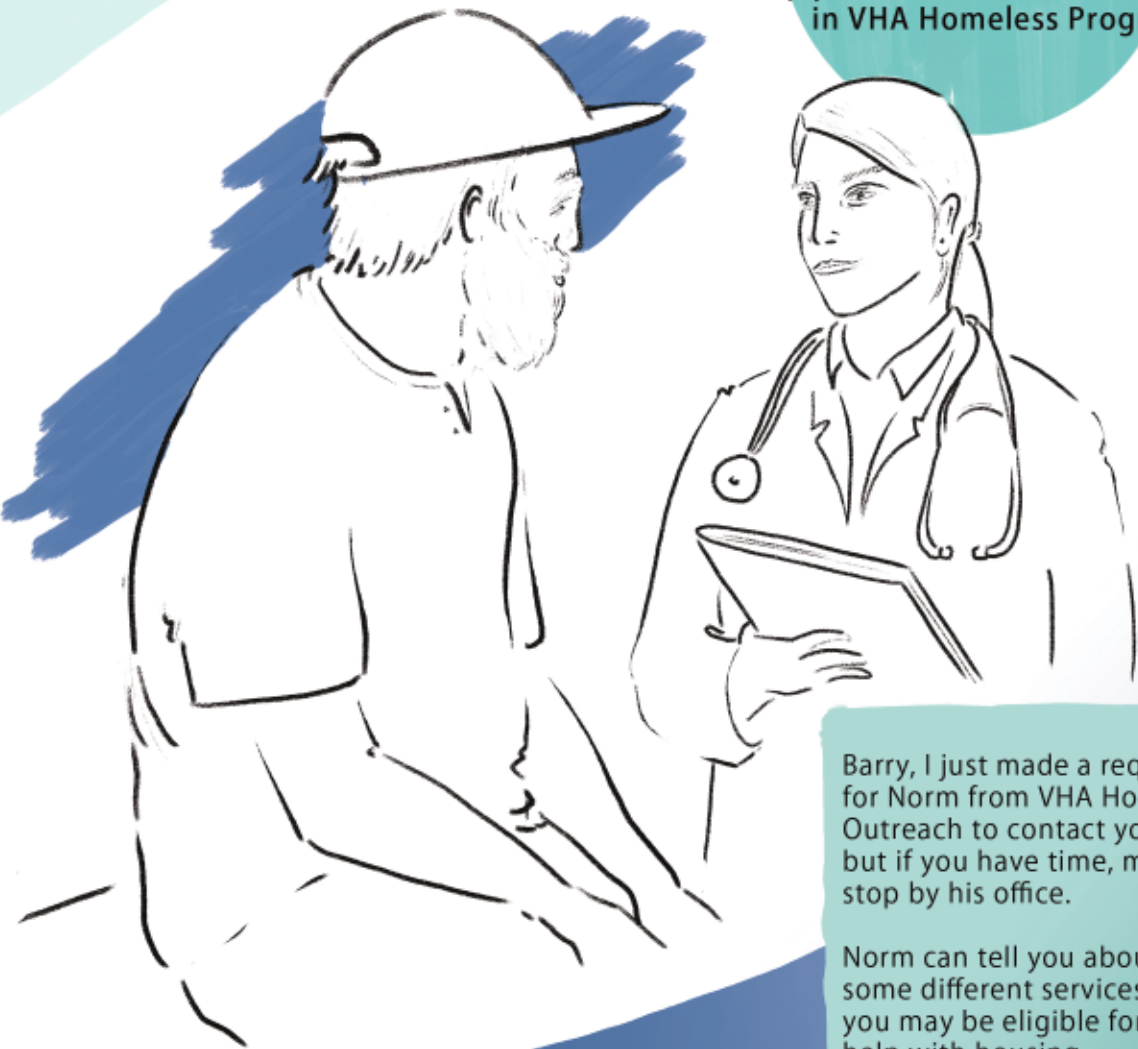
Having a safe, stable home allows you (and your family) to lead a healthy life. Yet, sometimes you may face issues that jeopardize your housing or leave you without a regular place to stay.



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines homelessness as:

“an individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence...”

At least once a year, a VA provider will ask you questions about your living situation. If you answer that you haven't been living in a safe, stable place or that you are worried you might lose your housing in the next 60 days, your provider will offer to help you connect with someone in VHA Homeless Programs.



