

Washington DC
VA Medical Center
Office of Public Affairs

50 Irving Street, NW
Washington, DC 20422
202-745-4037



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Press Release

Contact Office of Public Affairs
Gloria Hairston: 202-745-4037

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 27, 2016

Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center Takes Active Stand to Eliminate and Prevent Veteran Homelessness with a Community Stand Down

WASHINGTON, DC— Homeless or at-risk Veterans may not be recognized right away. They look like anyone you might pass at the local bus stop or coffee shop. They are men and women, of various age groups and ethnicities, some with obvious handicaps, and some with disabilities you cannot see. The reasons that brought them to this point in their lives are just as numerous as they are.

According to the 2015 Annual Homeless Assessment Report, there were 47,725 homeless Veterans nation-wide on a single cold night in January and it's estimated that two times as many Veterans are at-risk of becoming homeless. With more than 408 of them in DC, 714 in Maryland and 604 in Virginia, the Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center's staff is bringing together federal, local and state government agencies, Veteran Service Organizations, as well as corporate and non-profit community partners under one roof.

The Winterhaven Homeless Veterans Stand Down will be held Saturday, January 30, 2016 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 50 Irving Street, NW, Washington, DC. The stand down offers VA health care, benefits assistance and services, as well as one-on-one housing and employment counseling, solutions and resources for homeless, at-risk and underemployed Veterans. The event was originally scheduled for last week, but was postponed due to the record-breaking snowfall.

Eligible Veterans throughout the DC area will be provided free transportation from local shelters and public transportation stops, Brookland/CUA Station, to personally meet with more than 60 community organizations and government agencies which have joined forces with the DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center to avert Veteran homelessness in the DC metropolitan area.

According to Brian A. Hawkins, MHA, Medical Center Director/CEO, "Winterhaven is an entry point for services that lead Veterans to independence and improved health. It is an integral part of the DC VA Medical Center's comprehensive effort to eliminate and prevent Veteran homelessness."

The full day of services, which address many of the contributing factors associated with homelessness, include; employment and education counseling, financial planning, substance