

Veterans Day Resources

CALL TO ACTION: Using the Recommended Language for Veteran Status Screening Question

Does your health center ask “Have you Served” to identify Military Veteran status? Evidence shows that the way you ask the question matters. Read more by accessing NACHC’s short educational presentation linked on our “Health Centers Serving Veterans” webpage.

<https://www.nachc.org/topic/veterans/> . Consider reviewing and revising your screening question for the CY2024 UDS year to report on Table 4, Line 25 (Total Veterans).

US DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)

- **Telehealth:** NACHC staff remain in regular contact with the VHA Office of Connected Care and the national program office responsible for its Atlas Telehealth Pilot Project. This project attempts to identify community sites where a Veteran can go for a secure and confidential telehealth visit with a VA provider. Since our last update to you in July, we continue our efforts to identify health centers that have both the capacity to be a “host” site and have a critical mass of VA-enrolled Veterans in their service area. We are seeing progress in health centers getting close to approval as participating sites. For additional information about the **Atlas Program**, please refer <https://connectedcare.va.gov/partners/atlas> and if, interested, please contact Gina Capra, NACHC’s Senior Vice President for Health Center Operations and Governance, gcapra@Nachc.org or trainings@nachc.org.
- **Rural Health:** NACHC staff are actively engaged with the VHA Office of Rural Health (ORH) and their federal advisory committee. The September meeting of the Veterans Rural Health Committee included a well-received presentation by NACHC’s Gina Capra about why and how health centers can be community partners with the VHA’s hospitals and clinics. The current membership of this Committee includes several members who are strong advocates for expanding health center and VHA partnerships.
- **US Outlying Areas:** We are pleased to announce the appointment of Arielle Buyum, Executive Director, Pacific Islands Primary Care Association (PCA) to the newly established federal advisory committee on the US Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States. The Committee will provide advice and guidance to the Secretary of Veteran Affairs on matters related to Veterans residing in American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin

Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Marshal Islands and the Republic of Palau.

SERVING VETERANS - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

- ***“Serving Veterans in Health Centers: A Compendium of Success Stories”*** and ***“Community Care Network (CCN) Backgrounder and Toolkit”*** featured on NACHC’s “Serving Veterans” webpage: <https://www.nachc.org/health-center-issues/special-populations/veterans/> or the Health Center Resource Clearinghouse, www.healthcenterinfo.org SEARCH: VETERANS.
- ***“A Compendium of Veteran Oral Health Best, Promising and Emerging Practice Approaches”*** from the National Network of Oral Health Access, a HRSA-funded National Training and Technical Assistance Partner (NTTAP). <https://www.healthcenterinfo.org/details/?id=5277>
- ***“No Wrong Door for Veterans: Veteran Cultural Competency Training for Medical Legal Partnership Teams*** from the National Center for Medical Legal Partnership, a HRSA-funded National Training and Technical Assistance Partner (NTTAP). <https://www.healthcenterinfo.org/details/?id=4161>

UPCOMING EVENTS/ITEMS to NOTE

NACHC Webinar: Our 2023-24 “Serving Veterans” training plan includes a national webinar on ***Universal Screening for Veterans Status***, in partnership with the Iowa Primary Care Association. Stay tuned for date/time announcement for early Winter 2024.

Vets Employment Conference: We know that many of your organizations recruit and hire Veterans. We also know that being mission focused and driven makes health centers an ideal fit for Veterans who are purpose driven and value based. In addition, Veterans often possess experiences and skills that prepare them for working in a health center. We recently virtually attended the Fall 2023 conference presented by VETS Indexes (“Employing U.S. Veterans”) that provided valuable information related to recruiting, training, integrating, and retaining Veteran employees. VETS Indexes offers spring and fall conferences; virtual attendance is no charge. These conferences are an excellent opportunity for health center human resources staff and recruiters to hear of public and private sector lessons learned and best practices that could be useful. VETS Indexes next conference is scheduled for April 2024.