



2021 NCHV ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CHARTING THE COURSE:
TOGETHER, APART
JUNE 21-25, 2021

 **NATIONAL COALITION**
for **HOMELESS VETERANS**

Serving Aging Veterans

Panelists:

Molly French

National Associate of Area Agencies on Aging

Ashton Stewart

SAGE

Janet Stringfellow

VOA-FL



Partnerships Between Homeless Service Providers and AAAs to End and Prevent Homeless Among Veterans

Molly French
Director of Housing and Services Resource Center

June 23, 2021

AAAs & Title VI Aging Programs

Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)

- Respond to the needs of Americans 60 and older in every community in the U.S.

Title VI Grants for Indian Tribal Organizations

- Provide nutrition, supportive and caregiver services to older American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians

Safe, Stable Housing

AAA/Title VI services and supports for individuals in homes and the community enable them to:

- Live with dignity, health and independence
- Opportunities for full community participation

AAAs Serve a Broad Range of Consumers



78%

Serve individuals younger than 60 who have a disability, impairment or chronic illness.



52%

Serve people with dementia of all ages (including under 60).

AAA Services for Veterans

- 39% of AAAs provide services to veterans under the age of 60
- Of AAAs who provide home repair and modification services, 48% specifically target veterans



Title VI Partnerships for Veterans

70% of Title VI programs have a partnership (informal or formal) with Veterans Administration

Five Core Services that All AAAs Offer

OAA CORE SERVICES



Information and referral

In-home services

Homemaker & chore services

Transportation

Case management

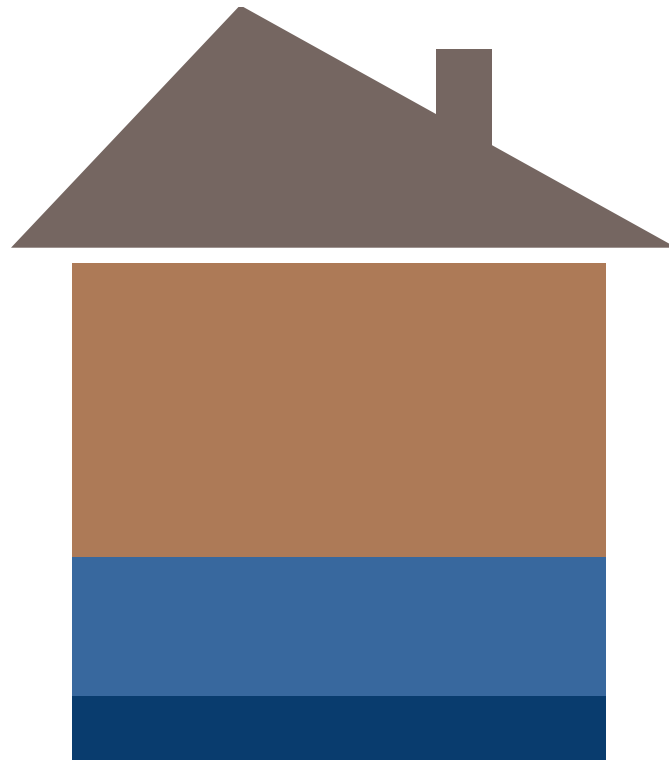
Home modification

Legal services

Extensive Array of Other Services

- Personal care/assistance
- Adult day centers
- Assessments for care planning or long-term care services
- Emergency response
- And more!

AAAs Enhance Options for Affordable, Accessible Housing with Access to Services



61%

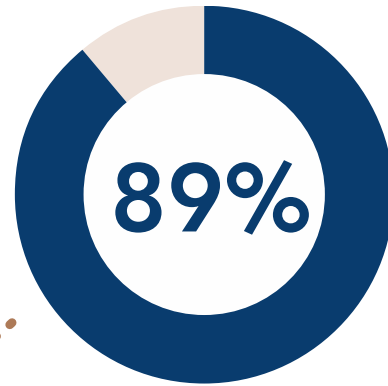
provide home modifications and repair services

