

Wisconsin Public Psychiatry Network Teleconference (WPPNT)

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WPPNT Reminders

How to join the Zoom webinar

- **Online:** <https://dhs.wi.zoomgov.com/j/1606358142>
- **Phone:** 669-254-5252
- Enter the Webinar ID: 160 635 8142#.
 - Press # again to join. (There is no participant ID)

Reminders for participants

- Join online or by phone by 11 a.m. Central and wait for the host to start the webinar. Your camera and audio/microphone are disabled.
- [Download or view the presentation materials](#). The evaluation survey opens at 11:59 a.m. the day of the presentation.
- Ask questions to the presenter(s) in the Zoom Q&A window. Each presenter will decide when to address questions. People who join by phone cannot ask questions.
- Use Zoom chat to communicate with the WPPNT coordinator or to share information related to the presentation.
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**Supporting Justice
Involved Veterans &
Connecting Veterans to
Appropriate Care,
Services, and Resources**

**U.S. Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Nicole Kellerman, LCSW
Veterans Justice Programs
Coordinator





“The willingness of America’s Veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude”.

Jeff Miller



Overview of VA in Wisconsin

County	State	Federal
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 72 CVSO's in Wisconsin• Main Contact for all Veterans• Can help Veterans with access to all benefits.• Counties may know of local resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wisconsin Dept. of Veterans Affairs• 1-800-WIS-VETS• Various resources<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wisconsin GI Bill• VORP• King Veteran Home• State Veteran Cemeteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• US Dept. of Veterans Affairs:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Veteran Health Administration• Veteran Benefit Administration• National Cemetery Administration



Who is Eligible for VA Healthcare?

- Veterans with at least one DD-214 showing a discharge of **Honorable** or **General Under Honorable Conditions**.
- Veterans who enlisted after 9/7/1980 and have completed 24 months of active duty time or 90 days in combat status.
- Any Veteran who has been granted a Service Connected Disability.
- Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans (OEF/OIF/OND) are automatically eligible for VA Healthcare for up to 5 years after they have discharged.
- Veterans serving in the Reserves or National Guard are **NOT** eligible for VA Healthcare unless they were activated and served in combat status for 90 days.



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VA Eligibility Continued

- Even if you think you do not meet any of the previous requirements, **APPLY** because there are exceptions, varying circumstances, and statutes can change.
- Veterans who don't qualify for VA Healthcare may be eligible for other services.

How to Apply

- Complete a 10/10EZ or 10/10EZR
- Submit a DD-214 with either eligibility form will make the process faster.



State of WI VA Medical Centers (hospital systems)

- William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital – Madison WI
- Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center – Milwaukee WI
- Tomah VA Medical Center

Outpatient Medical Clinics:

There are 15 outpatient medical clinics affiliated with the 3 hospital systems in WI.

***There are an additional 5 outpatient medical clinics affiliated with the Minneapolis VA Medical Center in NW Wisconsin.



Statistics

Less than 1% of the US population are currently serving in the US military

- Approx. 1.3 million active-duty military members in 2022
- In 2020, Dept of Veteran Affairs estimated approx. 18.5 million veterans in the United States
- Approx. 60% of US Veterans are ELIGIBLE for VA Healthcare (eligibility continues to expand)
- As of FY 2022– the VA has 9.07 million total patients enrolled in VA Healthcare
 - 6.2 million are actively using VA Health Care



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Services offered at VA for eligible veterans:

- Primary Care
- Specialty Care
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment (Inpatient and Outpatient)
- Pharmacotherapy
- On site pharmacy
- Psychosocial Rehabilitation (Domiciliary)
- Homeless Programs
- Employment Programs
 - CWT/Vocational Rehab
- **Long Term Care Options
- **Dental
- **Monetary Compensation

***Not all services will be available at each VA Location. For information on what specialty care/services are available, please contact your local VA.



Monetary Benefits

➤ Non-Service Connected Pension:

- Illness/Injury (Physical or Mental Health)/disability not a result of military service
- 100% disabled (unable to work)
- Must have served during a period of war
- Needs based
- No payments made during periods of incarceration

➤ Service Connected Compensation:

- Illness/Injury (Physical or Mental Health)/ Disability must be a result of military service
- Awarded in increments of 10% (0% - 100%)
- Tax Free income
- Not affected by other sources of income
- During incarceration payments will be lowered to either 5% or 10%



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- PTSD is slightly more common in Veterans vs. Civilians.
- 7% of veterans will report experiencing PTSD (6% in civilian population).
- Deployed veterans are 3 times more likely to experience PTSD
- Military Sexual Trauma is another cause of PTSD in Military

of veterans reporting PTSD varies by service era.

