Colorado Veterans Services Guide

Michael Smith,

Warriors Program Manager

No Barriers USA

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Introduction

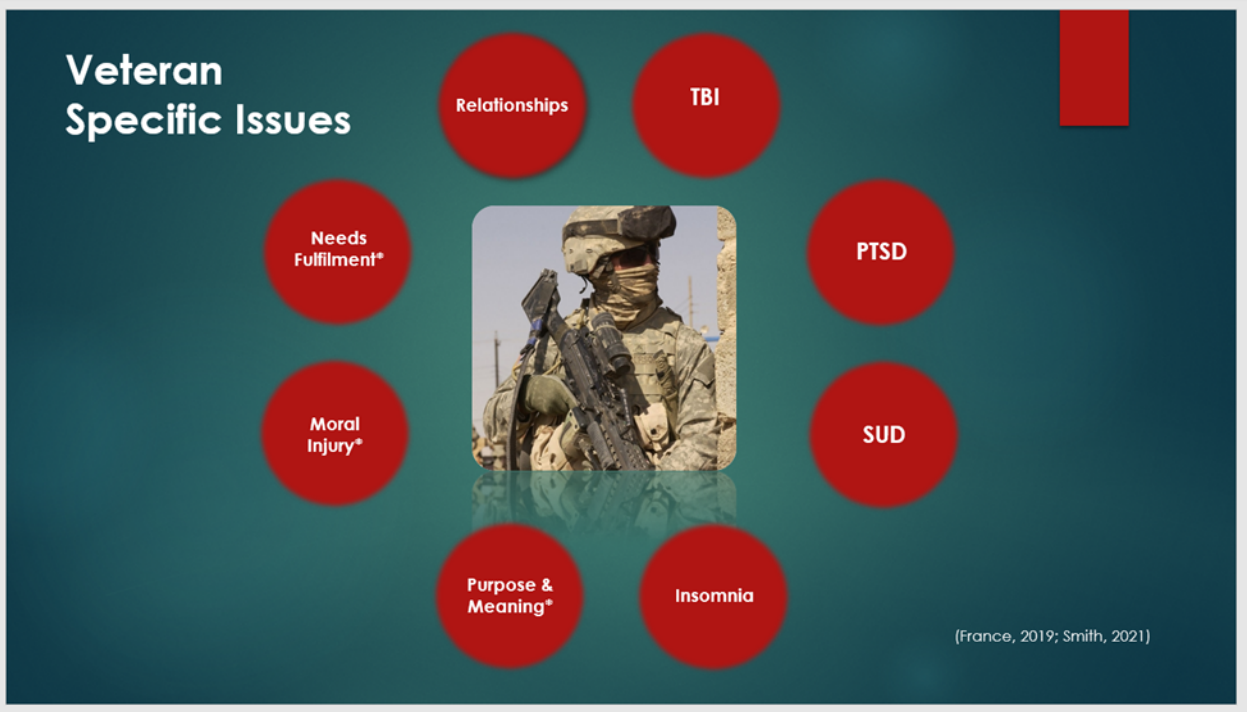
This guide is intended for case managers, social workers, vocational specialists, probation officers, peer professionals, and anyone else who works with the military and veteran population (particularly veterans experiencing homelessness). The information presented here is accurate as of May 2022, and updates will be distributed every 18 months. If you have suggestions for changes or have updated information, please let me know.

Michael Smith, JD, CPFS
US Army (Ret)
Program Manager
No Barriers USA
mdsmith263@gmail.com
915-241-7751

General Veterans Information

Overview of military and veteran issues

Veterans live with the same problems and issues as many other Americans: relationship issues, traumatic brain injuries, post traumatic stress, and substance use disorder. However, some veterans (particularly younger veterans or those with combat deployments) experience a number of issues unique to the military population: struggling to fulfill basic needs, moral injury, a lack of purpose and meaning, and military training/combat reinforced insomnia. Furthermore, the number of veterans with adverse childhood experience is greater than that of the general population, leading to poorer outcomes in post-deployment mental health.



Needs Fulfillment

- The military is a “socialist utopia.” Housing, food, healthcare, education all provided to active service members
- “Institutionalization.” Younger veterans may have no idea how to apply for jobs, housing, or educational opportunities, and lack access to healthcare
- Minimal assistance in transitioning to civilian life

Moral Injury

- During traumatic/unusually stressful circumstances, one may perpetrate, fail to prevent, or witness events that contradict deeply held moral beliefs or expectations
- Moral injury is the distressing psychological, behavioral, social, and sometimes spiritual aftermath of exposure to such events
- Hallmark reactions include guilt, shame, disgust and anger
- Another common reaction is an inability to forgive self, consequently engaging in self-sabotaging behaviors (eg, misusing drugs or ETOH, suddenly quitting a job, etc)

Purpose and Meaning:

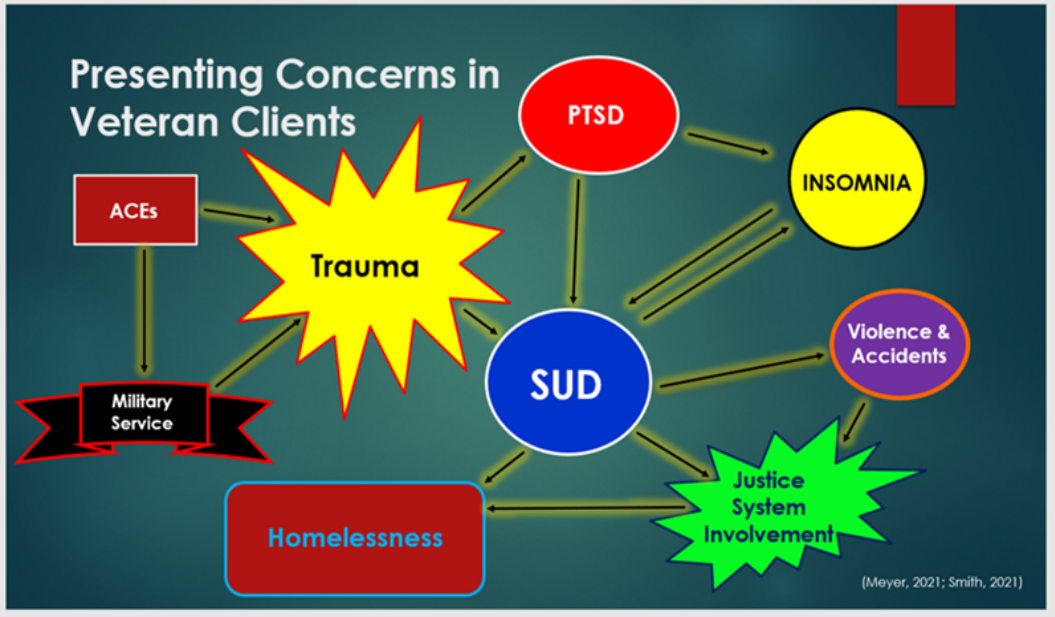
- Meaning and purpose in post-military life is a significant factor in the well-being of service members, veterans, and their families
- Veterans may experience grief-like symptoms related to real or perceived loss of identity
- Civilian opportunities and responsibilities greatly decreased in comparison to military

Military Training and Combat Reinforcement of Insomnia

- Long hours
- Night shifts
- Light sleeping
- Consumption of coffee, energy drinks, stimulants, etc
- Insomnia becomes an adaptive survival skill

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

- Military service may be a way to replace a dysfunctional and chaotic home environment with a more structured and directive environment
- Nearly 60% of female and 40% of male veterans reported exposure to at least one ACE. Sexual abuse reported by 22% of female and 6% of male veterans
- Pre-military experiences, such as adversity in childhood, play an important role in post-deployment mental health (including PTSD, SUD, and suicidality) . This diagram illustrates how the issues listed above can result in homelessness and involvement in the criminal justice system:



Types of discharges

1. **Honorable Discharges** and **General Discharges Under Honorable Conditions** are eligible for all VA benefits and services.
    - **Medical Separations** are generally given Honorable Discharges.
    - **Entry-level Separations** (given during the first 2-12 months of initial training) are typically classified as General Discharges.

2. **Other Than Honorable (OTH) Discharges** are only eligible for GPD programs.

3. **Bad Conduct Discharges (BCDs)** may be eligible for GPD programs provided the discharge was issued by a *special* court martial (misdemeanor-level offenses). A BCD imposed by a *general* court martial (felony-level offenses) is ineligible for any services through the VA. The veteran will probably not know if his/her discharge was issued through a special or general court martial; you will want to contact the CRRC (see info below) and ask a peer specialist to examine the reenlistment code on the veteran's DD214.

4. **Dishonorable Discharges** cannot access any services through the VA.

Discharge upgrades

As society has changed throughout the years, many actions that were once a guarantee of a dishonorable discharge now are often not applicable reasons for involuntary termination from military service (eg, substance misuse in an attempt to self-medicate PTSD). Therefore, veterans who appeal a less-than-honorable discharge often are successful in having it upgraded. The formation of a new board

of appeals for discharges was designed to ensure all previous decisions on appeals were made according to the law and DoD policy.

Each branch has a discharge review board with authority to change, correct or modify discharges. The board has no authority to address medical discharges or those issued by a general court martial. The veteran may apply for a review of discharge by writing to the military department concerned using DOD Form 149.

Upgrading a discharge can be a long and complicating process, but a discharge upgrade may allow a veteran to access more VA and nonprofit services. The University of Denver Law School's Veteran Advocacy Program (VAP) can provide free legal assistance with the process. Information on the program is listed in the "Other Veterans Resources" section of this guide.

VA benefits

VA disability ratings

A VA Disability Rating is a percentage assigned by the VA to a veteran's service-connected conditions. The ratings are meant to reflect the severity of the conditions. The higher the rating percentage, the more compensation the veteran receives for the condition. Monthly disability payments range from $144 for a 10% rating, up to $3,146 for a 100% rating. Full information regarding the amount of monthly payments can be found here.

Service-connected vs. non service-connected disabilities

These terms are pretty self-explanatory – Service-connected means that the veteran is disabled due to injury or illness that was incurred in or aggravated by military service. Non service-connected means that the veteran is disabled due to injury or illness not related to military service. However, a veteran aged 65 or older, with limited income, may still qualify for a non service-connected "Old Age" or disability pension.

Disability applications and appeals

The disability application is another long and arduous process. The initial application and determination process usually lasts about a year and appeals could extend the process by another six to nine months. The veteran will be required to attend multiple medical exams and failure to attend any of these exams will result in the veteran's claim being denied. Because this is such a technically complicated process, veterans should be referred to a Veterans Service Office (VSO), employed by a nonprofit or government agency, who can guide and represent the veteran during the application and/or appeals process. A list of VSOs is found in the "Other Veterans Resources" section.

Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)

The Veterans Benefits Administration is an agency of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. It is responsible for administering the Department's programs that provide financial and other forms of assistance to veterans, their dependents, and survivors. Major benefits include Veterans' compensation,

Veterans' pension, survivors' benefits, rehabilitation and employment assistance, education assistance, home loans, small business loans, and life insurance coverage. Some of these programs are explained below.