25%

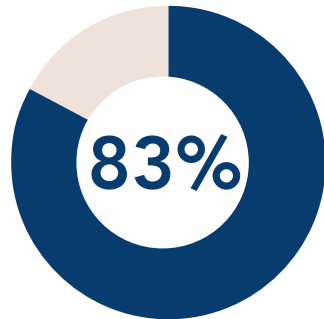
offer a housing assistance program

8%

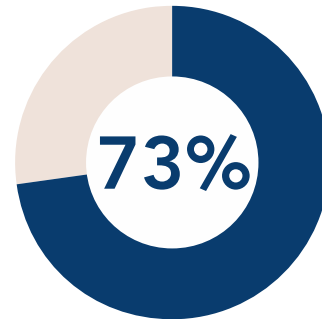
own or operate housing for older adults



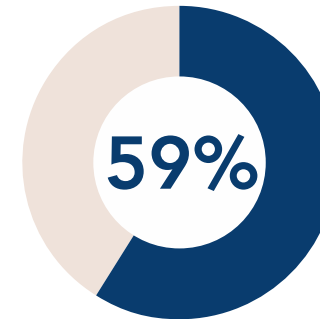
of AAAs provide transportation services



assisted transportation



non-medical transportation



wheelchair-accessible transportation

AAA & TITLE VI PARTNERSHIPS TO SERVE VETERANS



Area Office on Aging in Northwestern Ohio U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs and Other Partners



For a permanent supportive housing property, developed a Saturday brunch meal program in response to veterans' requests for:

- Improved nutrition
- Social events
- Info about community programs and services

Mountain Empire Older Citizens, Inc.



- Goal: Enable veterans (with disabilities or older) who have frequent health appointments to remain in their homes
- Strategy: Transportation assistance tailored to individuals' needs
- Door-to-door
 - Also, door-through-door
 - Assistance from an aide
- Trained volunteers help stretch the funding
 - Priority are individuals who have no or weak support systems

Bear River Area Agency on Aging and Veterans Health Administration

Goal: Improve access to VA benefits and programs

Strategy: Train a team “specialist” in each AAA in Utah to connect veterans to available resources

- Developed a train-the-trainer program and resource guide so specialists can:
 - Inform about VA resources available
 - Assess eligibility
 - Assist with applications
- Engaged community partners

Area Agency on Aging-Region One in Phoenix Justa Center (a nonprofit) & Salvation Army

Goal: Provide daytime shelter for older adults experiencing homelessness and help transition to more permanent housing

Strategy: All-day indoor shelter providing meals and optional services between 7 am – 7 pm

- Located 5 blocks from overnight shelter and meets ADA requirements
- Wellness checks
- Assistance with benefits, legal services and more
- Laundry facilities

Coming
Attractions

A Housing and Services Resource Center for Cross-Sector Partnerships

Enable more adults with disabilities and older adults to

- Transition from institutions to community settings
- Have options for affordable, accessible housing with access to voluntary services

Help Us Build the Resource Center!



Type into chat your thoughts:

What tools, information, or training can the Resource Center provide to help you partner with AAAs or Title VI programs?

Perspective from the Field

The Value of Housing and Services Partnerships

Janet M. Stringfellow

President/CEO

Volunteers of America of Florida

Take-Aways

AAAs and Title VI Programs serve many veterans with disabilities and older veterans

- Provide home and community-based services that are integral to housing stability
- Can help reduce homelessness

Reach out and explore a partnership!

- Find your AAA or via [ElderCare Locator](#)

**Questions?
Suggestions?
Innovations to Share?**

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sage® Vets

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Nationally –

There are an estimated one million veterans who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender (LGBT).



- In addition, more than 36,000 LGBT service members currently on active duty
- likely up to 87,000 LGBT service members in the National Guard and Reserves

Source: Hudson Valley VA. *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Veteran Care*. 2018.



What makes LGBT older adults unique?

- *Many LGBT older adults **live alone** and rely on other older adults for support and **caregiving**.*
- *A **history of discrimination** leaves many LGBT older adults with a general **distrust** of mainstream institutions.*