- OIF/OEF: 29/100
- Desert Storm: 21/100
- Vietnam: 10/100
- WWII/Korean War: 3/100

*Report of PTSD at some time in lifetime.

**Previous data reports higher incidence of PTSD among Vietnam Veterans. Timing of studies/Mortality Rates will affect data.



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PTSD Statistics Related to Veterans Who Use VA Health Care

- 23% veterans using VA care had PTSD at some point in their lives
- Of the 6 million veterans served by the VA in 2021, about 10% of men and 19% of women were diagnosed with PTSD.
- Approx. 1 in 3 female veterans and 1 in 50 male veterans report experiencing Military Sexual Trauma to their VA Provider.
- In 2018, more than 1.7 million veterans received tx. through Mental Health programs at the VA.

Homeless Veteran Statistics

- 70,000 Veterans and families were housed or prevented from experiencing homelessness in FY2021
- 81,000 Veterans remained housed through HUD VASH in 2021
- Since 2010, the total number of veterans experiencing homelessness in America has declined by 55.3%.
- 920,000 veterans and family members permanently housed, rapidly rehoused or prevented from being homeless since 2010



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VA Homeless Programs



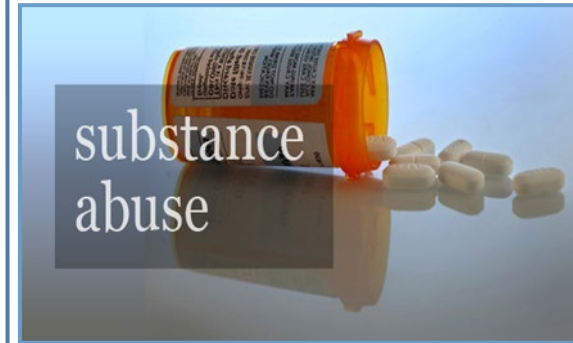
Peer Support

A Peer Specialist is a person with a mental health and/or co-occurring condition, who has been trained and certified to help Veterans with these conditions identify and achieve specific life and recovery goals.



Employment

The Homeless Veteran Supported Employment Program (HVSEP) provides vocational assistance, job development and placement, and ongoing supports to improve employment outcomes among homeless Veterans and Veterans at-risk of homelessness.



Substance Abuse

The mission of the Substance Use Disorder Services is to provide comprehensive, individualized and state-of-the-art treatment for Veterans experiencing Substance Use Disorders and related problems consistent with the mission of the Mental Health Service and medical center.

Homeless Programs – Cont.



Veterans Justice

Veterans Treatment Courts seek to treat Veterans suffering from a substance abuse and/or mental health disorder, while helping ensure public safety. These special courts combine rigorous treatment and personal accountability with the goal of breaking the cycle of drug use and criminal behavior.




HUD/VASH

HUD/VASH provides permanent housing for eligible homeless Veterans who are single or eligible homeless Veterans with families. The program is developed for homeless Veterans, so this program requires that the eligible Veteran be the main participant.



Stand Down Events

Stand Downs are typically one to three day events providing services to homeless Veterans such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, VA and Social Security benefits counseling, and referrals to a variety of other necessary services such as healthcare, housing, employment, and substance use treatment. Stand Downs are collaborative events, coordinated between local VA, other government agencies, and community agencies serving the homeless.



Homeless Programs – Cont.

- Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (**HCHV**) Outreach specialist:
- Provides outreach and crisis intervention services to homeless Veterans
- Coordinates community resources and community based services including information and referral for additional services from other VA programs, other government programs and community agency programs.

Veterans Justice Programs Mission (VJP)



- The mission of the Veterans Justice Program is to identify justice-involved Veterans and contact them through outreach, in order to facilitate access to VA services at the earliest possible point.
- Veterans Justice Programs accomplish this by building and maintaining partnerships between VA and key elements of the criminal justice system.

Veterans Justice Programs (VJP)

VJP is comprised of:

1. **Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO)**, which serves Veterans who are in contact with community law enforcement, incarcerated in local jails, & involved in treatment courts.
2. **Healthcare for Reentry Veterans (HCRV)**, which serves Veterans incarcerated in State & Federal prison as well as Veterans re-entering the community after incarceration in State & Federal prison.



