

# VA Voluntary Service and Veteran Programming

CNCS Senior Corps Technical  
Assistance Webinar

Thursday, May 3, 2012

# Outline

- VA Voluntary Service Introduction
- Working with VA Voluntary Service
- Volunteer Opportunities and Requirements
- Volunteer Training, Benefits and Recognition
- Record Keeping and Reporting
- Local VAVS Representatives and Deputies

# Workshop Outcomes

- As a result of this session, participants will be able to:
  - Understand VA Voluntary Service Program Opportunities
  - Determine if VAVS Local Council Participation is right for your program

# Working with VA Voluntary Service

- VAVS Program Manager
  - Provides Volunteer Orientation
  - Directs Volunteer Recruitment, Placement, Training, Evaluation and Recognition
  - Manages Volunteer Records
  - Educates VA Staff in Management of Volunteers
  - Terminates Volunteers
  - Develops Volunteer Assignments

# VAVS Volunteer Opportunities

- Regularly Scheduled (RS) Volunteers
  - Regular scheduled assignment
  - Signed Waiver and Appointment Agreement
  - Participation in required screening, orientation and training
  - Completed trial period
- Occasional Volunteers
- Community Organization Volunteers
- Non Citizen Volunteers

# Volunteer Training

- Each VAMC is responsible for training
  - Some consistency across VAMCs
- Generally will include:
  - Interview
  - Orientation
  - Fingerprinting, ID, background check and TB test depending on assignment

# Volunteer Benefits and Recognition

- Meals if assignment is at least 4 hours
- Parking
- Identification
- Medical Treatment
  - Physical examinations, flu shots, etc.
- Use of VA Facility Services
- Recognition
  - Awards
  - Plaques

# VAVS Records and Reporting

- Voluntary Service System (VSS)
  - Electronic volunteer hour record keeping
  - Quarterly volunteer hour reports
- Annual Joint Review (AJR)
  - Conducted annual
  - Assesses organization's VAVS participation
  - Develop goals for upcoming year

# Local VAVS Reps and Deps

- Establish local VAMC relationship
- Volunteer Managers
- Responsibilities
  - Registered as VAVS Volunteers
  - Develop working relationship at VAMC
  - Attend quarterly VAVS Committee meetings
  - Develop volunteer recruitment strategies
  - Volunteer record keeping
  - Annual Joint Review

# VAVS Rep/Dep Application Process

- Registered Volunteer
  - Sr. Corps recommends Program Staff to serve in this capacity
- Submit written request to National Certifying Official
  - Jan Newsome, Sr. Corps Program Officer

# Veteran Service Organizations

- VSOs...What are they?
  - National organizations with state and local affiliates
  - Provide assistance and benefits to veterans and families as well as general community members
  - May require membership based on veteran status
- Examples
  - The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Gold Star Mothers, Wounded Warrior Project

# Resources

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)
- VA Medical Center Facilities [www.va.gov/directory](http://www.va.gov/directory)
- VA Homeless Veterans Program Office [www.va.gov/homeless](http://www.va.gov/homeless)
- VA National Cemetery Program [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov)
- VA Salute To Hospitalized Veterans [www.volunteer.va.gov/NationalSaluteVeteranPatients.asp](http://www.volunteer.va.gov/NationalSaluteVeteranPatients.asp)
- Center for Women Vets [www.va.gov/womenvet](http://www.va.gov/womenvet)
- National Center for PTSD [www.ptsd.va.gov](http://www.ptsd.va.gov)
- VA Recognized Veteran Service Organizations [www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditations/index.asp](http://www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditations/index.asp)
- National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) [www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org)
- National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs [www.nasdva.net](http://www.nasdva.net)
- National Association of County Veteran Service Officers [www.nacvso.org](http://www.nacvso.org)
- Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training (DOLVETS) [www.dol.gov/vets](http://www.dol.gov/vets)