

State of Nevada Department of Veterans Services

Presentation to the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans, and Adults with Special Needs



Vision & Mission

VISION: All Nevada Veterans and their families understand, and can connect to, benefits and services they have earned.

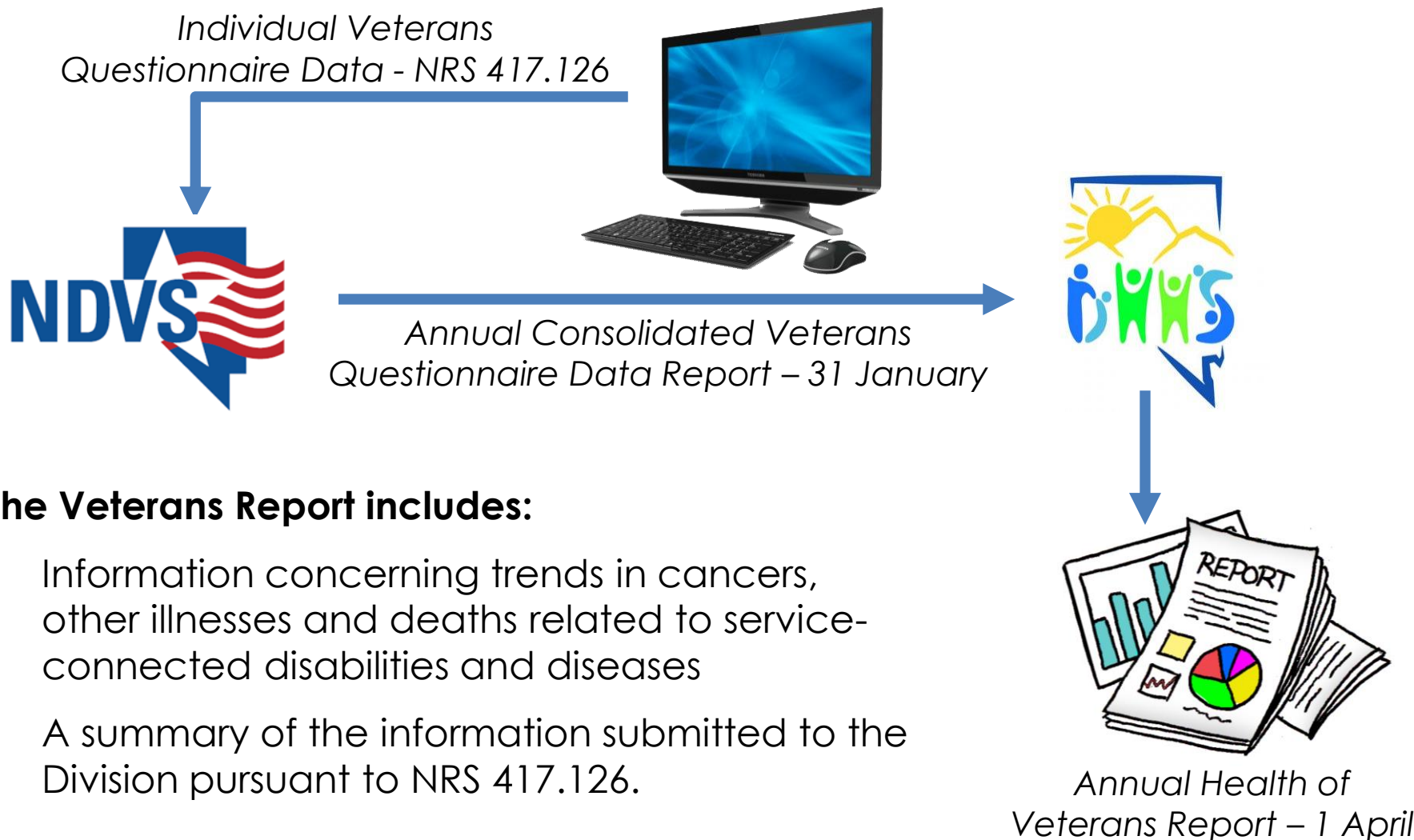
MISSION: Serve Nevada Veterans by honoring their remarkable legacy and by connecting them to earned benefits and services. Through our seven major lines of effort we:

- Professionally assist Veterans and their families obtain Federal and State veterans' benefits
- Provide quality skilled nursing care at our State Veterans Homes
- Provide dignified burial support at our State Veterans Memorial Cemeteries
- Manage effective programs addressing the needs of at-risk Veterans
- Successfully integrate returning Servicemembers and Veterans into Nevada communities
- Honor the service and sacrifice of all Nevada's Veterans and their families through ceremonies and information campaigns
- Assist, and coordinate the efforts of, service organizations and individuals insofar as their activities benefit Nevada Veterans, servicemembers, and their families