- **GI Bill** - The GI Bill is a group of educational benefits available to veterans, active service members, and their immediate family. Once an individual has earned the GI Bill through their service, the next step is to apply to use the benefit with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Once a veteran receives a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) from the VA, she then presents the COE to staff in the school's veterans services office who finalize the certification process. For more information, see the link to the VBA website located in the "Other Veterans Resources" section.
- **VA home loans** - VA home loans are provided by private lenders, such as banks and mortgage companies. VA guarantees a portion of the loan, enabling the lender to provide the veteran with more favorable terms. Active-duty veterans and most reserve-component veterans qualify for VA home loans. The veteran must still have sufficient credit to be approved for the loan. More info available at the VBA website.
- **Burial benefits** - Family members of some vets buried in private cemeteries may be able to get a veterans death benefit, or burial allowance of up to $2,000. Eligible vets include those who received a VA pension or disability compensation when they were alive. The burial allowance can help pay for burial, funeral, and transportation costs.
    - Any honorably discharged veteran is eligible to be buried at any national cemetery free of charge. Veterans are also eligible to order a government headstone at no charge for placement in a private cemetery, however, the family must pay to place the stone.
    - Military funeral honors – Surviving family members requesting military funeral honors must provide the funeral director with an official document verifying entitlement to such honors. The preferred documentation is the Department of Defense Form 214 (DD 214) or an honorable discharge certificate. The funeral director, after receipt of one of these documents, will contact the Casualty Assistance Command at Fort Carson, located in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Casualty Assistance Command will either provide the requested honors team or forward the request to the Colorado Army National Guard Honor Guard.

Campaign medals

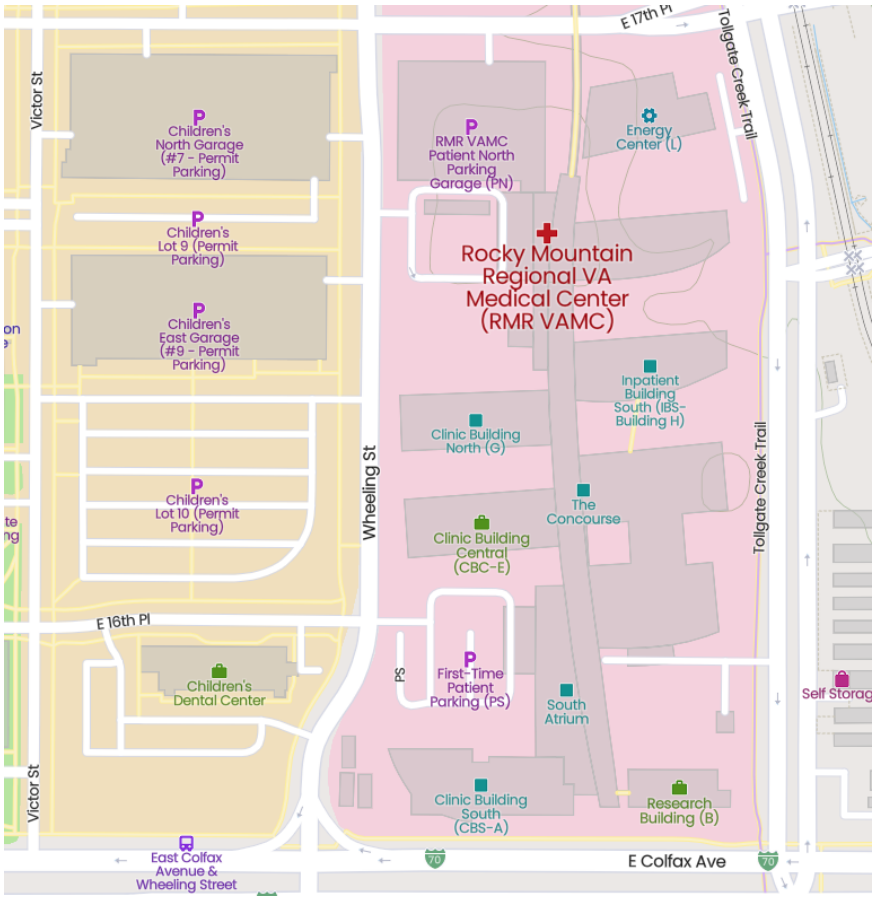
Many government employers and programs award preference points to veterans who, while serving on active duty, participated in a military operation for which an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM, commonly referred to as a campaign medal) was awarded. A veteran's DD214 showing the award of any AFEM is acceptable proof. The DD214 does not have to state the theater or country in which the service took place. Some common AFEMs are listed below.

- OEF Service Medal (Afghanistan, 2001-2021)

- OIF Service Medal (Iraq, 2003-2014)
- GWOT Expeditionary Medal (Any overseas deployment, 2001-present)
- Kosovo Service Medal (1999 only)
- SW Asia Service Medal (Desert Storm, 1990-1993)
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Somalia, 1992-1993)

Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center and other VA Offices

Aurora Campus (RMR)



Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center (usually referred to as “RMR”) located in Aurora is the hub for all VA medical services (including mental health and homeless services) in the Denver area.