Distrust of Mainstream Institutions



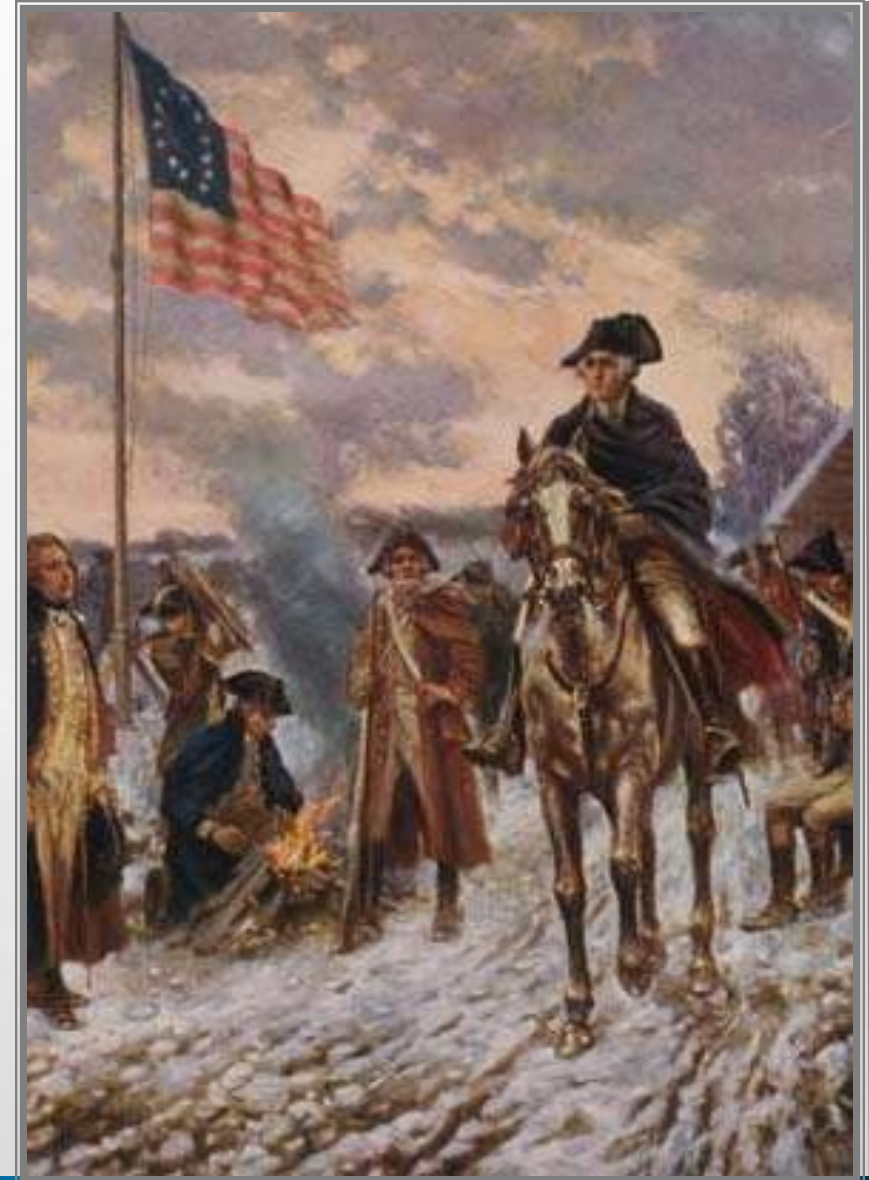
Valley Forge Headquarters Monday, May 11, 1778

Lieutenant Frederick Gotthold Enslin

court-martialed

Sentenced to,

**“be drummed out of the Continental Army
by its regiments' fifes and drums.”**



Source: National Archives Foundation; “Court-martial Record Of Lieutenant Frederick Gotthold Enslin, March 10, 1778.” 2008.

Don't Ask Don't Tell 1993-2011

Repeal Went Into Effect September 2011

- **House Voted To Repeal 250-175**
- **Senate Voted 65-31**




“States Expand Veterans Benefits To Former Service Members Kicked Out For Sexual Orientation”

**RESTORATION
OF HONOR ACT**

**RIGHTING THE WRONGS
OF DENIED BENEFITS FOR
VETERANS IN NEW YORK STATE WITH
OTHER-THAN-HONORABLE
OR GENERAL DISCHARGES BECAUSE OF:**

