



# Older Veteran Behavioral Health Resource Inventory



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## Overview

A collaboration among:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Administration for Community Living (ACL)

Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

Office of Minority Health

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

National Council on Aging (NCOA)

The purpose of this inventory is to provide resources for health and social service professionals interested in enhancing their outreach and support for older Veterans and other older adults who have or are at risk for behavioral health conditions. This inventory is not exhaustive. Rather, it provides an overview of programs and publications on topics including posttraumatic stress disorder, suicide prevention, long term services and supports, and much more.

In addition to using this inventory, health and social service professionals can connect with the nationwide network of state and local aging and disability agencies, known as the **No Wrong Door (NWD) System** (<https://nwd.acl.gov/>). Through partnerships with community organizations, including behavioral health entities, the NWD System helps all populations, including Veterans and their caregivers, take advantage of an array of services that support community living. The NWD System has access points across the country staffed by people living in local communities.

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## VA Benefits

**Explore.VA.gov** makes it easy for you to learn about and apply for VA benefits you may be eligible to receive. These benefits may help you buy a home, earn a degree, start a career, stay healthy, and do so much more in life after the military.

Find out how you can benefit. Visit **Explore.VA.gov** to get started.

Link: <https://explore.va.gov/>

**VA Benefits for Elderly Veterans** – These VBA programs provide information on benefits and health services that address changing health risks and financial challenges among Veterans ages 65 and over. Unique benefits available include the following.

Link: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-elderly.asp>

1. **Veterans Pension** is a needs-based benefit paid to wartime Veterans who meet certain age or non-service connected disability requirements.

- The **VA Pension Fact Sheet** offers information on the benefit and how to apply.

Link 1: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/vetpen.asp>

Link 2: <https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/limitedincome/livepension.pdf>

2. **Aid & Attendance and Housebound** benefits are paid in addition to a monthly pension. Veterans and survivors who are eligible for a VA pension and require the aid and attendance (A&A) of another person, or are housebound may be eligible for this additional monetary payment.

- The **Enhanced or Special Monthly Pension Fact Sheet** offers information on increased monthly pensions paid to a Veteran, spouse, or claimant and how to apply for an A&A or housebound designation.

Link 1: [https://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/aid\\_attendance\\_housebound.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/aid_attendance_housebound.asp)

Link 2: <https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/limitedincome/EnhancedorSpecialPension.pdf>

3. **General Information on Disability Compensation** provides VBA information on disability compensation, the claims process, eligibility, how to file an online fully developed claim (FDC), and available benefits.

- The **Disability Compensation Fact Sheet** offers information about tax-free VA benefits paid to Veterans because of injuries or diseases that occurred while they were on active duty or that were made worse by active military service, or to certain Veterans disabled from VA health care.

Link 1: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/index.asp>

Link 2: <https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/serviceconnected/Compensation.pdf>

4. The **Fiduciary Program** provides oversight of VA's most vulnerable beneficiaries who are unable to manage their VA benefits because of injury, disease, or the infirmities of advanced age or who are under 18 years of age.

- The **Fiduciary Fact Sheet** provides additional information on what a fiduciary is, when a fiduciary is needed, and the process to become a fiduciary.

Link 1: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/fiduciary/index.asp>

Link 2: <https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/fiduciary/FiduciaryFactSheet.pdf>

5. The **Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Fact Sheet** provides information for Veterans who may have experienced sexual trauma while serving in the military. MST experiences can affect Veterans' mental and physical health, even many years later. Veterans can apply for disability compensation for any current difficulties that are related to their service, including difficulties related to MST. The VBA has MST coordinators at local regional benefit offices who can assist Veterans. The list of coordinators is at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/mstcoordinators.asp>.

