



# The National Hospice – Veteran Partnership Program Fact Sheet

**What are Hospice-Veteran Partnerships?** Hospice-Veteran Partnerships (HVP) are coalitions of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities, community hospices, and others working together to ensure that excellent care at the end of life is available for our nation's veterans and their families. These coalitions can be community-based or statewide and may function independently or within an existing structure. HVP is a national program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Hospice and Palliative Care Initiative.

**Why form HVPs?** The mission of HVP is to establish an enduring network of hospice and VA professionals, veterans, volunteers, and other interested organizations working together to provide quality services through the end of life for veterans. The purpose of HVP is to provide leadership, technical assistance, and program development recommendations aimed at:

1. Improving veterans' access to hospice and palliative care across all sites and levels of care to assure that every veteran is able to receive hospice care at the time and place of need;
2. Strengthening the relationships between community hospice and VA facilities; and
3. Initiating comprehensive end-of-life community engagement plans designed to reach veterans.

**Who should be a member of HVP?** Suggested members of HVP include:

State Hospice Organizations; community hospices; VA facilities; State Veterans Homes; Veterans Service Organizations; veterans; military hospitals; established end-of-life coalitions in the state, and other national and community organizations interested in improving care through the end of life for veterans

**What kinds of things can HVP do?** There are many activities that can help HVP realize its mission. Some of these may include:

1. Conduct an assessment to determine what the needs of veterans are in your community.
2. Hold a statewide educational event to provide information on hospice and the VA healthcare system to hospices and VA facilities.
3. Conduct community outreach educational programs for veterans' groups about advance care planning, available resources, and care options.
4. Educate community agencies about veterans' issues and benefits.

**What help is available to start HVPs?**

**To get more information about existing HVPs and request technical assistance call:**

For more information about starting or joining an HVP, contact:

- your State Hospice Organization
- Diane Jones, HVP Project Administrator at (202) 273-8826 or [Diane.Jones@va.gov](mailto:Diane.Jones@va.gov)
- Judi Lund Person, Vice President, Division of Quality End-of-Life Care, National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization at (703) 837-3122 or [jlundperson@nhpco.org](mailto:jlundperson@nhpco.org).

**To locate the state hospice organization in your area, call (800) 658-8898 or visit the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Web site ([www.nhpco.org](http://www.nhpco.org)). Go to the *Inside NHPCO/Login* section, select *Council of States Home*, and click on *Council of States Contact Information*.**

**For HVP and VA web resources, go to:**

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Veterans' Page: [www.nhpco.org/veterans](http://www.nhpco.org/veterans)

Department of Veterans Affairs: [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

VA Hospice and Palliative Care Program: [www.VAHospice.gov](http://www.VAHospice.gov)

HVP Toolkit: [www.ethosconsult.com/toolkit](http://www.ethosconsult.com/toolkit)

Veteran Demographics: <http://www1.va.gov/vetdata/page.cfm?pg=2>

Veteran Health Benefits Fact Sheets: [http://www.vba.va.gov/benefit\\_facts/index.htm](http://www.vba.va.gov/benefit_facts/index.htm)

VA Nationwide Palliative Care Network: [www.hospice.va.gov](http://www.hospice.va.gov)