Barry, I just made a request for Norm from VHA Homeless Outreach to contact you, but if you have time, maybe stop by his office.

Norm can tell you about some different services that you may be eligible for to help with housing.

You don't have to accept a referral or follow up with services. Just know they are there if you need them.



MEET BARRY AND KENYA

They have both come to their local VHA Homeless Programs office to talk about what benefits and services may be available to help them.

You don't have to wait for someone to reach out. You can contact someone at your local VA to find out about what programs and services might be available to you.



Your doctor noted in your health record that you've been living in a shelter. My job is to help you learn about services that might help you.

Tell me what's going on and we'll discuss some options.

When I left the military, I had a really hard time being around people. I couldn't hold a job, I slept in a tent for a while, and now I feel I've worn out my welcome at the shelter.

I'm not sure what to do or where to go.

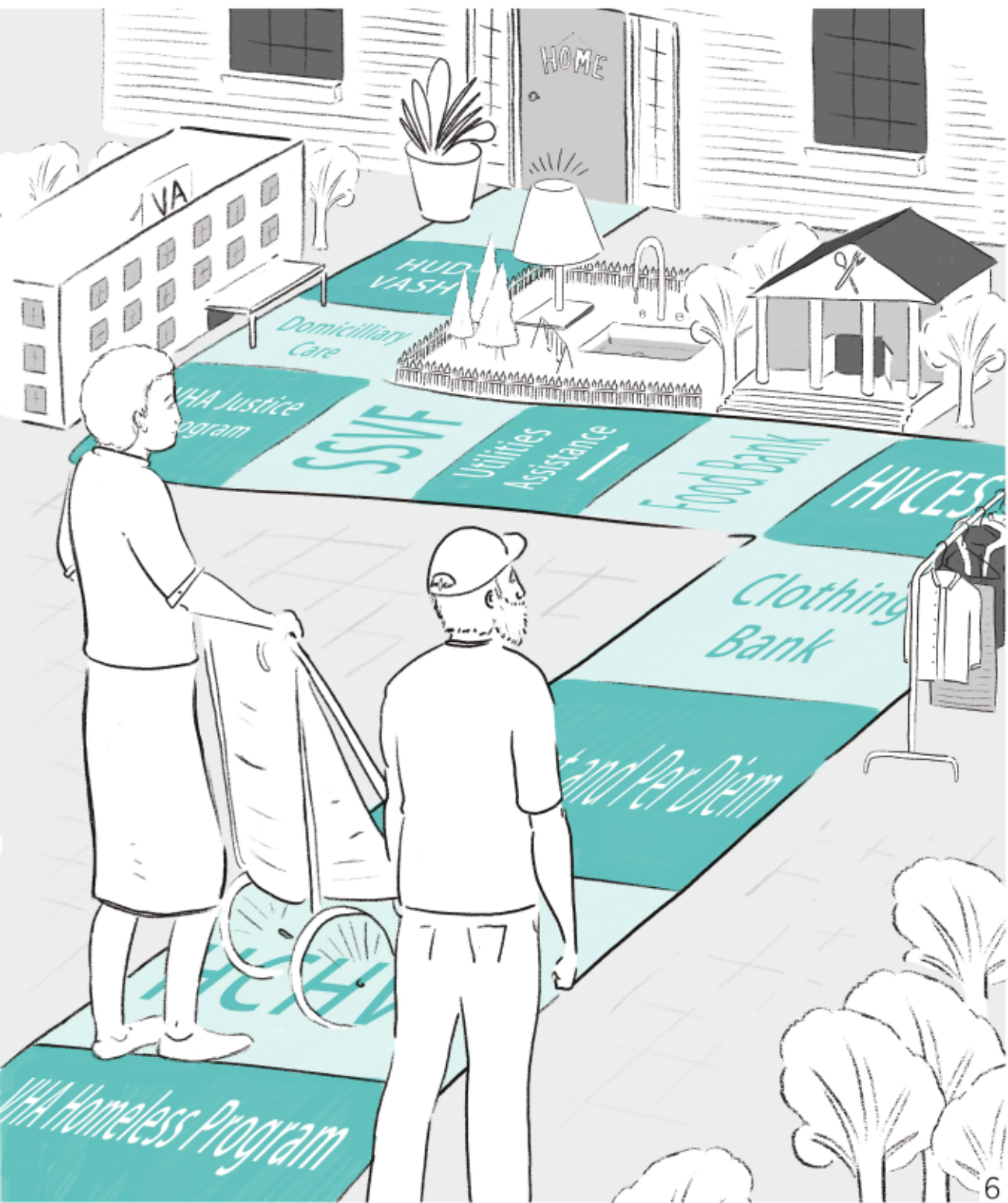


You came to the right place, Barry. First, let's talk about some of the programs that you may be eligible for, and we'll come up with a plan. We can also connect you with a counselor who can support you through this difficult time.

UNPAID

I was talking with some other Vets, and they told me I should come see you. I feel like everything is falling apart. I got laid off, I just got an eviction notice, I have bills piling up and every penny has to feed my kids. I'm not sure what to do.

It's good that you came here, Kenya. You may be eligible for a few programs. While they can help quickly, they are not instant. In the meantime, have you looked for any resources in the community, like a food bank? There may be more assistance out there than you think. Some places are even specifically for women or families.



Every VA is different, so check with your local VHA Homeless Programs representative for information on the availability of these programs and eligibility requirements or visit www.va.gov/homeless.

Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV)

Residential housing programs that provide a structured, supportive environment for veterans struggling with chronic health issues, mental health or substance use issues.

Grant and Per Diem (GPD)

Community housing programs that typically offer a room with a bed in a safe facility, and often provide on-site case-management, counseling, education, and employment services.

Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV)

Program providing outreach, case management, and community based residential services to ensure Veterans experiencing homelessness have access to VA and community programs.