Overview of Veterans Reports

- The following Reports are required to be submitted to the Legislative Counsel Bureau:
 - ✓ NRS 417.0195 Concerning the Activities of the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs
 - ✓ NRS 417.190 Concerning the Activities of the Nevada Veterans Services Commission
 - ✓ NRS 417.330 Concerning the Activities of the Women Veterans Advisory Committee
 - ✓ NRS 417.128 Concerning the Collaboration with Nonprofit Organizations and Referral of Certain Persons to Services
- The reports in blue were used to inform the 2022 Legislative Symposia, covered later in this briefing.
- The report in green discusses NDVS public outreach programs concerning service-connected disabilities and diseases and survivor benefits available to family members of veterans.

Report Concerning the Health of Nevada Veterans (NRS 439.249)



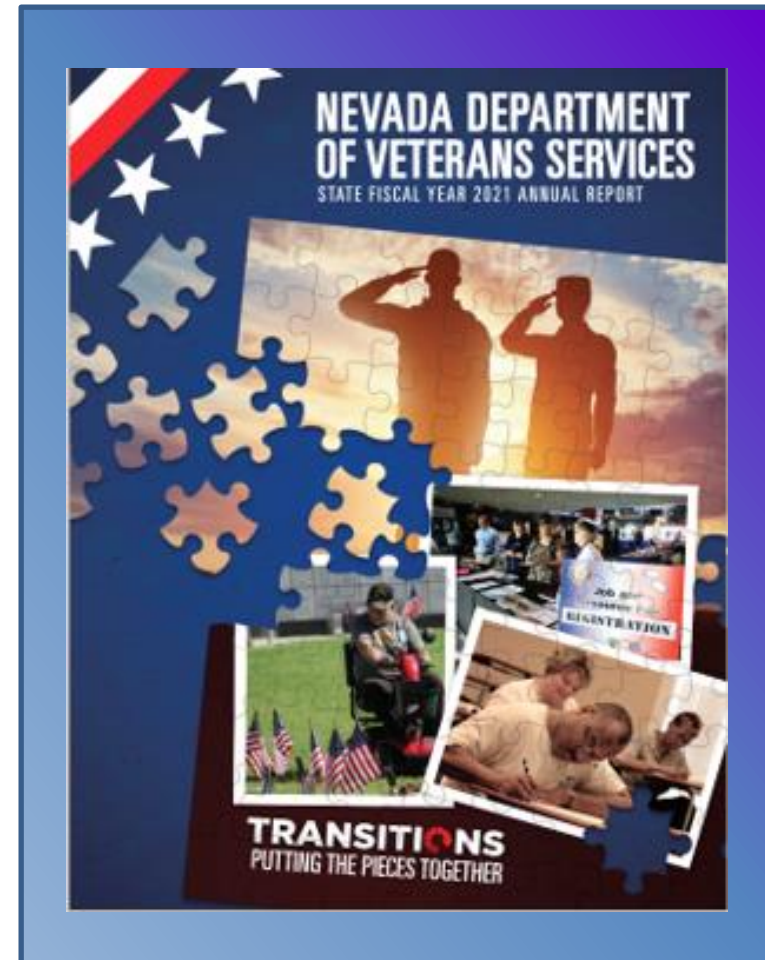
NDVS Annual Report

Purpose:

- Informs the veterans and families we support about earned benefits and services
- Informs the Governor and Legislators of NDVS operational activities / financial position
- Serves as a resource when applying for grants supporting Nevada veterans
- Sparks ideas among potential partners regarding mutually beneficial collaborations

Reflects two major efforts:

- Improving our efforts to help veterans and their families during life's transitions
- Recovering from the disruptions associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic



Status of Transition Services

- ***Transition services support those:***
- Starting a new career
- Becoming homeowners
- Recovering from medical and mental health injuries and illness
- Reentering society after incarceration
- Entering a care facility
- Losing a loved one
- Leaving military service