Veterans Justice Programs (VJP)

Incarcerated Veterans Stats

(2016 Statistics by the Bureau of Justice Statistics / Self Reported Data):

- In 2016 there were 107,400 veterans serving time in state or federal prisons (13.3% total population)
- 98% of veteran population incarcerated in state or federal prisons is MALE
- 69% of male veteran population is incarcerated for a violent crime
- Of those, 28,900 were combat veterans (11,800 served in the Vietnam War)
- Approx. 1 in 4 incarcerated in State Facilities and 1 in 5 in Federal Facilities are CV

Veterans Justice Programs (VJP)

Incarcerated Veterans (2016 Statistics by the Bureau of Justice Statistics / Self Reported Data):

- Average age of incarcerated male veteran is between 51-50 years old (11 -14 years older than nonveterans in state/federal facilities respectively).
- An estimated 74% males in state prison and 77% males in federal prison received and honorable discharge or discharge under honorable conditions
 - Creating a pathway to eligibility to VA Services/Programs

Veterans Justice Programs (VJP)

- Justice involved veterans often have mental health and substance use concerns.
- Veterans are more likely to have had a traumatic experience than nonveterans.
- Health related concerns also differentiate veterans and nonveterans.
- Justice Involved Veterans have a higher prevalence of PTSD, Depression, substance abuse and alcoholism.
- Readjustment to civilian life is impacted by MH disorders, service in combat zones, injury and emotional trauma. Those who do not successfully manage these conditions may experience increase in homelessness, violent behaviors and involvement in justice system.

Justice For Vets Statistics (allrise.org)

1 in 5 veterans experience symptoms of mental health disorder or cognitive impairment.

1 in 6 veterans who served in Iraq & Afghanistan suffer from a substance use disorder.

50% of veterans with PTSD do not receive treatment.

181,500 Veterans are incarcerated in U.S. jails or prisons.

“VJP will ensure access to exceptional care, tailored to individual needs, by linking each veteran to VA and community services that will prevent homelessness, improve social and clinical outcomes, facilitate recovery, and end veterans’ subsequent contact with the criminal justice system”



Veterans Justice Programs (VJP)