Link 1: <https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/serviceconnected/MST.pdf>

Link 2: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/mstcoordinators.asp>

## Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

**National Center for PTSD** – The Center's mission is to advance the clinical care and social welfare of America's Veterans and others who have experienced trauma, or who suffer from PTSD, through research, education, and training in the science, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD and stress-related disorders. This website has educational resources for providers on **assessing and treating older adults** and a **course on suicide assessment**. Relevant materials for the public include an **infographic on the risks of benzodiazepine use in older adults**, and a **fact sheet on suicide**. (VHA)

Link 1: <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/>

Link 2: <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/treatment/older/index.asp>

Link 3: [https://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/continuing\\_ed/suicide\\_ptsd\\_assessment.asp](https://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/continuing_ed/suicide_ptsd_assessment.asp)

Link 4: [https://www.ptsd.va.gov/about/print-materials/PTSD\\_Things\\_Change.pdf](https://www.ptsd.va.gov/about/print-materials/PTSD_Things_Change.pdf)

Link 5: <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/problems/ptsd-suicide.asp>

**PTSD Consultation Program** – This resource is available to both VA and non-VA providers who are treating Veterans with PTSD. Speak directly with experts from the National Center for PTSD about topics including evidence-based treatment, clinical management, resources, assessment, education and training opportunities, referrals, and transitioning Veterans to VA care. (VHA)

Link: <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/consult/index.asp>

**AboutFace** – This website aims to help Veterans and others recognize PTSD, reduce barriers to care, and motivate them to seek treatment. AboutFace includes videos of Veterans of service eras dating back to WWII and the Korean War speaking about their experiences with PTSD and treatment. (VHA)

Link: <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/apps/AboutFace/>

**Make the Connection: PTSD** – Make the Connection is a VA online resource designed to connect Veterans, their family members and friends, and other supporters with information, resources, and solutions to issues affecting their lives. On the website, visitors can watch hundreds of Veterans share their stories of strength and recovery, find relevant information, and locate nearby resources. Searching by era of military service, learn more about PTSD, treatment options, self-help tools, and recovery resources. (VHA)

Link: <https://maketheconnection.net/conditions/ptsd>

## Substance Use Disorders

**Make the Connection: Problems With Alcohol** and **Make the Connection: Problems With Drugs** – Make the Connection is a VA online resource designed to connect Veterans, their family members and friends, and other supporters with information, resources, and solutions to issues affecting their lives. On the website, visitors can watch hundreds of Veterans share their stories of strength and recovery, find relevant information, and locate nearby resources. Searching by era of military service, learn more about problems with alcohol and/or drugs, treatment options, self-help tools, and recovery resources. (VHA)

Link 1: <https://maketheconnection.net/conditions/problems-with-alcohol>

Link 2: <https://maketheconnection.net/conditions/problems-with-drugs>

**Resources List: Opioid Use in the Older Adult Population** – This document provides a sample of information and resources that address opioid use among older adults. (SAMHSA)

Link: <https://www.samhsa.gov/capt/sites/default/files/resources/resources-opiod-use-older-adult-pop.pdf>

**Get Connected: Linking Older Adults With Medication, Alcohol, and Mental Health Resources** – This toolkit and **video** help service providers for the aging learn more about mental illness and substance use disorders in older adults, focusing on alcohol and medication use. It provides tools such as a program coordinator's guide, suggested curricula, and handouts. (SAMHSA)

Link 1: <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Linking-Older-Adults-With-Medication-Alcohol-and-Mental-Health-Resources/SMA03-3824>

Link 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQan4-6amJk>

The **CBHSQ Report – A Day in the Life of Older Adults: Substance Use Facts** – This report presents information about substance use among older adults from several data sources, including information on use of substances, admissions to treatment, and emergency department (ED) visits for substance use on a typical or average day. (SAMHSA)

Link: [https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/report\\_2792/ShortReport-2792.html](https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/report_2792/ShortReport-2792.html)

## Suicide Prevention

### Background Information/Data

**Veteran Suicide Data** – This page includes links to the “Suicide among Veterans and Other Americans, 2001–2014” national report and data sheets for the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. (VHA)

Link: [https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide\\_prevention/Suicide-Prevention-Data.asp](https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/Suicide-Prevention-Data.asp)

**VA Suicide Prevention Fact Sheet** – This fact sheet provides an overview of Veteran suicide statistics and measures taken by VA to prevent suicide, including expanding the Veterans Crisis Line, identifying Veterans with elevated risk, and disseminating free mobile apps and many other resources. (VHA)

