

ADDRESSING THE *HIDDEN PROBLEM* OF

# HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS

**10 PERCENT OF THE HOMELESS VETERANS IN AMERICA  
ARE WOMEN, MANY WITH CHILDREN.**

The more than 4,000 homeless women Veterans in our country today need help. They represent the fastest growing demographic of homeless Veterans. Between 2006 and 2010 their number doubled indicating the special challenges women transitioning from war zones to domestic life face, especially when children are involved. Single mothers, in particular, may have difficulty finding employment while re-engaging with their obligations at home.



## THE IMPORTANCE OF EMPLOYMENT

While many resources exist to support Veterans, currently, there are fewer programs specifically dedicated to this population of homeless women Veterans who are mothers.

Research shows that more than 60 percent of transitional housing programs offered to female Veterans do not accept children, or restricted their age and the number of dependents allowed within a facility.<sup>1</sup> Further, the ability to secure housing often requires employment stability, compounding issues for many homeless Veterans.

Employment can be the lynchpin to success and is a significant predictor of long-term success for female Veterans and their families.

## A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE VA: PROVIDING SERVICES AND BENEFITS NEEDED TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and TriWest Healthcare Alliance have launched a public-private partnership that will connect women Veterans who are homeless or at risk of being homeless with meaningful, stable employment.

In partnership with VA, TriWest Healthcare Alliance identifies employment opportunities by working closely with female Veterans with children to match their interests and skills with employers who value these qualities and recognize that our nation's Veterans are ideal job candidates. The program provides:

- A city-specific focus and rollout, starting in Seattle and expanding to other locations
- Collaboration with local partners to offer other programs to support female Veterans
- Close coordination with local employers to identify opportunities
- One-on-one, specialized interaction with female Veterans with children to assess skills and employment goals
- Continued services by VA including housing assistance and healthcare

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Homeless women Veterans who are seeking employment assistance can contact their local VA Medical Center, or visit <http://www.va.gov/homeless/>, or call 1-877-424-3838.

For specific information about healthcare for women Veterans, please visit: <http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/>.

For specific information about employment, training opportunities, and other resources, visit the Veterans Employment Center: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/jobs>.



VA



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of Veterans Affairs