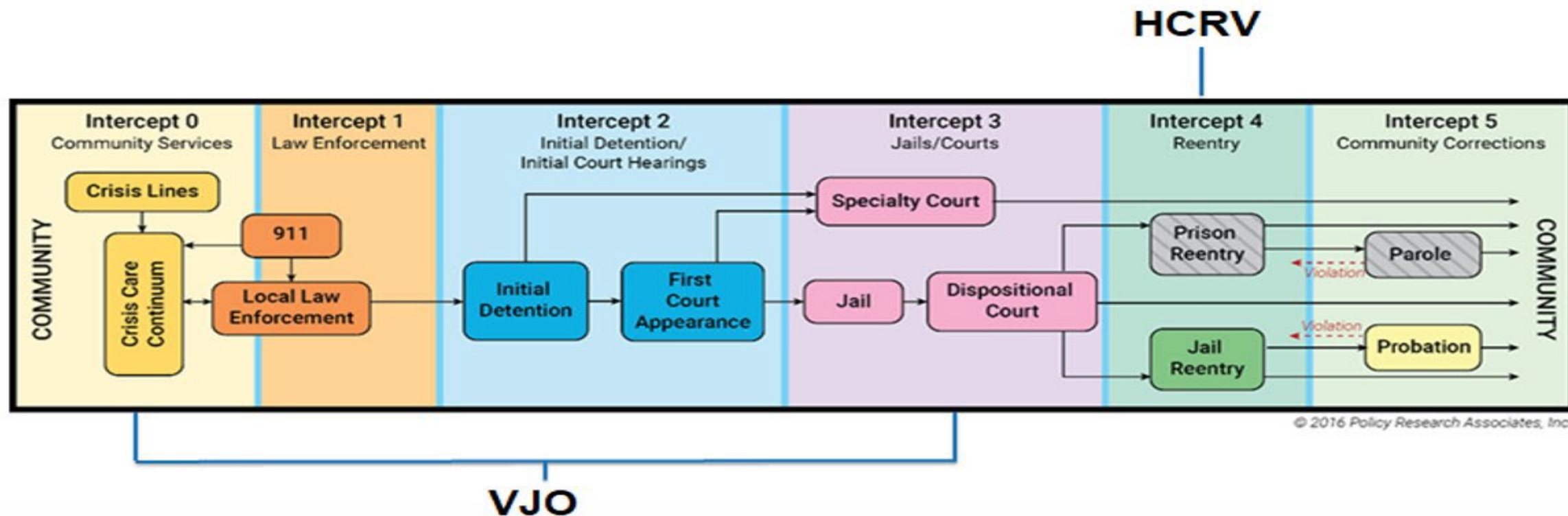
National Accomplishments for FY 2021

38,900 Veterans engaged by Veterans Justice Outreach Specialists

5,800 Veterans engaged by Healthcare for Reentry Veterans Specialists

Veteran Justice Programs

The Sequential Intercept Model



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Homeless
Programs
Office

Sequential Intercepts

Nationally VJP is seeking to intercept at earlier points

Increasing collaboration with local law enforcement agencies through CIT training and community outreach opportunities

Expanding outreach within jails

Expanding outreach to communities with diversion courts that do not have Veteran Treatment Court tracks, offering VA Support.

Veteran Justice Outreach (VJO)

Assist Justice Involved Veterans get connected to benefits they may be eligible for at the VA.

Facilitate VHA Groups

Help veterans in jail determine eligibility, assist with enrollment, and refer to both VA and Non-VA Services Upon Release.

Presentations, Trainings, and Education regarding VJP for VA staff, VA Police, Community Partners.

Veterans Justice Programs Administrative

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6207483/>

73% Veterans served by
VJP have a dual
diagnosis (PTSD & SUD)

Studies support that
87% of incarcerated
veterans have been
exposed to traumatic
events

31% male vets in jail &
23% male vets in prison
have been previously
diagnosed with PTSD

77,136 veterans were
seen by VJO between
2010-2016



Veterans Treatment Court

Clinical monitoring of justice involved veterans who are participating in Veterans Treatment Court

Collaboration with community partners and treatment team to ensure goals/mission of problem-solving court being upheld by participant.

Veteran Treatment Court Eligibility

Any Veteran with pending legal charges can be referred to VJP to assist in determination of eligibility. Eligibility for Veteran Treatment Court vary dependent on county.

Legal Eligibility is determined by the District Attorney's Office. Some Veteran Treatment Courts are "regional" courts and will accept charges from outside of the court's county.

Clinical Eligibility: VJP completes clinical assessment to determine needs, develop tx. plan, and refer to clinically indicated therapy, programs, groups, EBP's.

Veterans Treatment Court

Specialty Court or Problem-Solving Court

Based on Drug Court Model

Includes: Testing, treatment, case management, volunteer mentoring, and court appearances.

Veteran progress is praised by the court, violations of policies/procedures/veteran court participant handbook may be sanctioned (this could include jail sanctions).

Veterans Justice Programs Administrative Data (2013)

623 veterans participating in 601 VTC's or courts serving veterans across the nation (2021 data)

Average Age of Veteran in VTC: 44 years old

Veteran of 7 lifetime arrests per Veteran PRIOR to VTC.

Average Age of 1st arrest: 27 years old.

88% reduction in arrests from yr. prior to and yr. following veteran treatment court admit & involvement with VA Services/Treatment.

40% of veterans involved in VTC had a history of homelessness

Increase of 30% in stable housing from court admission to 1 year of VTC participation

Veteran Treatment Court History

The idea was brought to life in 2008 in western New York by Judge Robert Russell, who based the idea on making a hybrid court—one that took aspects of popular drug and mental health courts already established across the U.S

Veterans Justice Outreach Initiative was created to educate the legal system, law enforcement, and jails on unique issues facing today's Veterans.

Using philosophy, "Someone in crisis doesn't belong in jail but deserves some help" S. Clark, Nat'l VJO Coordinator.

[Buffalo Veterans Treatment Court - YouTube](#)

Veteran Treatment Courts in Wisconsin

Milwaukee County
Veteran Treatment Court

2nd Judicial District VTC
Racine, Kenosha,
Walworth Counties

Federal Problem –
Solving Initiative
Milwaukee VAMC

Veteran Treatment Courts in Wisconsin

Northeast WI VTC

Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Oconto,
Marinette, Waupaca

Outagamie County VTC

Outagamie Co. with consideration of
adjacent county referrals

Sheboygan Area VTC

Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Ozaukee,
Calumet, Washington, Winnebago,
Fond Du Lac

Veteran Treatment Courts in Wisconsin

Dane County VTC

Dane Co. or adjacent county that does not have a VTC.

Rock County VTC

Serving Rock County

La Crosse County VTC

La Crosse, Buffalo, Trempealeau,
Jackson, Monroe, Vernon

Chippewa Valley VTC

Dunn, Chippewa, Eau Claire Counties

Healthcare for Re-Entry Veterans (HCRV)

- The goal of the HCRV Program is to promote successful community reintegration of incarcerated Veterans by conducting outreach to vulnerable Veterans while they are incarcerated and to engage them in treatment and rehabilitation programs (after their release) that will assist in:
 - Preventing homelessness
 - Readjusting to community life
 - Preventing the commission of new crimes or violations during probation/parole

What kind of “Treatment” can VHA Provide to Incarcerated Veterans?

Per Title 38 CFR 17.38(c)(5), VHA CANNOT provide medical/mental health treatment; inpatient or outpatient care while Veterans are incarcerated.

VHA may provide pre-release outreach to justice involved Veterans, as well as, post-release follow up, when needed.

Justice Involved Veteran Statistics Bureau of Justice Statistics

Survey of Prison Inmates, 2016
Published March 2021

- An estimated 107,400 veterans were serving time in state or federal prison in 2016—the majority (98%) of which were male.
- Most male veterans in state (56%) and federal (53%) prison served in the Army.
- About 1 in 4 male veterans in state (28%) and 1 in 5 in federal (21%) prison were combat veterans.
- An estimated 74% of male veterans in state prison and 77% of those in federal prison received an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions (which means you are eligible for VA Healthcare).

VJP Outreach to Federal & State Prisons

There are 37 DOC Facilities in the State of WI offered support through the Healthcare for Reentry Program.

There are 6 HCRV Specialists supporting those facilities

What Does HCRV Look Like?

Individual meetings with Veterans, at their respective prisons

Phone conferences with Incarcerated Veterans

Outreach activities in the community, and with collaborating community partners.

Presentations, Trainings, and Education of Incarcerated Veterans, prison employees, DOC employees and VA staff.

Veteran coordinator/representative point of contact at DOC Institutions to assist in benefit information/VA Healthcare/General VA information.

Veteran coordinator/representative point of contact at each institution (DOC

What services does VJP offer to Veterans and Justice System Staff:

- **Outreach**

To Veterans incarcerated or otherwise involved with criminal justice entities

- **Treatment –Matching Assessment**

VJP staff are Behavioral Health Licensed Independent Practitioners who can provide an initial assessment of treatment needs & plan with Veterans

- **Education**

To Veterans, criminal justice, & VA staff on justice-involved Veteran dynamics & resources

- **Case Management**

Linking to needed services for those in treatment courts or engaging in VA services

- **Consultation & Advocacy**

To increase access to clinical services for justice-involved Veterans

- **Systems Intervention**

To improve services, change policies, & establish identification processes

- **Facilitating Access to Civil Legal Services**

Compile & maintain listings of legal resources, as well as build partnerships where needed

Wisconsin VJP Contacts

- **Anna Harttert (2nd Judicial VTC/ HCRV)**
 - Coverage: Walworth, Kenosha, Racine Counties
 - 414-690-8605
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Resources

NEWVTC: [637047856003670000 \(newvtc.org\)](https://newvtc.org)

Outagamie County VTC: [637047856003670000 \(outagamie.org\)](https://outagamie.org)

Milwaukee County VTC: <https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/Courts/Chief-Judge/Veterans-Treatment-Court>

Sheboygan Area VTC: [Sheboygan Area Veterans Treatment Court | Sheboygan County](https://sheboyganarea.org/veterans-treatment-court)

Lac Crosse Co. VTC: <https://www.lacrossecounty.org/veterans/court-initiative>

Chippewa Valley VTC: <https://www.eauclairecounty.gov/our-government/departments-and-facilities/departments-directory/human-services/behavioral-health-services/treatment-courts>

Dane County VTC: <https://courts.countyofdane.com/Alternatives/Veterans-Treatment-Court>

Rock County VTC: <https://www.co.rock.wi.us/departments/circuit-court/treatment-courts/veterans-treatment-court>

Resources

<https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/VJO.asp> (gen VJP)

<https://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp>

[Treatment courts are justice reform - Justice For Vets](#)

[Home | Bureau of Justice Statistics \(ojp.gov\)](#)

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

<https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/veterans-prison-survey-prison-inmates-2016>

<https://time.com/6232785/us-veterans-criminal-justice/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6207483/>

Questions?