Address

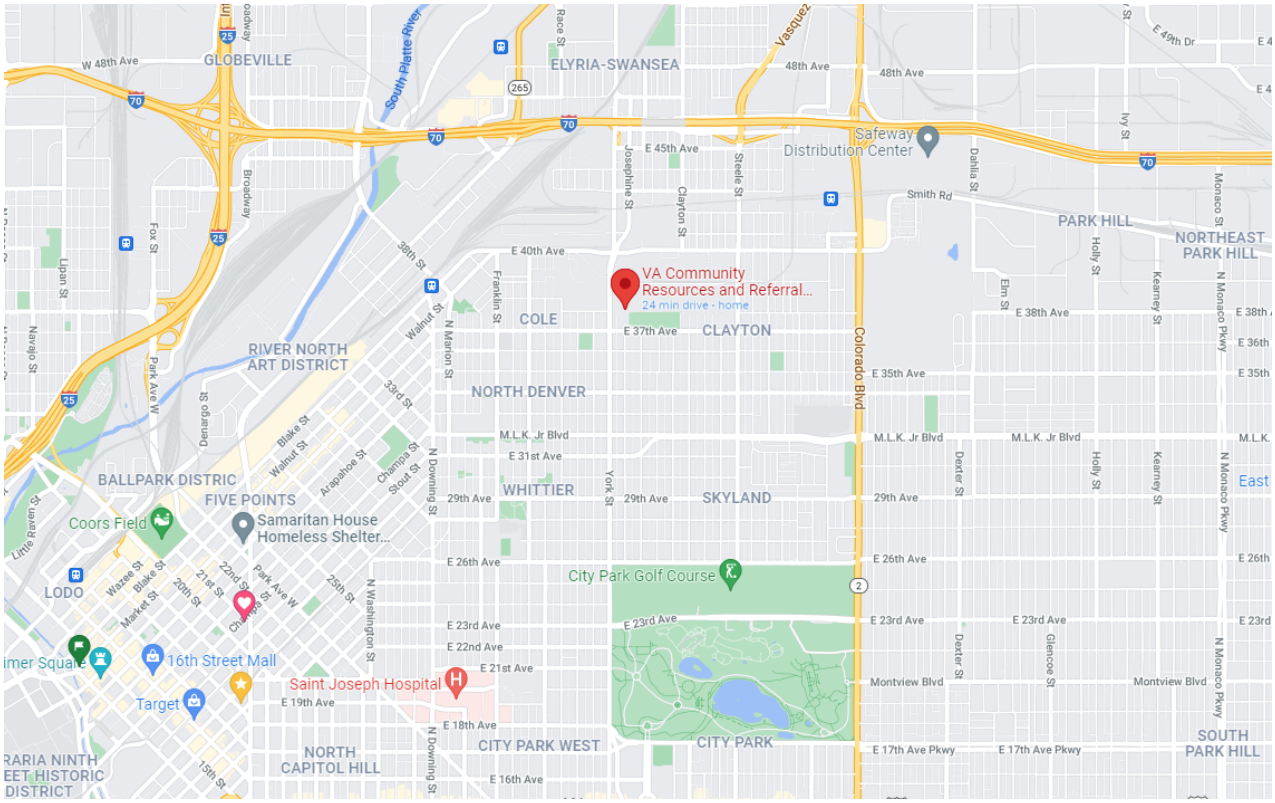
1700 North Wheeling Street
Aurora, CO 80045-7211

Phone

Main: 303-399-8020

Mental health clinic: 303-399-8020 x5687

Denver CRRC



The Denver VA Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC) provides showers, job and training referrals, connections for help filing for a service-connected claim or pension, VA eligibility and enrollment, connections to housing and rental assistance, and a walk-in clinic Monday thru Thursday, 7:30-11am. The CRRC also conducts assessments for GPD and HUD-VASH referrals.

Address

3836 N York Street

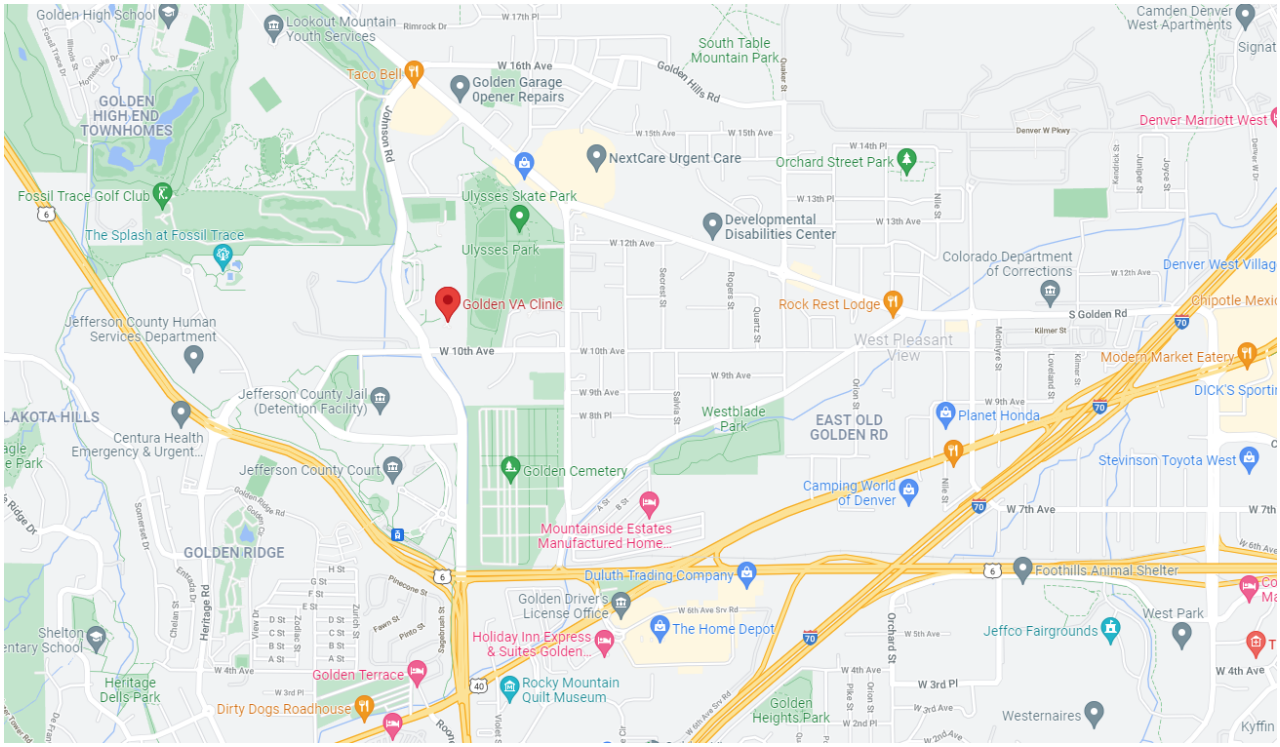
Denver CO 80205

(Behind the Inner-City Health Clinic)

Phone

Main phone: 303-294-5600

Golden VA Clinic



The Golden VA Clinic provides routine, urgent care, and behavioral health services. This location does not have an active pharmacy.

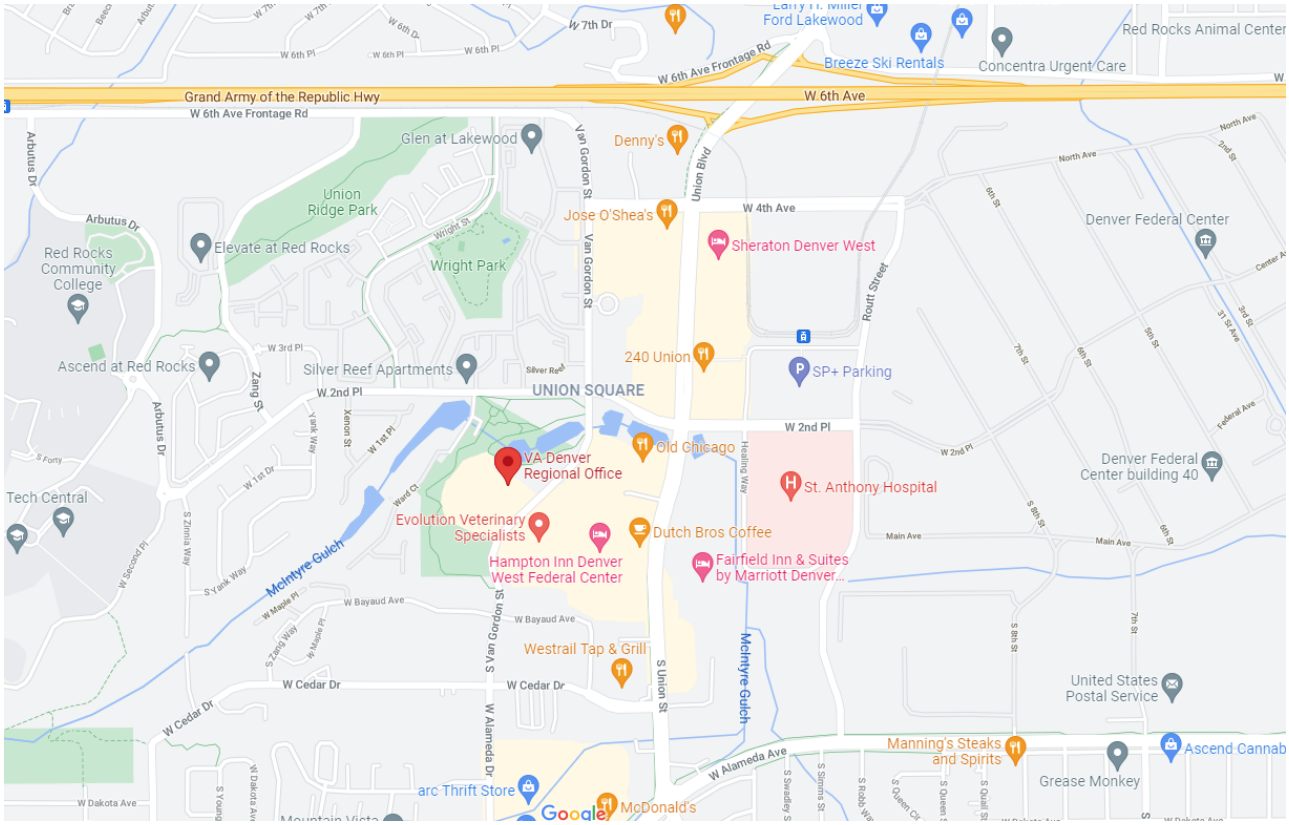
Address

1020 Johnson Rd
Golden, CO 80401

Phone

(303) 914-2680

Lakewood (VBA)



The Denver Regional Office of the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) is the main hub for assistance with the following benefits: GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation, Small Business Loans, and VA Home Loans. The Regional Office Building also contains satellite offices for Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and Military Order of the Purple Heart. Both nonprofits will provide VSOs to assist veterans with disability benefits claims.

Address

155 Van Gordon St
Lakewood, CO 80228

Phone

800-827-1000

VA Homeless Programs

A note on the **VI-SPDAT**: VI-SPDAT stands for the "Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool." This tool determines which program a veteran experiencing homelessness is assigned to. The idea is that the most vulnerable veterans receive housing and services first. While this sounds good, this also means that veterans who are young or in good physical condition will not realistically receive housing using this tool. It is the primary tool used by the VA to determine housing priority.

HUD-VASH

Veterans must be fully eligible for VA benefits. They must be literally homeless, have a high VI-SPDAT score, and usually have a history of justice-involvement, an unstable employment history, a severe and persistent mental illness, and/or substance use disorder. Veterans are provided with a Section 8 voucher and ongoing case management through the VA. This is a *very* difficult program for which to qualify, and only the most vulnerable veterans are accepted.

Intakes and assessments are conducted at the VA Homeless Clinic (located on the first floor of Building A at RMR – see map above) or the CRRC.

GPD (Grant and Per Diem)

GPD is a transitional housing program that provides case management, employment assistance, and referrals for SUD/behavioral health treatment for up to 12 months. Veterans can utilize up to three GPD admissions in a lifetime. Veterans may not have a Dishonorable Discharge and must be literally homeless or provide proof of imminent homelessness. Intakes and assessments are conducted at the VA Homeless Clinic (located on the first floor of Building A at RMR – see map above) or the CRRC.

GPD Programs

Name of Program	Notes
Samaritan House	Males, females, and veteran families accepted. No cost, meals provided, 2nd chance policy for substance use. ICM program for veterans needing intensive case management, no domestic violence or sexual offense convictions. Veterans are required to attend groups, meet with case manager weekly, and participate in a chore program. Program Manager: Will Sanders, 303-294-0241 2301 Lawrence St Denver, CO 80205
Aurora Veterans Home	Male veterans only. Three groups per week, curfew, onsite staff 24/7. Rent is 30% of income, not to exceed $200 per month. Veterans must commit to sobriety and are required to participate in MH and/or SUD treatment.

	Phone: 303-617-2384
Comitis Shelter Aurora	Single females, single veterans (male or female) with children, and couples/families. Case management and groups are required. Phone: 303-341-9160 2178 Victor St Aurora, CO 80045
Beacon Place (CCH)	Male veterans only. Rent is 30% of income (if any), three meals per day provided. Weekly case management, groups, and demonstration of savings required. Follows a harm reduction framework for SUD. Phone: 303-629-1667 3636 W Colfax Ave Denver, CO 80204
Civic Center Apartments (CCH)	Male, female, and couples. Recovery-focused (SUD and mental health), no meals provided. Program fees are 30% of income, income cap is $33,660 gross. Cannot be a FT student. Site will not accept veterans with active warrants or SOs. Weekly groups and case management required. Phone: 303-764-2100 25 East 16th Avenue Denver, CO 80202
VOA Family Motel (Home Again)	Male and female veterans, single parents, and families. Must be eligible for SSVF or have a HUD-VASH voucher. Weekly case management, work exchange program for rent. Referrals thru Bill Daniels Vet Center. Phone: 720-501-3367 1247 Santa Fe Dr Denver, CO 80204
VOA Clermont Commons	Female veterans with or without children. Must be screened for SSVF or have a HUD-VASH voucher. Referrals thru Bill Daniels Vet Center. Phone: 720-501-3367 1247 Santa Fe Dr Denver, CO 80204

SSVF

The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program provides services including outreach, case management, assistance in obtaining VA benefits, and help in accessing and coordinating other public benefits. SSVF grantees can also make time-limited temporary payments on behalf of Veterans to cover rent, utilities, security deposits and moving costs.

In Denver, the SSVF program is managed by the Volunteers of America (VOA) at the Bill Daniels Veterans Services Center (contact info in the resources section).

State Veterans Homes

Colorado has five Veterans Community Living Centers which provide veteran-specific long-term care and supportive living environments that serve honorably discharged veterans, their spouses/widows, and Gold Star parents of children who died while serving in the armed forces. The homes are located in Aurora, Florence, Homelake, Rifle, and Walsenburg. The Veterans Community Living Centers offer the following services:

- **Long-term care**: These services include skilled nursing care; speech, physical and occupational therapy; social activities; and assistance with bathing, dressing and other daily activities.
- **Short-term rehabilitation**: Individuals seeking to return home following a qualifying hospital stay can work to regain skills and improve physical strength, endurance and aerobic capacity through Medicare-certified rehabilitation services.
- **Domiciliary cottages** (similar to assisted living): The Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake (Monte Vista) offers assisted living-like services in 48 recently renovated cottages.
- **Memory care services**: Specialized care for individuals with dementia is offered in all Veterans Community Living Centers. Secure units are available at the Veterans Community Living Centers at Fitzsimons, Florence, Rifle and Walsenburg.
- **Short-term "respite" care**: Respite care can provide a helpful option when homecare providers are unavailable. These short-term stays are offered at the Veterans Community Living Centers at Florence, Homelake, Rifle and Walsenburg.
- **End-of-life/hospice services**: Comfort-oriented care is offered at all Veterans Community Living Centers.

Link: Colorado Veterans Homes

Programs for Justice Involved Veterans

Veterans Justice Outreach

The mission of the Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) program is to identify justice-involved/incarcerated veterans in order to facilitate access to VA services at the earliest possible point. Veterans Justice

Programs accomplish this by building and maintaining partnerships between VA and key elements of the criminal justice system.
Link: VJO
Denver VJO Coordinator: Nathan Vitton, LCSW
Address (See map above)
CRRC
3836 York St
Denver, CO 80205
Phone
303-294-5600

Veterans Treatment Courts

Veterans treatment courts allow jurisdictions to provide trauma-informed services to the justice-involved veteran population as opposed to business as usual, ie having all veterans appear before random judges who may or may not have an understanding of their unique experiences and issues. Because a veterans treatment court judge handles numerous veterans' cases and is supported by a strong interdisciplinary team, he or she is in a much better position to exercise discretion and effectively respond than a judge who only occasionally hears a case involving a veteran defendant. A veterans treatment court judge better understands the issues that a veteran may be struggling with, such as SUD, PTSD, traumatic brain injury (TBI), or military sexual trauma (MST). A veterans treatment court judge is also more familiar with the Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefit Administration, State Departments of Veterans Affairs, veterans service organizations, and volunteer veteran mentors.
What is a Veterans Treatment Court?

Denver VTC:
Kassie Williams, Court Coordinator, 303-606-2786, Kassie.williams@judicial.state.co.us

Aurora Armed Forces Treatment Court:
Jasmine Kindred, Court Coordinator, 303-739-6602, jkindred@auroragov.org

List of Other Colorado VTCs

Denver County Outreach Court

The Denver County Outreach Court ("Homeless Court") is a problem-solving court designed for persons experiencing homelessness (or housing instability). Outreach Court allows these defendants to resolve low level offenses as quickly as possible. Defendants are referred to community resources (located outside the courtroom) and charges are dismissed once the defendants has engaged with the resource. Outreach Court can also clear misdemeanor level warrants. There is no law enforcement presence at Outreach Court and defendants need not worry about being taken into custody.

What is a problem-solving court?

Outreach Court is held at the following locations. Defendants can check-in and be placed on the docket; there is no need for prior coordination.

Denver Public Library (central branch)
10 W 14th Ave
Denver, CO 80204
2nd Wednesday of the month @ 8:30am

Haven of Hope (Father Woody's)
1101 W 7th Ave
Denver, CO 80204
4th Wednesday of the month @ 8:30am

Second Chance Center (SCC)

SCC offers case management, mentoring, and vital resources to assist formerly incarcerated individuals in reestablishing their lives and becoming successful members of the community. SCC can connect individuals to mental health, SUD, and domestic violence treatment providers. SCC can also connect clients to phones and felon-friendly housing and employment.

Second Chance Center in the City (adjacent to the Denver County jail)
1391 Delaware Street
Denver, CO 80204
info@SCCcolorado.org
303-537-5838

Additional Programs for Justice-Involved Veterans

Not all these resources provide assistance for criminal justice issues, but they can connect you to attorneys or firms that provide pro bono or low-cost representation.

Justice for Vets
Link
Colorado Lawyers for Colorado Veterans (Colorado Bar Association)
Link
Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Legal Services
Link
American Bar Association Military Pro Bono Project
Link
Veteran Families United (links to many helpful legal resources)
Link
Veterans Defense Project
http://veteransdefenseproject.org/

Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Treatment

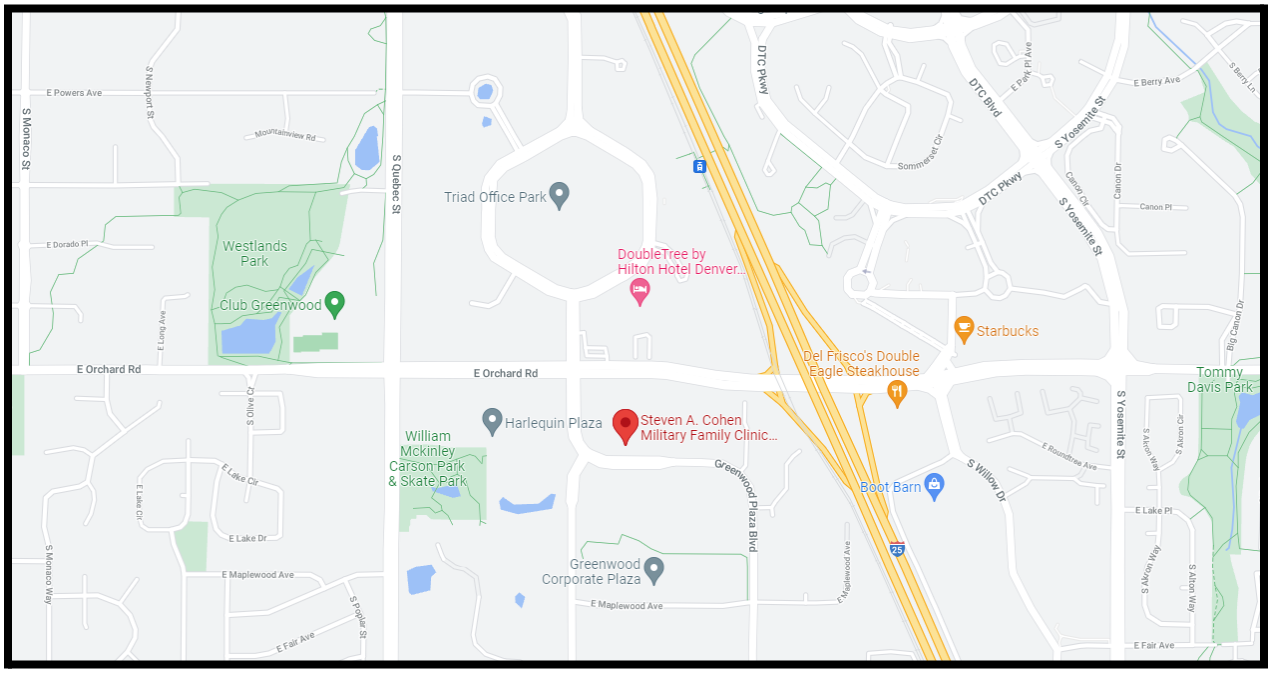
RMR SUD Clinic

The RMR SUD Clinic is located on the first floor of Building A (see map above) and provides referrals to inpatient treatment, outpatient treatment, and intensive outpatient treatment (IOP). Walk-in hours are 7:30-11am.

RMR Walk-in Mental Health Clinic

The RMR Mental Health Clinic is located on the fourth floor of Building A (see map above). The clinic provides medication management, individual therapy, and referrals to other appropriate services. Walk-in hours are 7:30-11am.