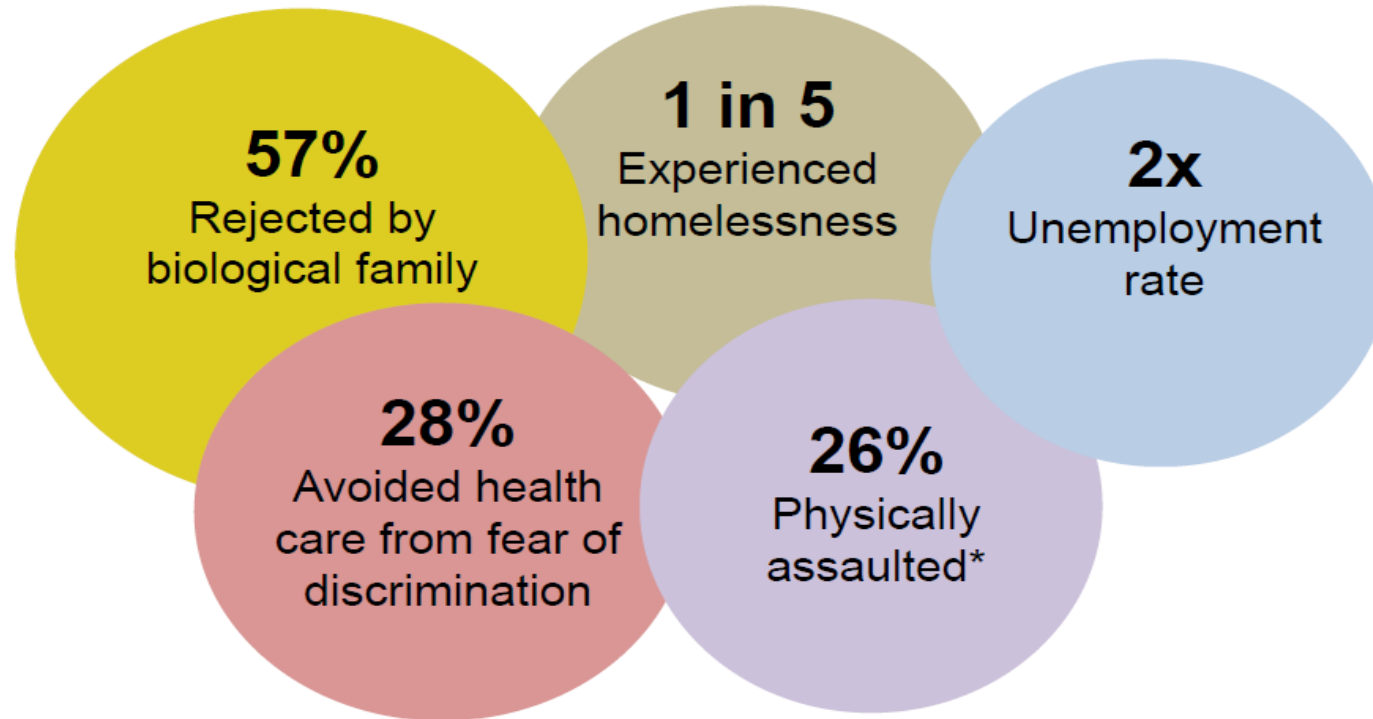
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Military Sexual Trauma (MST)
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity

VETERANS.NY.GOV • 888.838.7697 •
DVSINFO@VETERANS.NY.GOV

 NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY. | Division of
Veterans' Services

Source: WSHU Public Radio April, 2021

Transgender populations face intense stigma



National Transgender Discrimination Survey¹

Grant, J.M., Mottet L.A., Tanis, J., Harrison, J., Herman, J.L., & Keisling, M.. Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey. Washington: National Center for Transgender Equality and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 2011.

NEW YORK STATE SENATE
VETERANS'
HALL OF FAME



Welcome Home

Affordable LGBT-Friendly, Older Adult
Housing Developments



Crotona Park

771-775 Crotona Park North,
Bronx, New York



Ingersoll

Corner of Myrtle Avenue &
Saint Edwards Street, Brooklyn, New York

sage® Vets

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SERVING AGING VETERANS

Janet M. Stringfellow
Volunteers of America of Florida

AWESOME VETERAN ORGANIZATION

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Mission

Volunteers of America of Florida engages Floridians in need to create positive life changes through compassionate support services.