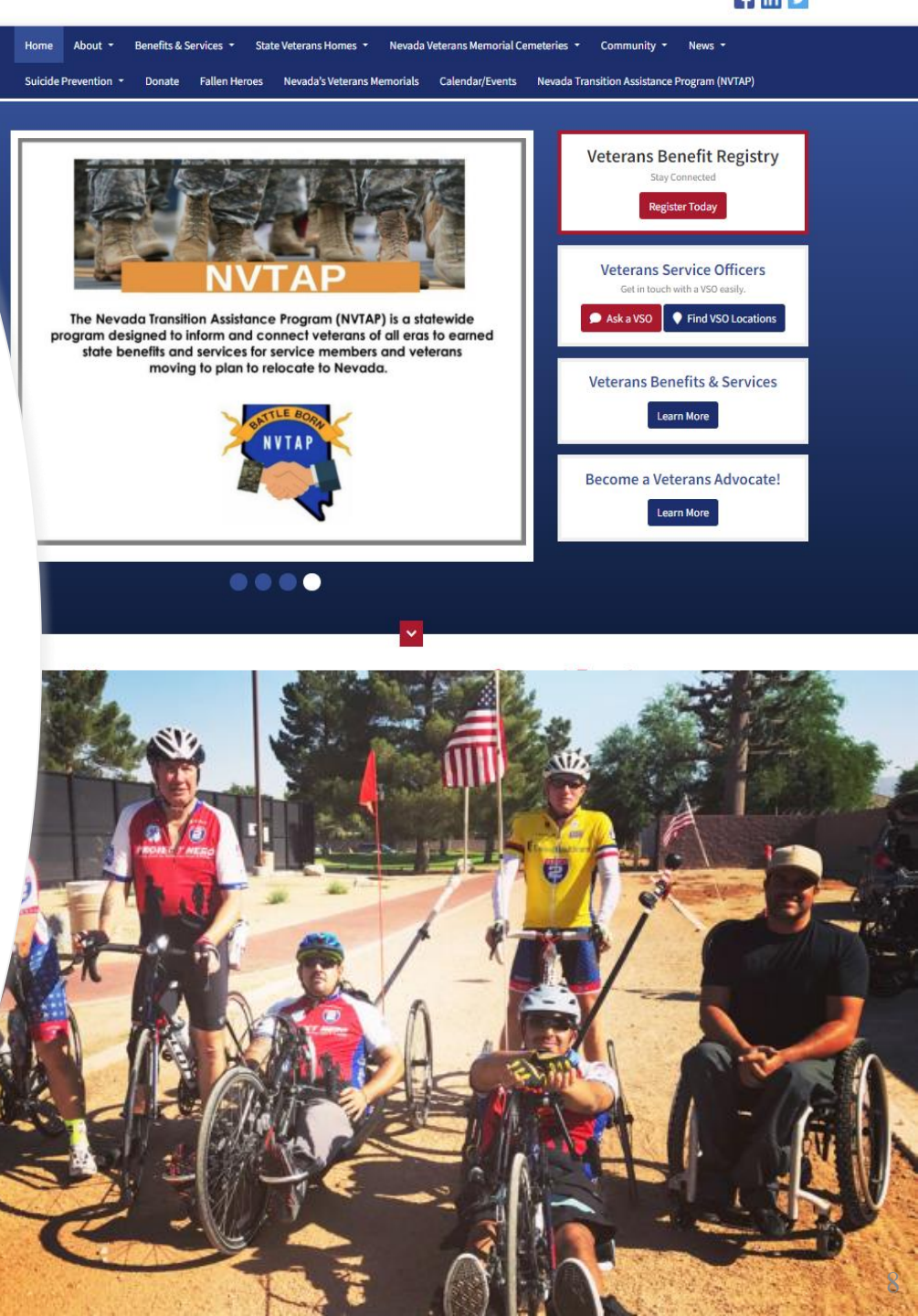


Transition Challenges

- Identifying transitioning servicemembers/families
- DoD/VA/DOL Transition Assistance Program (TAP) does not cover state benefits
- There is not a single “Transition Services” center or portal for veterans, although several nonprofit organizations have tried
- Veterans moving to Nevada years after leaving military service still need transitional services
- Three-in-four veterans do not have a civilian job lined up after leaving the military
- Transitioning servicemembers (SM) have limited professional and social networks to support transition

NDVS Transition Support

- Welcome Home Letters
- Informative Website
- NV Transition Assistance Program
- Outreach to transition centers at active-duty locations with high number of SM moving to Nevada
- Veterans Benefit Registry
- Joint Military Affairs (JMAC) and NASDVA Partnerships



Benefits Information Examples

HAVE YOU SERVED IN THE

U.S. ARMED FORCES?

YOUR MILITARY SERVICE COULD IMPACT YOUR HEALTH.