Link: <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/VA-Suicide-Prevention-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

## Resources for Veterans and Their Families and Clinicians

**VHA Mental Health** – VHA is committed to recovery-oriented, holistic, integrated, evidence-based mental health care that is accessible to Veterans close to home and sensitive to gender and cultural differences. VHA provides a wide range of outpatient, inpatient, telehealth, and crisis mental health and suicide prevention services. (VHA)

Link: <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/>

**Veterans Crisis Line** – The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring VA responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call **1-800-273-8255** and **Press 1**, chat online, or send a text message to **838255** to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. (VHA)

Link: <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>

**#BeThere for Veterans** – This website has resources for Veterans, Service members, and those who want to support them. We can all play a role in preventing suicide, but many people don't know what they can do to support the Veteran or Service member in their life who is going through a difficult time. This website reinforces the fact that a simple act of kindness can help someone to feel less alone. Your actions could help save a life. (VHA)

Link: <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/BeThere.aspx>

**Make the Connection: Suicide** – Make the Connection is a VA online resource designed to connect Veterans, their family members and friends, and other supporters with information, resources, and solutions to issues affecting their lives. On the website, visitors can watch hundreds of Veterans share their stories of strength and recovery, find relevant information, and locate nearby resources. Searching by era and branch of military service, listen to Veterans' stories about finding hope and discovering ways to enjoy life again. (VHA)

Link: <https://maketheconnection.net/conditions/suicide>

**Safety Plan Quick Guide for Clinicians** – This guide outlines six steps for developing a safety plan with a Veteran who may be at risk for suicide. A safety plan is a prioritized written list of coping strategies and sources of support that Veterans who have been deemed to be at high risk for suicide can use before or during a crisis. The plan is brief, easy to read, and in the Veteran's own words. (VHA)

Link: <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/VASafetyPlanColor.pdf>

**VHA South Central Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC)** – This VA Center of Excellence has a range of **clinical resources to address mental health needs of older Veterans**. These resources include a Collaborative Safety Planning for Older Adults manual, older adult anxiety treatment resources (STOP Worry clinician and Veteran self-help workbooks, Multi-Setting Peaceful Mind: A Manual to Aid in the Management of Anxiety in Veterans With Memory Impairment), and a Pocket Guide for Clinicians for Management of Chronic Pain. (VHA)

Link 1: <https://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn16/index.asp>

Link 2: <https://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn16/resources-older-veterans.asp>

**Community Provider Toolkit: Suicide Prevention** – This toolkit supports the behavioral health and wellness of Veterans receiving services outside the VA health care system. This part of the toolkit includes resources on assessment, safety planning, education, training, and a range of clinical resources. (VHA)

Link: [https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/communityproviders/clinic\\_suicideprevention.asp](https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/communityproviders/clinic_suicideprevention.asp)

**Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC)** – SPRC provides technical assistance, training, and materials to increase the knowledge and expertise of suicide prevention practitioners and other professionals serving people at risk for suicide. SPRC promotes collaboration among a variety of organizations in the field of suicide prevention. (SAMHSA)

Link: <http://www.sprc.org/about-sprc>

## Community/Organizational Toolkits

**Veteran Outreach Toolkit – Preventing Veteran Suicide Is Everyone’s Business** – This community-based suicide prevention toolkit provides resources to help community groups raise awareness about mental wellness and suicide prevention among Veterans of any age. (VHA)

Link: <https://www.va.gov/ve/docs/outreachToolkitPreventingVeteranSuicidesEveryonesBusiness.pdf>

**VA Suicide Prevention Community Support Handout** – This one-page flyer, Supporting Veterans in Your Life, outlines resources and strategies for spreading the word about preventing Veteran suicide in local communities. “We can all play a role in preventing suicide: Your actions could help save a life. Here are simple ways to support a Veteran or Service member in your life or your community who may be going through a difficult time.” (VHA)

Link: <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/Suicide-Prevention-Community-Support-Handout.pdf>

