



To the NACHC Veterans Interest Group (VIG),

November 8, 2021

We hope this Update finds you well while you continue to fight against the covid-19 pandemic in your communities! As we approach **Veterans Day 2021**, we **applaud your resilience and your commitment to making sure that the people who have served our country receive access to the care and services they need and deserve!**

Here are items of interest since our last Veterans Interest Group Update (August 2021):

**NACHC CELEBRATES SERVICE TO VETERANS** - Thank you to all who attended the October 26<sup>th</sup> webinar, "**Health Centers Honoring America's Veterans**", which was part of NACHC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year webinar series. The presentation celebrated health centers' service to Veterans, who are our patients, co-workers, and volunteer Board leaders. A dynamic panel of U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Primary Care Association (PCA) and health center leaders shared their experiences of working to enhance the ability of Veterans to receive essential community-based services.

- View the recording at <https://www.nachc.org/nachcs-50th-anniversary/#webinar-series> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0eDJ3rBhRU4&list=PLvoNbrkrX4YRCNMq66Bjp7m9xGfrmWJJa&index=7>

**JOIN VA'S COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK (CCN)**—The Community Care Network is the VA-administered program that enables Veterans to receive care from VA-approved community providers. Health centers are encouraged to work with their local VA Medical Centers to become recognized CCN providers. There are now over 550 health centers approved as CCN providers! Every state, plus Puerto Rico and Guam, has at least one approved health center!

- To learn more, go to the "**VA Choice to Mission**" portion of our Veterans webpage, [Supporting Our Veterans - NACHC](#). There, you will find links to VA's Community Care provider enrollment website and to NACHC's Veteran Community Care Program Toolkit for Health Centers.

**VETERANS DENTAL HEALTH PILOT PROGRAM (VETSmile)**-- The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Center for Care and Payment Innovation (CCPI) initiated a community-based dental access pilot program known as "VETSmile" on July 1, 2021. VETSmile is a legislatively authorized five-year pilot. The pilot program attempts to connect VA-enrolled patients who are ineligible for VA's limited dental services to community dental care providers. Two of the initial pilot community providers are NJ health centers. NACHC is an active national partner in this program, assisting with data review, geographic prioritization, and identification of health centers.

- Read the 09/16/2021 press release <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5715>

**HAPPY VETERANS DAY and STAY IN TOUCH**—Veterans Day is a special time for us to acknowledge the work you do EVERY day of the year—THANK YOU!! As always, we encourage you to share information through the NACHC Veterans Interest Group (VIG).

- Let your colleagues know they can sign up for the VIG anytime, email [trainings@nachc.org](mailto:trainings@nachc.org)
- Check out information on NACHC's "Supporting Our Veterans" webpage <https://www.nachc.org/health-center-issues/special-populations/veterans/>
- Here at NACHC, contact Gina Capra ([gcapra@nachc.com](mailto:gcapra@nachc.com)) or Dick Bohrer ([dbohrer@nachc.com](mailto:dbohrer@nachc.com)) on Veterans issues, suggestions or just to catch up!