

**MENTAL HEALTH HOMELESS AND RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION
TREATMENT PROGRAMS**

- 1. REASON FOR ISSUE.** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive establishes policy for the implementation of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) VHA's Office of Mental Health Services Homeless and Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs.
- 2. SUMMARY OF CHANGES.** This Directive establishes updated policy for the development and approval of Homeless and Residential Treatment Programs. It reflects the change in administrative responsibility for the Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program from Geriatric and Extended Care Service to the Office of Mental Health Services. Additionally, it provides new guidance for several of the other Office of Mental Health Homeless Programs that include the Grant and Per Diem Program, Loan Guarantee Program for Multifamily Transitional Housing for Homeless Veterans, Health Care for Homeless Veterans, and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) – VA Supported Housing Program (HUD-VASH).
- 3. RELATED ISSUES.** VHA Handbook 1160.01, VHA Handbook 1162.01, VHA Handbook 1162.02, VHA Handbook 1162.03 and VHA Handbook 1162.04.
- 4. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE.** The Office of Mental Health Services (116) and the Office of Patient Care Services (11) are responsible for the contents of this directive. Questions may be referred to (202) 461-7348.
- 5. RESCISSIONS.** None.
- 6. RECERTIFICATION.** This VHA Directive is scheduled for re-certification on or before the last working day of March 2014.

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MENTAL HEALTH HOMELESS AND RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION TREATMENT PROGRAMS

1. PURPOSE: This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive establishes policy for the implementation of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) VHA's Mental Health Homeless and Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs.

2. BACKGROUND: VHA's homeless and residential programs constitute the largest integrated network of homeless and residential services in the country. VHA's homeless and residential programs are designed to help Veterans live as self-sufficiently and independently as possible. The foundation for these programs is based on recovery and rehabilitation for homeless Veterans through outreach, case management, and treatment with a focus on the provision of psychosocial services to homeless Veterans and Veterans suffering from a myriad of mental health issues including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), serious mental illness, and substance abuse disorders.

3. POLICY: It is VHA policy to provide a fully integrated national system of VA and community-based residential treatment and rehabilitation services that offer Veterans the broadest possible range of therapeutic support and recovery activities aimed at helping them achieve the highest level of independence, self sufficiency, and community integration.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. **Chief Consultant Office of Mental Health Services.** The Chief Consultant, Office of Mental Health Services, is responsible for directing and overseeing the integrated national system of VA and community based residential treatment and rehabilitation services.

b. **Facility Director.** The Facility Director is responsible for ensuring that eligible Veterans have access to Residential Rehabilitation and Treatment Programs. The Facility Director is also responsible for ensuring quality services and compliance with VHA policy and procedures for Residential Rehabilitation and Treatment Programs.

5. DEFINITIONS

a. **Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs (MHRRTTP).** The MHRRTTP provides residential rehabilitative and clinical care to eligible Veterans who have a wide range of problems, illnesses, or rehabilitative care needs (medical, psychiatric, substance use disorder, homelessness, vocational, educational, or social) and focus on the Veteran's needs, abilities, strengths, and preferences. Categories included in MHRRTTP include; Psychosocial Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs (PRRTTP), Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (SARRTP), Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (PTSD-RRTP), Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV), and Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence (CWT/TR).

b. **Grant and Per Diem Program.** The Grant and Per Diem Program assists public or non-profit private organizations in establishing and operating service-rich transitional programs for homeless Veterans by awarding capital grants and operational funding and monitoring those services provided to ensure the best quality of care.

c. **Loan Guarantee Program for Multifamily Transitional Housing for Homeless Veterans.** The Loan Guarantee Program for Multifamily Transitional Housing for Homeless Veterans provides loan guarantees to establish large-scale transitional housing projects with supportive services in areas of greatest need to reduce homelessness among Veterans.

d. **Health Care For Homeless Veteran Program (HCHV).** The central goal of the HCHV program is to reduce homelessness among Veterans by conducting outreach to those who are not currently receiving services and engage them in treatment and rehabilitative programs.

e. **Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-VA Supported Housing Program (HUD-VASH).** This program is a collaborative program with HUD, supported through HUD's Section 8 rental assistance vouchers and VA's provision of intensive case management services. The primary goal of HUD-VASH is to move Veterans out of homelessness and into permanent housing.