



Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
VA MIDWEST HEALTH CARE NETWORK
Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 23
Network Update
August 2011
www.visn23.va.gov



VA Awards HUD, VA Grants to Minnesota Public Housing Agencies

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki recently announced the award of \$460,000 to public housing agencies in two Minnesota cities to supply permanent housing and case management for 75 of the state's homeless Veterans.

This initiative strengthens ongoing efforts to eliminate Veteran homelessness by 2015 and improves the quality of life for Veterans who are homeless. The funding, from Housing and Urban Development's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program (HUD-VASH), is a coordinated effort by HUD, VA and local housing agencies.

Homeless Veterans are referred to the public housing agencies for "Housing Choice" Section 8 vouchers to assist with rent payment. Eligible homeless Veterans receive VA-provided case management and services to support stability and recovery from physical and mental health, substance use, and functional concerns contributing to or resulting from homelessness.

Veterans participating in the HUD-VASH program rent privately owned housing and generally contribute no more than 30 percent of their income toward rent. Learn more about VA's efforts to eliminate homeless at www.va.gov/homeless.

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Mother, daughter, sister, wife, partner ... veteran.

VA cares for the whole woman.



• Primary care



• Reproductive care

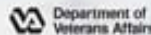


• Mental health care



• Sensitive to women veterans' needs and experiences

VA's national network ensures that your medical history goes where you go.



★ *You served, you deserve the best care anywhere.* ★

Women who served in the Armed Forces are eligible for a variety of veterans' benefits. The VA actively encourages women to use the benefits due them. To learn more, contact the Women Veterans Program Manager at your local VA medical center.

Appointments feature added to My HealtheVet Website



Veterans can now keep track of their past and upcoming VA medical appointments and get e-mail appointment reminders through My HealtheVet (www.myhealth.va.gov).

Veterans who use My HealtheVet can view their VA appointments in the 'Get Care' section of their account. The system also allows them to set up e-mail reminders of upcoming appointments if they elect to subscribe to e-mail reminders for appointments on the Health Calendar within the website.

The feature is only available to Veterans who have registered for a My HealtheVet account and have been in-person authenticated. The in-person authentication process upgrades the Veteran's account, which allows them to take advantage of all the advanced features available on My HealtheVet. The in-person authentication can be done when you come to the VA for an appointment, see a Release of Information clerk and they will assist you.

Veterans who are interested in creating a My HealtheVet account should log onto www.myhealth.va.gov and click on "Register Today", or contact a My HealtheVet Coordinator at any of our VA medical centers.

Tele-ICU Services Brings More Specialized Care to Veterans



In August, VISN 23 launched a new system of care that increases Veterans access to critical care specialists and adding an extra layer of support for bedside staff. The Tele-ICU program aids in the management and monitoring of ICU patients by connecting the Veteran, the local provider and a team of ICU specialists based out of the Minneapolis VA Medical Center at the bedside. This two-way, real time, high-tech communication system creates an environment of care that is proactive, rather than reactive and standardizes best practices across the Network. The roll-

out of Tele-ICU services began on August 2 in Minneapolis and we expect to have Tele-ICU offered throughout the Network by the end of the year.

Upcoming Events

August 15: Dementia Caregivers Support Group - [VA Central Iowa Health Care System](#) from 1 - 2:30 p.m. (CDT) PVA office - 3703 1/2 Douglas Ave, Des Moines, Iowa (parking and entrance are behind building). This is a support group that is co-sponsored by the VA and the Alzheimer's Association. Those who would benefit from this support group are persons who are caring for or are concerned about a loved one who has dementia. The group will provide education related to dementing illnesses and an opportunity for supportive visiting with other caregivers.

August 17: Veteran Appreciation Day - [St. Cloud VA Health Care System](#) from 4 - 8 p.m. (CDT) at the American Legion Post 187, located at 186 State Hwy 55N in Glenwood, Minn. Veterans from all eras are invited to take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about the VA and the benefits provided to eligible Veterans. Veterans do not need to be a member of the VFW or American Legion to attend either of these sessions.



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August 26: Welcome Home Celebration for returning combat Veterans and families - [VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System](#) from 4 - 8 p.m. (CDT) at the Amazing Pizza Machine, 13955 South Plaza, Omaha, Neb. Veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan and their families are encouraged to join us to enjoy a fun family evening at the Amazing Pizza Machine. In addition to lot of great free activities, we will have information booths for Veterans to learn about their VA eligibility and benefits, and even enroll for health care.

August 27 & 28: VA outreach team at Defenders of Freedom Air Show and Open House - [VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System](#) from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (CDT) at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. VA health care's outreach team will have an information booth at the Offutt AFB air show. Stop by and learn about your VA eligibility and benefits.

August 31 & 28: Women veterans education meeting - [VA Central Iowa Health Care System](#) from 5:30 - 7 p.m. (CDT) at Bldg. 12, Multipurpose Room B109, A Central Iowa Health Care System, 3600 30th St., Des Moines, Iowa. Come share a light dinner and discuss stress management and mental health. Participate in some music and relaxation as well.

VA Websites Offer Calendar of Events, Weather Alerts, and Much More

For information on special events, or weather related alerts, log on to your local VA facility's homepage.

VA Black Hills HCS	www.blackhills.va.gov
VA Central Iowa HCS	www.centraliowa.va.gov
Fargo, ND VA HCS	www.fargo.va.gov
Iowa City VA HCS	www.iowacity.va.gov
Minneapolis VA HCS	www.minneapolis.va.gov
VA Nebraska Western Iowa HCS	www.nebraska.va.gov
Sioux Falls VA HCS	www.siouxfalls.va.gov
St. Cloud VA HCS	www.stcloud.va.gov
VISN 23	www.visn23.va.gov

For more information, call the Network Office at (612) 725-1968 or
Log on at www.visn23.va.gov or email sharyl.schaepe@va.gov