Services for Veterans

- Florida is the most veteran-friendly state in the nation, yet there are over 106,000 veterans living below federal poverty levels in Florida. Far too many struggle to overcome barriers that stand between them and a stable, secure life.
- Volunteers of America of Florida helps veterans and their families find decent, safe and affordable housing and the vital support services they need to stabilize.
- We make sure veterans connect to the benefits they are entitled to, and we make use of the strong bonds forged between veterans by incorporating mentoring and peer-to-peer support.
- We also provide employment services that include assessment, training and placement. Help is available with everything from resume prep to job interviewing, clothing and transportation. Finding work is an important part of building back confidence and pride and sustaining independence.
- We're committed to ending homelessness for the men and women of our region who served their county — and to helping all our veterans come "all the way home."

Housing for Veterans

- Volunteers of America of Florida is recognized as the largest provider of supportive housing for veterans in Florida experiencing homelessness, serving 13 communities from Pensacola to Key West. We offer male and female veterans with special needs and their families safe, clean and affordable housing and the vital support needed to survive.
- Our programs serve veterans experiencing or at-risk of homelessness, frail and elderly veterans, and veterans with emotional, mental and substance abuse issues. Comprehensive support services include outreach and assessment, emergency services and case management.
- Transitional housing programs include residential therapeutic treatment for veterans recovering from substance use disorders. Training and employment programs work to place veterans in jobs. The programs ensure that veterans receive the employment and training services they need to get good jobs. The programs offer job counseling, resume preparation, job placement, on-the-job training, career counseling and follow-up employment support, life skills, and money management mentoring. Other housing programs and special need services also serve frail elderly veterans and veterans with mental illness.

SERVICES

Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF)

These programs provide temporary & supportive services for low or no-income Veterans and Veteran families to promote housing stability through assistance and support services to homeless veterans or those at risk of homelessness.

Veterans Case Management

Provides supportive services to Veterans living in permanent housing to assist with strengthening their independent living skills and long-term housing goals. **Training,**

Education, and Employment Program (TEE)

Provides employment and vocational stability to Veterans and people with disabilities. Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP), Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and Ticket to Work programs support individuals as they strive to participate in the workplace and experience the pride of meaningful work.



MORAL INJURY

What is Moral Injury?

Moral injury is the suffering people experience when we are in high stakes situations, things go wrong, and harm results that challenges our deepest moral codes and ability to trust in others or ourselves. The harm may be something we did, something we witnessed, or something that was done to us. It results in moral emotions such as shame, guilt, self-condemnation, outrage, and sorrow.

What is Resilience Strength Time?

VOA|ReST is a free, confidential, group process that supports emotional resilience in people struggling with isolation, fatigue, frustration, anxiety, and a sense of inadequacy or failure.

Sessions of up to ten participants are scheduled nearly every day, for an hour. People may attend alone or with others they trust. Peer facilitators guide the conversations, and as participants share difficult experiences and listen to each other, they feel understood, empathize with others, and recover a sense of commitment and gratitude for their relationships and work.

VETERANS RESOURCES

Webinars

- [Monthly webinar series on military moral injury by Soul Repair Center, Brite Divinity School](#), co-sponsored by the Shay Center of VOA.
- [The Implications of the Pandemic for Moral Injury in Veterans](#) (November 2020)
- [Moral Injury among Medical and Spiritual Caregivers in Civilian, Military, and VA Hospitals](#) (December 2020) and [Powerpoint handout](#)
- [Dementia Care for Aging Veterans affected by Moral Injury](#) (January 2021) and [Powerpoint handout](#)
- [Women, Military Sexual Trauma, and Moral Injury: Stand Up Speak Up](#) (February 2021)

- [Introducing The Shay Moral Injury Center at Volunteers of America](#)
- [Jonathan Shay interview on PBS \(May 29, 2010\)](#)
- [Understanding Moral Injury: What Can We Do](#)
- [Resilience Strength Training | Moral Injury Veterans Program](#)
- [Volunteers of America CEO Speaks to the Personal Side of Moral Injury](#)

- [Almost Sunrise](#) (documentary about moral injury in veterans)
- [Veterans Journey Home](#) (documentary series)

- [Center for Post Traumatic Growth](#)
- [Moral Injury](#) article by VA PTSD website
- [Moral Injury Support Network for Servicewomen, Inc.](#)
- [Road Home Program](#), The National Center of Excellence for Veterans and Their Families at Rush
- [Soul Repair Center](#) at Brite

- OPUS PEACE-Florida
- [DOpus Peace – Home](#)
- ivinity School

Q&A



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THANK YOU