Homeless Veteran Community Employment Services (HVCES)

Employment program where VA helps you connect with community organizations and employers.

Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)


Permanent housing that combines rental assistance vouchers from HUD with VA supportive services, which can help you connect with health care, mental health treatment, substance use counseling, and other supportive services.

Supportive Services for Veterans and Families (SSVF)

Community programs funded by VA provide homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing assistance and may be able to help you with an eviction notice, or with temporary rent and utility payments, as well as connect with other services in your community.

VHA Justice Programs

Connects Veterans in homeless or mental health programs with legal services that may help them to resolve criminal justice charges and focus on treatment.



Making sure you have stable housing is important. VHA is here to help and so are other organizations in your community.


**Contact the numbers below anytime, 24/7,
to learn about available options**

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans:
1-877-424-3838

National Domestic Violence Hotline:
1-800-799-SAFE

VA Vet Centers:
1-877-WAR-VETS

Veterans Crisis Line:
1-800-273-8255, press 1



There may be other services in your community, like local shelters, food or clothing banks, community kitchens, or more. To find out, call Community Information and Referral Services:
2-1-1

DID YOU KNOW?

You may be eligible for homeless services even if you are not eligible for healthcare at the VA.

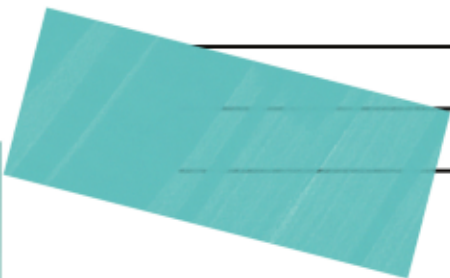
VHA is part of a nationwide network of homelessness services that follow a process called **COORDINATED ENTRY**.

This basically means that no matter what office, shelter, or facility you go to for help, they will have the tools and resources to connect you to VHA and other services.



**Notes
and
Important Information**

A series of 20 horizontal black lines for writing notes, spanning most of the page width and partially overlapping the teal background shape.



Norm can't be everywhere,
but there is someone like him at
most VA facilities across the country.



This booklet was funded by **The National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans.** (Principal Investigator: Gala True, PhD)

'Connecting with VHA Homeless Programs' was developed
by a team of researchers, VHA Homeless Program staff,
clinical partners, and Veterans

Produced by Ray Facundo, Meagan Cusack, Gala True,
Ann Elizabeth Montgomery, Tom Byrne

Illustrated by Tyler Thompson (Approved VA Vendor)

VA

U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs