

National Veterans' Technical Assistance Center (NVTAC) Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) Community of Practice (CoP) Website Walkthrough and Listening Session Tuesday, August 30, 2022, 3:00—4:00 p.m. ET

NVTAC Staff

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Presenter

Jennifer Steigerwald, NVTAC Coach

Key Points

- Introduction
 - Jennifer Steigerwald welcomed grantees to the August HVRP CoP Website Walkthrough and Listening Session. Jennifer asked attendees to introduce themselves in the Zoom chat.
 - This session provided an opportunity for grantees to participate in a walkthrough of <u>National Veterans' Technical Assistance Center (nvtac.org)</u> to discover everything the website has to offer, provide feedback on additional features, and ask questions. The website redesign is a continuous improvement process, and many of the changes to the current website were made based on grantee feedback.

• Section 1: Homepage

- The homepage is a hub of helpful information and resources for grantees to use during the period of performance (POP). Grantees were encouraged to think about any additions they would like to see to the website as they interact with it moving forward.
- There is a sliding banner at the top of the webpage with information that is updated periodically based on what is new and relevant. Currently, the following items can be accessed from the sliding banner:
 - The <u>NVTAC Menu of Services;</u>
 - <u>National Office Post Award Conference</u> (NO PAC) materials;
 - A <u>link for grantees to register</u> for the NVTAC CoP sessions; and
 - A link to subscribe to the NVTAC newsletter.
 - Grantees were encouraged to subscribe to the mailing list to receive pertinent information, registration links, and information on upcoming events. In addition to the sliding banner, there is another button at the bottom of the page titled "<u>Subscribe to our</u> <u>Mailing List</u>," which will prompt the user to email a subscription request to <u>contact@nvtac.org</u>. This is the same email address that is used to request TA from NVTAC.



- Additional content can be found under the sliding banner that is updated based on what is new and upcoming.
- Grantees were reminded they can make <u>National Veterans' Technical Assistance</u> <u>Center (nvtac.org)</u> their default landing page to access information easily.

• Section 2: Grantees

- The information located on the <u>Grantees>Welcome New Grantees</u> subpage is helpful for new and existing grantees during the POP. Following are items housed under this subpage:
 - The new and improved <u>HVRP Grantee Welcome Packet</u> has basic grant startup information, including an overview of HVRP and NVTAC, tips on conducting outreach to partners, and a 30-day startup checklist.
 - The recently updated <u>HVRP Program Guide for Grantees</u> serves as a comprehensive resource to support HRVP implementation.
 - The new <u>NVTAC Menu of Services</u> provides several examples of the types of training and TA topics available through NVTAC.
 - An <u>HVRP Eligibility Changes FAQ</u> provides a summary of recent changes to HVRP eligibility.
- In the <u>Grantees>Grant Operations</u> section, there is general information about HVRP, including the <u>NVTAC Glossary of Terms for Service Providers in the</u> <u>Veteran, Homeless, and Workforce Systems</u>, information on eligibility, housing and workforce partners, self-care, and HVRP Customizable Forms.
- Partnerships are extremely beneficial to HVRP grantees, and resources on the <u>Grantees>Partnerships</u> subpage include partnership development strategies, workforce development partners, and homelessness partners.
- The following pages were originally contained in one subpage, but recently separated during the website refresh based on feedback from users:
 - <u>Training</u>
 - NVTAC has developed multiple training sessions and resources to support grantee needs. This page has self-paced trainings, as well as six training modules for veterans.
 - Webinars
 - On this page, users will find <u>Virtual Learning Classes</u> and <u>Topical</u> <u>Webinars</u>.
 - Quarterly Performance Reporting Listening Sessions
 - These sessions are designed to support HVRP grantees to complete their quarterly reporting accurately and efficiently.
 - This page contains session recordings as well as question and answer (Q&A) documents that were developed in response to grantee questions during the sessions.
 - <u>Post-Award Conferences</u>
 - This page contains recordings, slides, and Q&A documents from the NO PAC sessions.
 - Technical Assistance

- This page has examples of TA topics and how to connect with NVTAC.
- <u>Serving Women Veterans</u>
 - This page has resources and information to related to serving female veterans.
- <u>Serving Justice-Involved Veterans</u>
 - This page has resources and information related to serving justiceinvolved veterans.
- <u>HVRP Customizable Forms</u>
 - This subpage provides forms that can be used and customized for eligibility, intake, assessment, and case management.
- Section 3: Veterans
 - In the <u>Veterans>Training for Veterans</u> section, users will find <u>Keeping Up the</u> <u>Good Work</u>, an online course designed for participants in HVRP programs. This free, six-module course will help veterans enrolled in these programs focus on what it takes to keep a job and a plan for staying employed. There are various additional resources on this subpage, including information on available benefits, <u>Stand Down events</u>, the <u>Transition Assistance Program</u>, <u>military spouse resources</u>, and the <u>Post-9/11 G.I. Bill</u>.

• Section 4: Employer Resources

- Under the <u>Employers>Employer Resources</u> section, several resources are outlined to support grantees:
 - The <u>Homeless Veteran Community Employment Services (HVCES)</u> is provided through the local VA Medical Center. This page contains information about the program and how <u>a grantee can connect with their</u> <u>local HVCES</u>.
 - The <u>Senior Community Service Employment Program</u> is a community service and work-based job training program for older Americans.
 - The <u>Older Worker Program Finder</u> helps find employment services for low-income, unemployed seniors.

The <u>Job Accommodation Network</u> is the leading source of free, expert, and confidential guidance on workplace accommodations and disability employment issues.

• Section 5: Community Partners

 The <u>Community Partners subpage</u> contains information about building meaningful partnerships and provides helpful partnership resources, including links to the <u>HVRP homepage</u>, <u>DOL VETS Grants and</u> <u>Opportunities</u>, and <u>Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act</u> websites.

• Section 6: Community of Practice

- The Community of Practice landing page provides a link to previous CoP sessions, as well as an archive of <u>NVTAC's monthly newsletters</u>.
 - The <u>Community of Practice>CoP Sessions subpage</u> contains recordings, slides, and meeting summaries for CoP sessions dating back to 2020.

- Section 7: Find A Grantee
 - The previous Find A Grantee map has been completely overhauled for ease of use and information. You can locate grantees by county, independent city, or zip code. Each entry has a link to the respective grantee's website and main office address.
- Section 8: About Us
 - This page is a <u>broad overview of NVTAC</u> and how to contact NVTAC.

Discussion and Q&A

- **Discussion Question:** What is one thing you would like to see added to the website?
 - **Grantee Response:** A section that says 'I Hired a VET' that contains information for employers who have hired or want to hire veterans, such as tax information, VA programs, and additional resources helpful to employers.
 - **Grantee Response:** A page for grantees would be helpful. This would allow grantees to share best practices to generate ideas for others.

• General Q&A

- Grantee Question: How do we get success stories to you?
 - NVTAC Response: Please send any success stories to <u>contact@nvtac.org</u>.
- **Grantee Question:** I have a veteran that moved out of state. Is there an area we can see other resources in the state or information on Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)?
 - NVTAC Response: You can find other grantees on the <u>Find A Grantee</u> <u>map</u>. There is also <u>a link to the SSVF homepage</u> on the <u>Grantees>Partnerships subpage</u>.
- Grantee Question: Is the new closeout procedure on the site?
 - NVTAC Response: No. For closeout information, look at the primary policies that are linked on the <u>HVRP-DOL website</u>. On this page, you will find critical policies that relate to the program's basic requirements. Your Grant Officer's Technical Representative is the best resource to help with the process, especially considering recent changes to the system. Any fundamental policies or rules will be on the DOL website.

Conclusion

• The CoP will continue monthly moving forward. Information on how to register for future CoP events is posted on <u>Community of Practice – National Veterans' Technical</u> <u>Assistance Center (nvtac.org)</u>.