



# Hospice-Veteran Partnerships

*“Ensuring Excellent Care for our Nation’s Veterans”*

Hospice-Veteran Partnerships (HVPs) are coalitions of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities, community hospices, end-of-life care or community organizations and others working together to ensure that excellent care at the end of life is available for our nation’s Veterans and that support is available for their families. These partnerships can be community based or statewide and may function independently or within an existing structure.

## ***Why HVP?***

- More than 1,800 Veterans die every day in this country, with only a small percentage of those deaths occurring in VA facilities.
- Many Veterans may not know about, or have access to, hospice and palliative care.
- Many hospices may not know which patients are Veterans and what end-of-life issues which are specific to Veterans may arise.

## ***What is HVP?***

- Multiple hospices and palliative care providers form partnerships with VA facilities and programs.
- These Hospice-Veteran Partnerships (HVPs) work together to improve end-of-life care for Veterans.
- Hospice staff and VA staff provide information to each other about what services they provide and who is eligible for care, and how to resolve issues related to referral and reimbursement.
- They provide each other with formal education and resources about their specific knowledge and skills.
- They may also provide joint community education programs or speakers to raise the level of awareness of Veterans’ end-of-life care issues.

## ***Why partner with other hospices?***

- Given that the ration of VA facilities to hospice agencies is about 1:32, most community hospices and VA HPC staff do not have one-on-one relationships with each other.
- HVPs offer the most efficient and effective way to serve Veterans and meet their needs at the end of life.
- Having established relationships through HVPs increases Veterans access to hospice and palliative care services.
- HVPs facilitate communication, collaboration and coordination of care and benefits for Veterans across VA and community care settings.

## ***What activities do HVPs do?***

- Conducting assessments to determine Veterans’ needs in the community.
- Sharing information with Veterans’ groups about advance care planning, available resources, and care options.
- Holding events to educate hospice providers and VA facilities about opportunities for partnership.
- Establishing networks of mentors and experts to assist hospices and VA facilities with staff and program development.
- Developing speakers’ bureaus for outreach activities to Veterans service organizations, community agencies, and VA facilities.
- Educating community agencies about Veterans’ issues and benefits.
- Holding town meetings for Veterans and their caregivers.

**For more information about Hospice-Veteran Partnerships contact [Veterans@nhpco.org](mailto:Veterans@nhpco.org)**