Learn more about service-connected diseases or disabilities by downloading the FREE VA APP "Exposure Ed"

OR Talk with your healthcare provider today!

THE MAIN CATEGORIES OF MILITARY EXPOSURE ARE

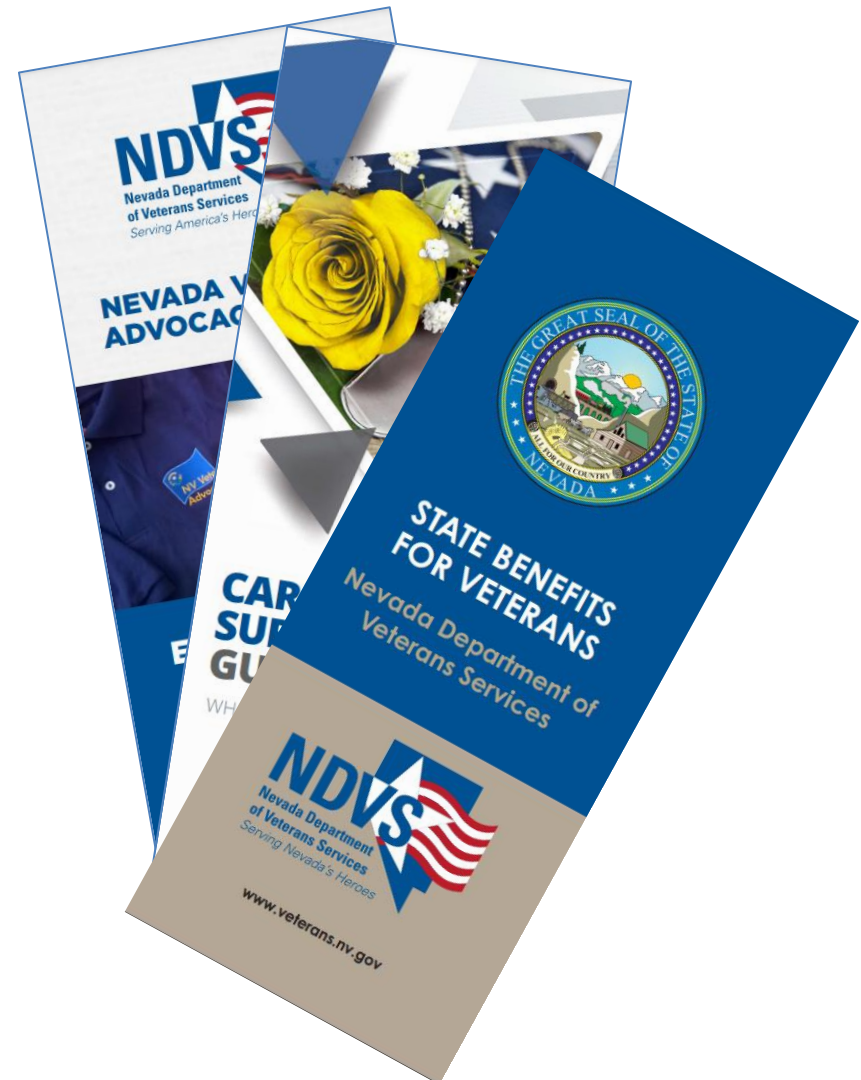
- Chronic Diseases
- Tropical Diseases
- Prisoners of War
- Contaminated Water
- Noise Injuries
- Exposure to Radiation
- Gulf War Veterans
- Mustard Gas and Lewisite Exposure
- Exposure to Herbicides (Agent Orange)
- Exposure to Cold/Heat

Let us connect you to benefits and services you have earned!

Contact the Nevada Department of Veterans Services to learn more about compensation.

Visit www.veterans.nv.gov. Take the Exposure Risk Questionnaire and talk with a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) today at 702.830.2000!





Veterans Served Annually (1)

- Estimated # of Nevada Veterans: **254,851** (Women Veterans: **24,566**). Based on VAVetPop Study, adjusted for Nevada growth since 2010)
- Estimated # of service actions annually: **231,104¹**. Service categories: direct services, training, and recognition

DIRECT SERVICES	
Cemeteries	2,985
Outreach	2,980
Veterans Homes' Resident Admissions	402
Veterans Homes' Residents Special Events	1,020
Ask a VSO:	1,126
Vet Court Graduations:	180
NVAs Trained:	801
Newsletters Sent	104,880
Hits on Website:	99,996
Vets supported through VA and NDVS Transportation Grants	1,526
Vets supported through Disabled Vet Sports Programs	79
TOTAL	215,970

1. An individual veteran may benefit from more than one service action. For example, a Veterans Home resident may receive assistance filing a claim or later receive burial services.