**Promoting Emotional Health and Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for Senior Centers** – This toolkit helps senior centers integrate suicide prevention into activities that support well-being. It describes activities that increase protective factors and explains how to recognize the warning signs for suicide. (SAMHSA)

Link: <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Promoting-Emotional-Health-and-Preventing-Suicide/SMA15-4416>

**Promoting Emotional Health and Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for Senior Living Communities** – This toolkit equips senior living staff with resources to promote mental health, prevent suicide, and encourage active participation among residents. It includes guidelines for integrating suicide prevention into ongoing programs, hands-on tools, and training manuals. (SAMHSA)

Link: <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Promoting-Emotional-Health-and-Preventing-Suicide/SMA10-4515>

**Treatment of Depression in Older Adults Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) Kit** – This kit offers information about an array of evidence-based practices for treatment and services to improve outcomes for older adults experiencing depression, including dysthymia. It considers planning, implementation, and maintenance. (SAMHSA)

Link: <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Treatment-of-Depression-in-Older-Adults-Evidence-Based-Practices-EBP-KIT/SMA11-4631CD-DVD>

**Webinar: Using the Senior Reach Program to Address Risk Factors for Suicide Among Older Adults** – In this webinar, experts share information about Senior Reach, a program that focuses on creating linkages between agencies, businesses, and communities to provide emotional and physical support for older adults. (NCOA)

Link: <https://www.ncoa.org/resources/webinar-using-senior-reach-program-address-risk-factors-suicide-among-older-adults/>

**Issue Brief: Preventing Suicide in Older Adults** – This Issue Brief is intended to help health care and social service organizations develop strategies to prevent suicide in older adults. (ACL)

Link: <https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2016-11/Issue%20Brief%204%20Preventing%20Suicide.pdf>

## Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

**VA Patient Centered Care and Whole Health** – It all starts with a simple question: *What matters most to you?* That's the first step in a new model of whole health care, designed to help Veterans achieve and maintain their best all-around health and well-being. VA's Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation is working with VA leaders and providers to implement this approach in facilities across the country. (VHA)

Link: <https://www.va.gov/patientcenteredcare/>

**Fact Sheet: Engaging Veterans in Evidence-Based Programs** – The purpose of this resource is to share strategies for developing and enhancing partnerships between aging services and Veterans' health organizations to deliver evidence-based care. (NCOA)

Link: <https://www.ncoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017-NCOA-Engaging-Veterans-in-Evidence-Based-Programs-Tip-Sheet.pdf>

**ACL Health, Wellness, and Nutrition Programs** – ACL health and wellness programs help older adults and people with disabilities to remain as healthy and independent as possible in their homes and communities. Programs address prevention, chronic disease self-management, behavioral health, and more. (ACL)

Link: <https://www.acl.gov/programs/health-wellness>

**Behavioral Health** resources include trainings, toolkits, state behavioral health profiles, webinars, and issue briefs. Also see the **NCOA Older Americans Behavioral Health Series**.

Link 1: <https://www.acl.gov/node/443>

Link 2: <https://www.ncoa.org/center-for-healthy-aging/behavioral-health/older-americans-behavioral-health-series/>

**Self-Management Education Programs** – There are a number of evidence-based programs designed to help older adults manage their physical and behavioral health. Many of the most prominent of these programs can be accessed through the **Program Locator Tool** hosted by the Evidence-Based Leadership Council. Through this locator, you can find **PEARLS**, a treatment program for depression; **Healthy IDEAS**, a depression self-management program designed to detect and reduce the severity of depressive symptoms in older adults with chronic conditions and functional limitations; **HomeMeds**, a nationally recognized home medication management system that screens for common medication-related problems, such as inappropriate use of over-the-counter drugs and adverse effects like falls; and the **Chronic Disease Self-Management Program**, which teaches people living with a chronic condition how to better manage their health and their well-being.

Link 1: <https://www.acl.gov/node/427>

Link 2: <http://www.eblcprograms.org/evidence-based/map-of-programs/>

Link 3: <http://www.pearlsprogram.org/>

Link 4: <http://healthyideasprograms.org/>

Link 5: <http://www.eblcprograms.org/evidence-based/recommended-programs/homemeds/>

Link 6: <https://www.selfmanagementresource.com/programs/small-group/chronic-disease-self-management/>

**Nutrition Program** – Individuals age 60 and older can participate in the senior nutrition program. These services include the Congregate Nutrition Program and the Home-Delivered Nutrition Program, which provide healthy meals in group settings, such as at senior centers and faith-based locations, as well as in the homes of older adults who live alone. Through the Aging Network's meal providers, the programs provide a range of services including nutrition screening, assessment, education, and counseling. To find a nutrition site near you, use the **Eldercare Locator**.

Link 1: <https://www.acl.gov/programs/health-wellness/nutrition-services>

Link 2: <https://eldercare.acl.gov/Public/Index.aspx>

**Older Adults Behavioral Health Profiles** – These profiles help states and communities identify focus areas for behavioral health plans, select population-level goals, and coordinate and target services to address priority issues. The profiles compare state trends with those in the region and the nation.

- **Region I** (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont)  
Link: [https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/StateTA\\_OABHealth\\_Profiles\\_Region1.pdf](https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/StateTA_OABHealth_Profiles_Region1.pdf)
- **Region II** (New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands)  
Link: [https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/StateTA\\_OABH\\_Profiles\\_Region2.pdf](https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/StateTA_OABH_Profiles_Region2.pdf)
- **Region III** (Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia)  
Link: [https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/StateTA\\_OABH\\_Profiles\\_Region3.pdf](https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/StateTA_OABH_Profiles_Region3.pdf)
- **Region IV** (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee)  
Link: [https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/StateTA\\_OABH\\_Profiles\\_Region4.pdf](https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/StateTA_OABH_Profiles_Region4.pdf)
- **Region V** (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin)  
Link: [https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/StateTA\\_OABH\\_Profiles\\_Region5.pdf](https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/StateTA_OABH_Profiles_Region5.pdf)
- **Region VI** (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas)  
Link: [https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/StateTA\\_OABH\\_Profiles\\_Region\\_6.pdf](https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/StateTA_OABH_Profiles_Region_6.pdf)
- **Region VII** (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska)  
Link: [https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/StateTA\\_OABH\\_Profiles\\_Region\\_7.pdf](https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/StateTA_OABH_Profiles_Region_7.pdf)
- **Region VIII** (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming)  
Link: [https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/StateTA\\_OABH\\_Profile\\_Region\\_8.pdf](https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/StateTA_OABH_Profile_Region_8.pdf)
- **Region IX** (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa)  
Link: [https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/StateTA\\_OABHprofile\\_Region\\_9.pdf](https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/StateTA_OABHprofile_Region_9.pdf)
- **Region X** (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington)  
Link: [https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/StateTA\\_OABHprofile\\_Region10.pdf](https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/StateTA_OABHprofile_Region10.pdf)

**Treatment of Depression in Older Adults Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) Kit** – This kit offers information about an array of evidence-based practices for treatment and services to improve outcomes for older adults experiencing depression, including dysthymia. It considers planning, implementation, and maintenance. (SAMHSA)

Link: <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Treatment-of-Depression-in-Older-Adults-Evidence-Based-Practices-EBP-KIT/SMA11-4631CD-DVD>

## **Long-Term Services and Supports**

**VA Geriatrics and Extended Care Services (GEC)** – VHA GEC is committed to optimizing the health and well-being of Veterans who have multiple chronic conditions, life-limiting illness, or frailty or disability associated with chronic disease, aging, or injury. GEC programs maximize each Veteran's functional independence and lessen the burden of disability on Veterans and their families and caregivers.

Link: <https://www.va.gov/geriatrics/>

**Home and Community Based Services** – These services help chronically ill or disabled Veterans of any age remain in their homes. Services include Adult Day Health Care, Home-Based Primary Care, Homemaker and Home Health Aide Care, Hospice and Palliative Care, Respite Care, Skilled Home Health Care, Telehealth Care, and Veteran-Directed Care.

Link: [https://www.va.gov/GERIATRICS/Guide/LongTermCare/Home\\_and\\_Community\\_Based\\_Services.asp](https://www.va.gov/GERIATRICS/Guide/LongTermCare/Home_and_Community_Based_Services.asp)

**Residential Settings and Nursing Homes** – These care settings include Community Residential Care, Medical Foster Homes, Adult Family Homes, VA Community Living Centers, Community Nursing Homes, and State Veterans Homes.

Link: [https://www.va.gov/GERIATRICS/Guide/LongTermCare/Nursing\\_Home\\_and\\_Residential\\_Services.asp](https://www.va.gov/GERIATRICS/Guide/LongTermCare/Nursing_Home_and_Residential_Services.asp)

**VHA Caregiver Support Program** – Caregivers play an important role in the health and well-being of Veterans. The Caregiver Support Program offers training, educational resources, and multiple tools to help caregivers succeed.

Link: <https://www.caregiver.va.gov/>

**VHA Social Work** – This site offers information about VA social work services for helping Veterans and their family members and caregivers in resolving housing, finance, mood, relationship, and physical limitation issues in individual, group, or family treatment. VA social workers link Veterans to both VA and community resources and services in support of their treatment goals.

Link: <https://www.socialwork.va.gov/>

**Veteran Community Partnerships (VCP)** – This national initiative aims to ensure that all Veterans and their caregivers have access to, and the widest range of choices among, the services that allow Veterans to stay in the places they call home. VCPs are coalitions of Veterans and their caregivers, VA facilities, and community health providers, organizations, and agencies. They work together to foster and provide seamless access to, and transitions among, the full continuum of care and support services in VA and the community. (VA)

Link: <https://www.va.gov/healthpartnerships/vcp.asp>

**VCP Toolkit – Serving Those Who Served Us** – This VHA toolkit is designed to provide direction, strategy, resources, and practical tools to build and strengthen partnerships among Veterans and their caregivers, VA, and community partners. The toolkit provides helpful information and resources to build a successful VCP and specifically outlines 15 steps to form a VCP that can be adapted to focus on mental/behavioral health needs of Veterans in your community. (VHA)

Link: <https://www.va.gov/HEALTHPARTNERSHIPS/docs/VCPToolkit.pdf>

**COVER to COVER** – The Connecting Older Veterans (Especially Rural) to Community or Veteran Eligible Resources model uses the expertise of benefits counselors at community agencies such as Aging and Disability Resource Centers, Area Agencies on Aging, and Centers for Independent Living to help older Veterans access resources available from VA and community agencies. (VHA)

Link: [https://www.ruralhealth.va.gov/docs/promise/ORH\\_RuralPromisingPractice\\_COVERtoCOVER\\_\\_Overview\\_FINAL-508.pdf](https://www.ruralhealth.va.gov/docs/promise/ORH_RuralPromisingPractice_COVERtoCOVER__Overview_FINAL-508.pdf)

**Veteran-Directed Home and Community Based Services Program** – This program provides Veterans with opportunities to self-direct their long-term services and supports and to continue living independently at home. Veterans manage their own flexible budgets and decide what mix of goods and services best meet their needs. Through an options counselor, the local aging and disability network provides facilitated assessment and care/service planning, arranges fiscal management services, and offers ongoing counseling and support. (ACL/VHA)

Link: <https://nwd.acl.gov/VD-HCBS.html>

**No Wrong Door (NWD) System** – Through partnerships with community organizations, including behavioral health entities, the NWD System helps all populations, including Veterans and their caregivers, connect to an array of services that support community living. The NWD System has access points across the country that are staffed by people living in local communities. (ACL)

Link: <https://nwd.acl.gov/>

**No Wrong Door: Supporting Community Living for Veterans** – This paper describes promising practices on how aging and disability network agencies, VA medical centers (VAMCs), and Veterans benefits offices in seven states (Connecticut, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, Nevada, Utah, and Washington) have forged partnerships to better support Veterans in community living.

