

How to Know if a Veteran is Eligible for VA Services

1. Identify Veterans. Ask: "Have you ever served in the United States Armed Forces or military?" Do not ask: "Are you a Veteran?" since many Veterans think this applies only to Veterans who served in combat.
2. Refer the Veteran to the VJO Specialist to complete the necessary paperwork. VA eligibility offices at the local VA facility determine eligibility. VA clinical staff cannot provide determinative information on eligibility.

Eligibility determination is based on each individual's service. We encourage all Veterans to apply for VA services.

Available health care services may include:

- ★ Inpatient and outpatient medical care.
- ★ Domiciliary and nursing home care.
- ★ Specialized care for women Veterans.
- ★ Homeless programs.
- ★ Readjustment counseling mental health services including alcohol and drug treatment, work therapy, and PTSD treatment.
- ★ Sexual trauma counseling

Contact Information

Victoria M. Marion, MSSA, LISW-S, LICDC
Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist
Email: Victoria.marion@va.gov
Cell: 216-694-0038

David Shawlson, LISW-S
Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist
Email: David.Shawlson@va.gov
Cell: (216) 772-9527

Dwayne Williams, LISW
Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist
eMail: Dwayne.Williams@va.gov
Cell: 216.209.1252

Cailen Haggard, LISW-S, C-SWHC
Veterans Justice Outreach Supervisor
Email: Cailen.haggard@va.gov
Cell: 216-338-9046

24 Hour

National Call Center for Homeless
Veterans: 1.877.4AID VET (877.424.3838)
Veterans Crisis Line: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)

Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center
10701 East Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio 44106
Main Phone: 216.791.3800
<http://vaww.cleveland.med.va.gov/>

Veterans Justice Outreach Program



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**Louis Stokes Cleveland
Department of Veterans Affairs
Medical Center
10701 East Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio 44106**

Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Initiative

"The purpose of the Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) initiative is to avoid unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration among Veterans by ensuring that eligible Veterans in contact with the criminal justice system have access to the VHA mental health and substance abuse services when clinically indicated, and other VA services and benefits as appropriate."

Source: Department of Veterans Affairs, April 30, 2009, Under Secretary for Health's Information Letter.

The Veterans Justice Outreach Program works with Justice-Involved Veterans. A Justice-Involved Veteran is any Veteran who has contact with the judicial system, law enforcement, or jail system.



What is Veterans Justice Outreach?

VJO is a VA outreach program designed to collaborate with local justice system partners to identify Veterans that enter the criminal justice system and are in need of treatment services rather than incarceration.

The VJO Specialist will:

- ★ Provide direct outreach, assessment, and case management for justice-involved Veterans in local courts and jails.
- ★ Assist with eligibility determination, enrollment, and referral to both VA and non-VA services upon release.
- ★ Provide training to local law enforcement on Veterans' issues and give strategies to help work with Veterans. Provide information and education to courts and attorneys about Veterans' issues and services available.
- ★ Collaborate with judges and specialty courts to connect Veterans to VA treatment Services and homeless programs



What Veterans Justice Outreach Can Do

- ★ Reach out to law enforcement, jails, and courts
- ★ Refer and link Veterans to comprehensive health care services
- ★ Communicate essentials (attendance, progress, treatment testing, discharge plan, etc.) with Veteran consent
- ★ Serve Veterans of all eras
- ★ Function as a court team member
- ★ Assess Veteran's needs and identify appropriate VA and non-VA services

What Veterans Justice Outreach Can Not Do

VJO is limited from doing the following:

- ★ Perform forensic evaluations for the court.
- ★ Accept custody of Veteran
- ★ Guarantee program acceptance
- ★ Write lengthy court reports or complete diversion paperwork
- ★ Advocate for legislation