Veterans Served Annually (2)

TRAINING	
Legislative Summit:	150
Women Veterans' Conference:	185
Presumptive Condition Workshop	87
Connections Resource Fair	25
NV National Guard Suicide Prevention Briefs:	100
VA Mental Health Summit	20
Faith Based Summit	140
Mayors/Governors Challenge Participant Support/Training	105
NV Peer Mentor Support/Training:	52
Senior Leader Presentations/Benefits Speeches	1040
Leukemia and Presumptive Conditions Workshop	25
Veterans Suicide Prevention Webinar	289
VHA Community Information Briefings	720
Veterans Service Organization Presentations	908
Joint Military Affairs Committee Training	50
National Veterans Legal Services Program/VSO Training	224
VA Claimants	4242
TOTAL:	8362

RECOGNITION	
Unaccompanied/Flag Retirement Ceremonies	1260
Veterans Day:	500
Memorial Day:	3150
Wreaths Across America Events	1600
Veteran of the Month	12
Veteran Supporter of the Month	250
TOTAL:	6772

81st Session Veterans Legislation (1)

- **AB 22:** NV TAP. **Status:** Launched 1 Nov 2021. In-person TAP programs begin in 2022
- **AB 28:** Inverse preference on state purchasing contracts. **Status:** implemented
- **AB 76:** Authorizes NDVS to establish / operate adult day health care facilities. **Status:** Needs/affordability study underway
- **AB 77:** Adds veterans suicide prevention and homelessness programs to NDVS statutory duties. **Status:** Hired two contracted program managers
- **AB 102:** Expands disability requirements for the issuance of annual parks permits. **Status:** Implemented
- **AB 121:** Revises the military overseas voting deadlines. **Status:** Implemented
- **AB 156:** Allows NNG members to transfer NSHE tuition waiver to a spouse or child. **Status:** Implemented

81st Session Veterans Legislation (2)

- **AB 165:** Removes 5-year limit on assessing certain tuition charges against honorably discharged veterans. **Status:** Implemented
- **AB 316:** Requires the disclosure of certain information concerning veterans' benefits events. **Status:** Implemented
- **SB 185:** \$500,000 to the Department of Veterans Services to provide financial assistance and support for the Adopt a Vet Dental Program. **Status:** Funds distributed quarterly
- **SB 193:** Veterans admissions preference. **Status:** Implemented.
- **SB 390:** Establishment of mental health crisis hotline. **Status:** Nevada 988 is scheduled to launch July 16, 2022.
- **SB 440:** Created a NNG sales tax holiday on Nevada Day. **Status:** Implemented by the Department of Taxation

82nd Legislative Symposia Results



- March 2022: Legislative Symposia held in Las Vegas and Reno. 161 Participants representing 16 state-wide veterans' organizations.
- Identified / prioritized 70 State issues (33 in LV, 37 in Reno); includes duplicates. **47 Unique State Issues**
- Identified / prioritized 17 Federal issues (9 in LV, 8 in Reno); includes duplicates. **14 Unique Federal Issues**
- **Themes:**
 1. Improve medical and mental health care programs, especially those associated with dental health and suicide prevention.
 2. Require service providers to implement the, “Ask the Question” Program to improve veterans' health care outcomes.
 3. Honor veteran's service by reducing certain state fees, offering preferences, and providing medical time off veterans
 4. Improve occupational licensure for veterans and military spouses
 5. Improve programing for veterans in / transitioning from justice system

Homelessness Among Nevada Veterans

3 Nevada Continuum of Care's (CoC). Purpose: organize efforts of local governments, nonprofits, and stakeholder groups to end homelessness in their region. *Annual state-wide coordination/no centralized oversight.*

- Clark County
- Northern Nevada
- Rural Nevada

Point in Time (PIT) Counts:

- 2020 – Total: 7072. Veteran: 920/13% (SN: 734, NN: 148, RN: 38)
- 2021 – Total: 7090. Veteran: 832*/12% (SN: 644, NN: 188 (RN: Unknown))

NDVS Strategic Objectives

- Convene CoC state-wide workgroups focusing on veteran homelessness
- Determine service gaps, work with partners to develop solutions
- Connect veterans who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, with supportive services
- Provide veterans with affordable rental and home ownership information
- Identify and publish resources for Nevada's homeless veterans