Link: [http://www.longtermcorecard.org/~/\\_media/Microsite/Files/2017/2017%20Scorecard/Veterans/AARP1195\\_PP\\_NWDandVeterans\\_WEB.PDF](http://www.longtermcorecard.org/~/_media/Microsite/Files/2017/2017%20Scorecard/Veterans/AARP1195_PP_NWDandVeterans_WEB.PDF)

Promoting Behavioral Health and Preventing Suicide in Older Adults: Enhanced Training for ADRC/No Wrong Door Systems (2016) (**Recording**, **Slides**, **Resource Guide 1**, and **Resource Guide 2**) – These guides provide the staffs of Aging and Disability Resource Centers and the NWD System basic information related to the behavioral health needs of older adults.

Link 1: [https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/606141/Behavioral\\_Health\\_and\\_Suicide\\_Prevention\\_Among\\_Older\\_Adults\\_FINAL.mp4](https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/606141/Behavioral_Health_and_Suicide_Prevention_Among_Older_Adults_FINAL.mp4)

Link 2: [https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/Behavioral\\_Health\\_and\\_Suicide\\_Prevention\\_Among\\_Older\\_Adults\\_FINAL.pptx](https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/Behavioral_Health_and_Suicide_Prevention_Among_Older_Adults_FINAL.pptx)

Link 3: [https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/Resource\\_Guide\\_Behavioral\\_Health\\_and\\_Suicide\\_Prevention\\_FINAL.docx](https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/Resource_Guide_Behavioral_Health_and_Suicide_Prevention_FINAL.docx)

Link 4: [https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/Resource\\_Guide\\_Behavioral\\_Health\\_and\\_Suicide\\_Prevention\\_FINAL.xlsx](https://www.acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2017-06/Resource_Guide_Behavioral_Health_and_Suicide_Prevention_FINAL.xlsx)

## Clinician Education: Serving Veterans

**Make the Connection** – This VA online resource is designed to connect Veterans, their family members and friends, and other supporters with information, resources, and solutions to issues affecting their lives. On the website, visitors can watch hundreds of Veterans share their stories of strength and recovery, find relevant information, and locate nearby resources. (VHA)

Link: <https://maketheconnection.net/>

**Make the Connection – Retirement and Aging** – Retirement and aging can be challenging. For those Veterans who have difficulty adjusting, connecting with counseling and therapy can ease this transition. Listen to Veterans talk about how they found solutions to live well as they get older, leave jobs, and start their next phase of life.

Link: <https://maketheconnection.net/events/retirement-aging>

**Military Cultural Competence – Online Course** – This interactive online training course (about 75 minutes long) provides an overview of military culture, including organizational structure, ranks, branches of service, core values, and demographics, as well as similarities and differences between the Active and Reserve components. It is intended to assist civilian mental health providers in understanding and effectively communicating and interacting with Service members and their families. (Center for Deployment Psychology, Uniformed Services University)

Link: <https://deploymentpsych.org/online-courses/military-culture>

**Military Culture: Core Competencies for Healthcare Professionals** – This course includes four modules (each about two hours long) on these topics: (1) Self-Assessment and Introduction to Military Ethos; (2) Military Organization and Roles; (3) Stressors and Resources; (4) Treatment, Resources, and Tools. (Center for Deployment Psychology, Uniformed Services University)

Link: <https://deploymentpsych.org/military-culture-course-modules>

**VHA TRAIN Learning Network** – TRAIN is a free service for learners from the Public Health Foundation and supported by the VHA Employee Education System, a VA internal education and training program office. VHA's EES-developed learning programs support the professional development needs of public health and health care providers, with a focus on Veteran patient care. TRAIN includes training on topics including geriatrics and extended care, military culture, opioid issues, and PTSD. (VHA)

Link: <https://www.train.org/vha/welcome>

**Get the Facts About Elder Abuse – Empowering Older Veterans** – This brochure describes some of the warning signs of elder abuse among older Veterans. (Department of Justice)

Link: <https://www.justice.gov/elderjustice/file/949096/download>

## Other Benefits and Support

### Medicare and Medicaid

**Medicare & Your Mental Health Benefits** – The Medicare program ([www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov)) covers certain mental health services for eligible beneficiaries. Medicare’s free Annual Wellness Visit includes a depression screen, a cognitive screen, and a personalized plan.

