

OPERATION RAPID RESPONSE

Helping All Veterans and their families leave homelessness regardless of where they live in New Mexico.

Eligible Veterans include:

1. Veterans that have served at least one day on active duty
2. Veterans who are or have served in the National Guard or Reserve Forces
3. Unremarried Surviving Spouses of a Veteran that would have been eligible if alive today



The program is designed to help any eligible Veteran or Surviving Spouse in the state by either providing direct assistance from one of our staff who will meet the Veteran where they live, OR, assisting another care coordinator already providing services to our Veterans with financial support to meet their needs.

- All discharges except DISHONORABLE will be considered for eligibility purposes
- Any Veteran or Surviving Spouse without a DD214 or NGB22 can still be supported if we can verify their Veteran status or that of their loved one (please talk to our team)
- Funds and services available anywhere in New Mexico
- Care Coordinators do not need to be licensed professionals

For more information please contact our Outreach Specialist, Alyssa Bond at: alyssa.bond@nmvic.org or (505) 355-9869.

If You Know A Veteran In Need

Call us at 505-296-0800



www.nmvic.org



Supporting Veteran Families "Beyond the Battlefield"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 8/5/2020

Contact: Jessica DeLuna, Veterans Integration Centers
Community Development Coordinator
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OPERATION ONWARD SUPPORT CONTINUES TO HELP DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

(Albuquerque, NM) –For over 15 years, the annual Albuquerque Homeless Stand Down has been conducted each year to help increase community connections and resources to our homeless Veteran community. Scheduled for October 23, 2020, we have had to cancel this essential event due to community gathering restrictions related to the Coronavirus pandemic. This difficult decision was made in order to keep attendees, providers, and volunteers safe.

In lieu of the annual event, VIC Staff will be deployed throughout the Albuquerque metro area as part of Operation Onward Support to conduct a day of service that will take place on Friday, October 23, 2020. The VIC will deploy several Mobile Outreach Teams to provide critically needed items including food, socks, and cold weather gear as we prepare for the winter months. Emergency housing will be immediately provided to any Veteran willing to accept services by the VIC or other service providers. Referrals to other resources will also be provided for those needing them.



The VIC is currently accepting donations for Operation Onward Support. Needed items include small toiletry items, backpacks, sleeping bags, blankets, cold weather gear, and bottled water. Financial contributions can be made directly to the VIC or by using our secure [online](#) server. Because of the growing COVID crisis, donations are even more essentially needed to provide services and support during Operation Onward Support to all homeless Veterans still living on the streets in New Mexico.

The annual Albuquerque Homeless Stand Down is typically held every October at the Rock at Noon Day. The event brings together over 40 local and Federal service providers, many who can immediately help someone in need. Veterans receive a variety of assistance including help with filing for VA benefits, legal consultations, basic medical screenings and immunizations, and many other invaluable services by a caring community.

The Stand Down concept is modeled after military stand downs popularized during the Vietnam War to offer battle-weary soldiers a temporary safe haven to rest, receive medical treatment, get a hot meal, and receive other services before returning to combat action.

About Veterans Integration Centers: Incorporated in 2005, the VIC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in New Mexico and is recognized as an experienced and respected community leader. The VIC is a vital resource for Veterans and their families in New Mexico providing a multitude of services including multiple housing assistance options, peer support, food and nutrition, and case management services to Veterans, their families, and the community. For additional information about the Veterans Integration Centers please visit nmvic.org or call us at 505-296-0800.

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2019 ANNUAL REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Each year, we strive to help Veteran families throughout the state end their homeless situation, and work tirelessly to develop and improve services offered to our nation's Heroes. As we reflect on 2019, we saw a significant shift of dwindling support for homeless Veteran families in New Mexico, as the number of homeless Veterans grew (16.4%-US HUD). We have not allowed this to change our commitment to our Veteran families, and feel that our support of them is even more important in 2020.

During these past 19 years of combat operations, it has become commonplace to see a "yellow ribbon" on trees and homes. This ribbon is special to many Veterans and their families as it has meant "bring our troops home". We hope you now see this yellow ribbon to remind you to "give our Veterans a home" by supporting the mission of the VIC to continue honoring their service and sacrifices to our nation.

- Bobby S. Ehrig, CEO, Combat Wounded Veteran



DID YOU KNOW?

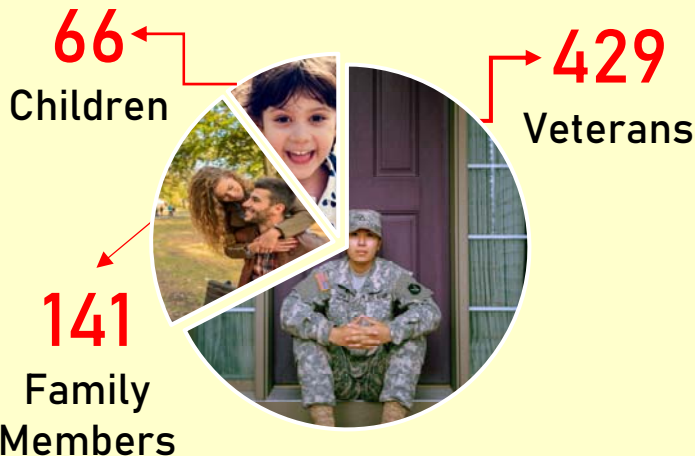
148,264
VETERANS Live In New Mexico



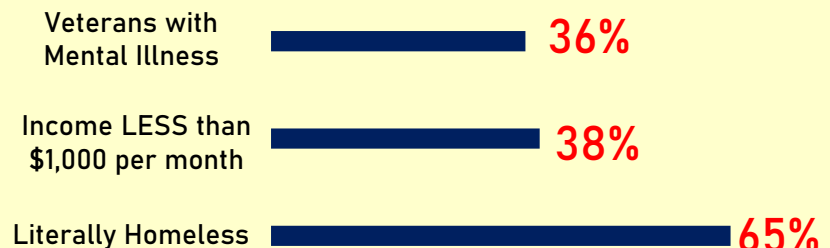
As Many as 15,000

VETERANS Living in Poverty or Homeless

Families Are OUR Mission



Who WE Help



Success is measured one Veteran at a time!



75%
HOUSING
STABILITY
12 months after Exit

\$205,000
DONATED GOODS
given to Veterans



FOOD SECURITY

112,375 POUNDS
Food Distributed

1,318 HOUSEHOLDS
Served



532 FAMILIES
Provided Furniture

66 HOME DELIVERY
To Disabled Families

Approximately 26% of New Mexico residents are food insecure & have to decide between rent and their next meal. NO program receives funding for many of these essential living items, but the VIC believes they are integral to the successful transition toward long-term independence. The VIC is the only program in New Mexico that fully furnishes each Veterans home as they transition to permanent housing, and provides weekly food resources to ease that stressful experience; and we still have **less than 10%** overhead costs.

Please help us continue our efforts by donating today!

How YOU Can Help End Veteran Homelessness



\$20
Winter Coat,
Hat & Gloves



\$30
Pants & Shoes



\$50 a Month
Food for Family of 4
For ONE Year!



\$100 a Month
Furniture or
Move-In Costs
For Family of 4
to their New Home