* According to the RNCoc, Report Volunteers conducted an observation-only count within 14 of 15 counties

Homelessness Resources



NDVS NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES
Serving Nevada's Heroes

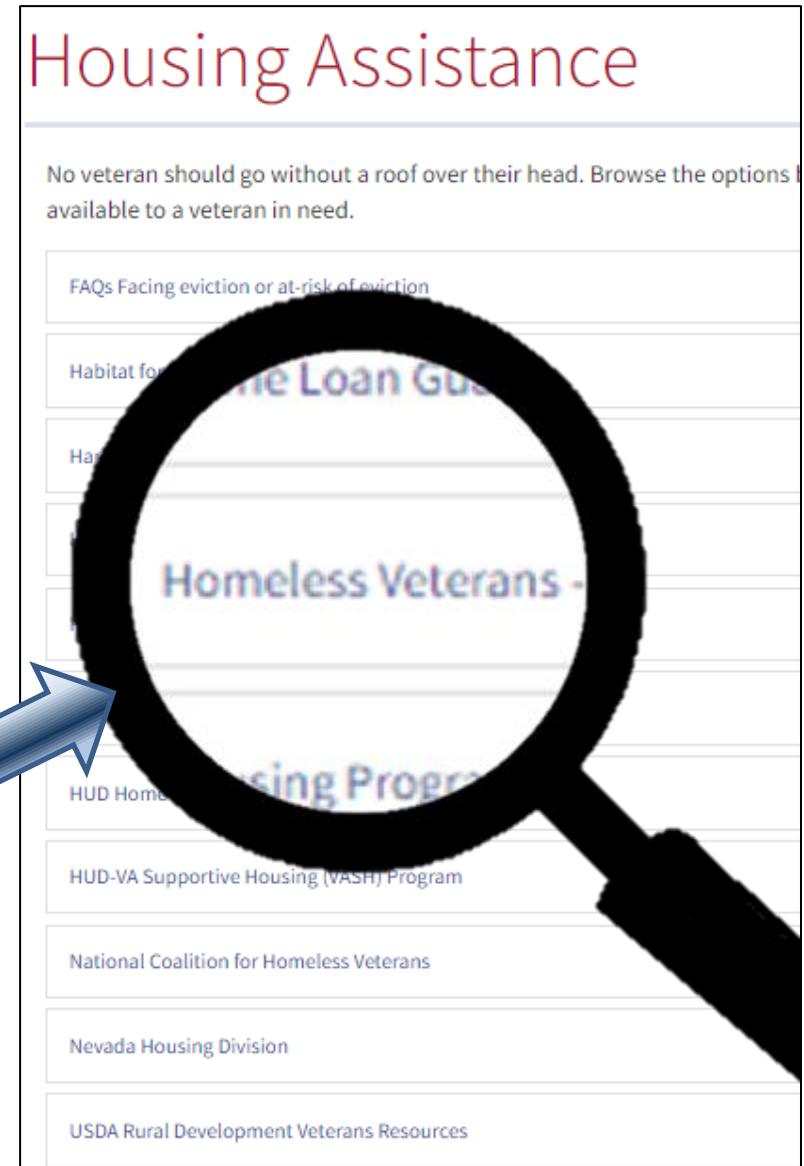
Home About Benefits & Services State Veterans Homes Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Suicide Prevention Donate Fallen Heroes Nevada's Veterans Memorials Calendar/Events

Home / Benefits and Services

Benefits and Services

- Burial and Memorial**
- Education**
- Financial**
- Headstones, Markers, and Monuments**
- Housing Assistance**
- Legal Assistance**



Housing Assistance

No veteran should go without a roof over their head. Browse the options available to a veteran in need.

- FAQs Facing eviction or at-risk of eviction
- Habitat for Humanity
- Home Loan Guaranty
- HUD Homeless Assistance
- HUD-VA Supportive Housing (VASH) Program
- National Coalition for Homeless Veterans
- Nevada Housing Division
- USDA Rural Development Veterans Resources

Conclusion

We are a small department that punches way above our weight; five national awards in seven years. Every single day NDVS makes a difference in the lives of veterans, service members, their families, and their survivors.

- NDVS is working to ensure three things:
 - ✓ That every Nevada veteran, no matter where they live, has information about and access to resources that improve their lives
 - ✓ That every Nevada veteran understands that they are extraordinary... and worthy of the very best support and care we can give
 - ✓ That we work with and support our many community partners; only together will ensure that veterans and their families receive the support that their service to our country has earned them