Link: <https://www.medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/10184-Medicare-Mental-Health-Bene.pdf>

#### **A Roadmap to Behavioral Health: A Guide to Using Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services** –

This Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services resource focuses on behavioral health as a companion guide to the **Roadmap to Better Care and a Healthier You**. It offers important information about services for mental health and substance use disorders, finding a behavioral health provider, defining behavioral health terms, receiving services, and following up on care.

Link 1: <https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/OMH/Downloads/Coverage-to-Care-Behavioral-Roadmap.pdf>

Link 2: <https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/OMH/equity-initiatives/c2c/consumerresources/roadmap-to-better-care.html>

**Low-income Subsidy (LIS) Program or Extra Help** – Medicare beneficiaries can qualify for Extra Help with their Medicare prescription drug plan costs. Extra Help is estimated to be worth about \$4,000 per year. To qualify for Extra Help, a person must be receiving Medicare, have limited resources and income, and reside in one of the 50 states or the District of Columbia.

Link: <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/prescriptionhelp/>

**Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs)** – MSPs help pay for Medicare premiums. They may also pay for Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments for those who meet certain conditions.

Link: <https://www.medicare.gov/your-medicare-costs/help-paying-costs/medicare-savings-program/medicare-savings-programs.html>

**Medicaid** – Medicaid provides health coverage to millions of Americans, including eligible low-income adults, children, pregnant women, elderly adults, and people with disabilities. Medicaid is administered by states, according to federal requirements, and is funded jointly by states and the federal government. The Medicaid program covers certain **behavioral health services**, which vary by state of residence.

Link 1: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/index.html>

Link 2: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/bhs/index.html>

## Other Federal Benefits

Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (**LIHEAP**) – LIHEAP is a federally funded, state-run program that helps members of low-income households afford their home heating and cooling bills. LIHEAP includes assistance to avert certain energy-related emergencies, such as utility shutoffs and fuel-supply shortages. LIHEAP may also help clients with other energy-related needs, such as repairing or replacing utility equipment (such as a furnace and air conditioning), also known as weatherization assistance.

Link: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/liheap/about>

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (**SNAP**) – SNAP offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities. SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net. The Food and Nutrition Service works with state agencies, nutrition educators, and neighborhood and faith-based organizations to ensure that those eligible for nutrition assistance can make informed decisions about applying for the program and can access benefits.

Link: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>

**Health Insurance Marketplace** – Some individuals may purchase coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace, which includes coverage for treating mental health conditions and substance use disorders.

Link: <https://www.healthcare.gov/coverage/mental-health-substance-abuse-coverage/>

## Other Services

**Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Technical Assistance (SMVF TA) Center** – The SMVF TA Center works with states and territories to strengthen their behavioral health systems for Service members, Veterans, and their families. (SAMHSA)

Link: <https://www.samhsa.gov/smvf-ta-center>

**Eldercare Locator** – This nationwide service connects older Americans and their caregivers with trustworthy local support resources. The Eldercare Locator is a public service of the Administration on Aging, an agency of the Administration for Community Living. Since 1991, the Eldercare Locator has been linking those who need assistance with state and local agencies on aging, as well as community-based organizations that serve older adults and their caregivers. Search for resources related to behavioral health, Alzheimer’s disease, elder abuse, healthy aging, food and nutrition, long-term care, and much more. (ACL)

Link: <https://eldercare.acl.gov/Public/Index.aspx>

**BenefitsCheckUp®** – This is the Nation’s most comprehensive free, online service to screen seniors with limited income for benefits. BenefitsCheckUp has helped more than 6.6 million people find more than \$24 billion in benefits. Older adults, caregivers, and service providers can use BenefitsCheckUp to quickly screen and apply for over 2,500 local, state, and federal benefits. (NCOA)

Link: <https://www.benefitscheckup.org/>