Veteran Justice Program:

Veteran Justice Program is made up of Veteran Justice Outreach (VJO) & Healthcare for Reentry Veterans (HCRV). Veteran Justice Program Coordinators are hybrid roles, encompassing both programs. VJP's purpose is to serve Veterans who are in contact with the criminal justice system, across the spectrum from law enforcement contact to release from prison, jail or other correctional facilities. The mission of VJP is to identify justice involved Veterans, in order to facilitate access to VA Services at the earliest point possible.

- **Veteran Justice Outreach (VJO):** Directly serves Veterans in the community in contact with law enforcement, incarcerated in local jails or involved in **Veteran treatment courts**.
- **Healthcare for Reentry Veterans (HCRV):** Serves Veterans incarcerated in state or federal prisons who are reentering the community post incarceration.

Prison Outreach:

HCRV focuses on successful reintegration to the community following incarceration in prison. HCRV conducts outreach to incarcerated Veterans 6-12 months prior to release from incarceration to assist in reconnection to VA Healthcare and Services. Brief assessments are completed to determine post incarceration needs. HCRV assists in eligibility, enrollment and connection to VA / Non-VA Resources with the hope of increasing engagement. Goals of the program: Preventing Homelessness, supporting readjustment to community life, prevention of new crimes/parole or probation violations post incarceration.

Veteran Treatment Court (VTC):

VJO's provide clinical monitoring of VA Eligible participants involved in VTC's. VJO's collaborate with community partners and treatment team members to ensure Veteran treatment needs are being met as well as the goals/mission of the problem-solving court. Veteran Treatment Courts of WI.

- **2nd Judicial District of WI Veteran Treatment Court**
 - Serving Racine, Kenosha and Walworth Counties
 - Must reside within Racine, Kenosha or Walworth Counties
- **Federal Problem-Solving Initiative**
 - Covered by VJP's out of MKE
- **Milwaukee County Veteran Treatment Court**
 - Serving only Milwaukee County cases
- **Sheboygan Area Veteran Treatment Court**
 - Serving Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Ozaukee, Calumet, Washington, Winnebago, Fond Du Lac Counties
 - Must reside within one of the counties served.

- **Outagamie County Veteran Treatment Court**
 - Serving Outagamie County with consideration of Shawano, Calumet, Winnebago and Waupaca on case by case review
 - Outagamie Co. Residency preferred but not required
- **Northeast WI Veteran Treatment Court (NEWVTC):**
 - Serving Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Marinette, Oconto, Waupaca
 - Brown Co. Residency Requirement
- **Dane County Veteran Treatment Court**
 - Serving Dane Co. or counties adjacent without a VTC.
 - Coverage provided by Madison VAMC
- **Rock County Veteran Treatment Court**
 - Serving Rock County Residents / Rock County Cases
 - Coverage provided by Madison VAMC
- **La Crosse County Veteran Treatment Court**
 - Serving La Crosse, Buffalo, Trempealeau, Jackson, Monroe, Vernon Counties
 - Coverage provided by Tomah VAMC
- **Chippewa Valley Veteran Treatment Court**
 - Serving Dunn, Chippewa, Eau Claire Counties
 - Coverage provided by Minneapolis VAMC

VJP Program Services:

- **Outreach** to justice involved/incarcerated Veterans – assist in determining eligibility, assist with enrollment, assist in reinstatement of SC Benefits, connect to the VA and refer to appropriate VA and NON-VA Resources.
- **Treatment Matching Assessments:** clinical assessments to determine needs, treatment plan and matching; consulting/referring to applicable programs/groups/EBP's.
- **Education:** Providing in reach and outreach to colleagues within the VA and community partners regarding VJP Program, homeless program and VA resources.
- **Case Management:** clinical case management services to Veterans involved in local Veteran Treatment Courts, justice involved Veterans who are newly engaged in VA Healthcare Services or Veterans reentering their communities post extensive incarceration.
 - Case management is more extensive for those involved in VTC's.
 - Case management is time limited for those releasing from prison or jails and typically for the duration of time following incarceration prior to engagement until some stability has been achieved.
- **Consultation/Advocacy:** Consultation with community partners and VA staff regarding justice involved Veterans (dynamics, resources). Advocacy for increase clinical services for justice involved Veterans.
- **Resources:** maintaining and compiling local resources for justice involved Veterans, as well as building partnerships within the community to increase opportunities for justice involved Veterans.
- VJP's act as a **liaison** with local law enforcement agencies, sharing information on locally available resources for veterans, assist in development of procedures for local law enforcement officers when dealing with justice involved veterans requiring access to VA Care. VJP's provide presentation at law enforcement meetings, CIT trainings, and other activities as appropriate.

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