Cohen Clinic for Military and Veteran Families



The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus provides confidential, compassionate and personalized mental health care to active-duty service members (with Tricare referral), post-9/11 veterans and family members. Services are available regardless of discharge status, role while in uniform, or combat experience. Evidenced-based treatments and services are provided by culturally-competent professionals trained to work with veterans and military families.

While the clinic is located in Greenwood Village, care is available almost anywhere in Colorado.

7800 E Orchard Rd #150
Greenwood Village, CO 80111
303-724-4255

Additional Resources for SUD and MH Treatment

Military Crisis Line
800-273-8255, then press 1
Or, text to 838255

Vet Centers (readjustment counseling services)
Free mental health center for combat veterans and active duty only. Vet Centers are funded by the VA but operate completely independently from other VA facilities.

Denver Vet Center
7465 E 1st Ave, Suite B
Denver, CO 80230
303-326-0645

Boulder Vet Center
4999 Pearl E Circle, Suite 106
Boulder, CO 80301
303-440-7306

Warrior Care Network
No-cost intensive outpatient treatment for PTSD, TBI, SUD, and MST. Funded by the Wounded Warrior Project.

Headstrong
No or low-cost mental health treatment for veterans.

Vets4Warriors
Free peer support from other veterans.
855-838-5444

Mission Reconnect
Wellness training for veterans and their partners.

Programs for Female Veterans

Military Sexual Trauma (MST)

Note on MST: While I elected to include this in the section on women veterans, MST can affect any servicemember regardless of gender identity.

Military sexual trauma is defined as psychological trauma which resulted from a physical assault of a sexual nature, battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment which occurred while the veteran was serving on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training. MST is not a clinical diagnosis; it is an identifier that labels the particular circumstances a survivor incurred during their sexual assault or sexual harassment.

MST fact sheet

Disabled American Veterans MST resources

Colorado Women Veterans MST info

Additional Resources for Women Veterans

Operation Here We Are
https://www.operationwearehere.com/femaleveterans.html

Foundation for Women Warriors
https://foundationforwomenwarriors.org/programs/

Lifeline for Vets (huge list of women's resources)
https://nvf.org/women-veteran-resources/

American Women Veterans
http://americanwomenveterans.org/home/

Women's Veteran Alliance
https://www.womenveteransalliance.org/

Info for justice-involved female veterans
https://nadcpconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/VCC-B-3.pdf

Legal services for MST survivors
https://www.protectourdefenders.com/

Women Vets USA – Colorado Branch
https://www.womenvetsusa.org/states/co/

Jeffco Center for Mental Health – Women's Veteran Program
https://www.jcmh.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Veterans-Womens-Resources.pdf

National Domestic Violence Hotline
https://www.thehotline.org/
800-799-7233
Text START to 88788

Veterans Employment Programs

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP)

HVRP is a program of the US Department of Labor. It has two core objectives: 1) to provide services to assist in reintegrating homeless veterans into meaningful employment within the labor force, and 2) to stimulate the development of effective service delivery systems that will address the complex problems facing homeless veterans. HVRP grantees accomplish these objectives through a variety of core services:

- Knowledge of Population - Grantees understand the unique needs of the veterans they serve and structure to meet those needs.
- Outreach - Grantees use a flexible, non-threatening approach to meet veterans where they are. Outreach also includes activities to engage partners and employers.
- Assessment / Intake - Grantees assess each veteran to determine program eligibility and to gage job readiness and willingness to engage in employment services.
- Case Management - Grantees use a veteran-centered approach to develop an Individual Employment Plan (IEP) based on individual's strengths, and preferences while addressing barriers.
- Job driven Training and Placement - Grantees provide training that is targeted to the specific industries, occupations, and skills that are in demand locally. Training services can be provided in-house, through partners in the community, or through the local American Job Center.
- Collaboration - Grantees collaborate with public and private partners at all levels (federal, state and local) to provide supportive services and access to housing.

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
Vocational Services – HVRP
563 E Colfax Ave
Denver, CO 80203
303-312-9854

Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP)

Colorado Workforce Center staff and Veterans Employment Specialists are available to serve veterans by providing expertise in job and training opportunities. Our partnerships with local Workforce Centers allow any veteran who has served at least one day of active duty to receive additional support with their job search. Workforce Center staff or an Employment Specialists can provide "Intensive" services to veterans and eligible spouses facing significant barriers to employment.

VA Community Employment Counselor

Provides connections to community employment resources and veteran friendly employers. Resume assistance, mock interviews, and interview clothing assistance. Located at the Denver CRRC.

VA Compensated Work Therapy (CWT)

Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) is a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) clinical vocational rehabilitation program. CWT staff provides:

- Supported work in VA facilities with salary provided by the VA
- Evidence based and evidence informed vocational rehabilitation services
- Partnerships with business, industry and government agencies to provide Veteran candidates for employment and Veteran labor
- Employment supports to Veterans and employers

VA Vocational Rehabilitation Program (Voc Rehab)

Veterans may apply for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment services to help with job training, employment accommodations, resume development, and job seeking skills coaching. Other services may be provided to assist Veterans and Servicemembers in starting their own businesses or independent living services for those who are severely disabled and unable to work in traditional employment. Link.

Other Veteran (or Veteran Friendly) Resources

Organization	Notes
Government Agencies	
Colorado Department of Military and Veteran Affairs (CDMVA)	CDMVA provides assistance with disability, educational, housing (including a property tax exemption for qualified disabled veterans), burial, and survivor assistance benefits.

County/State Veteran Service Officers (VSOs)	VSOs guide veterans through the disability application and appeals process free of charge. Each county in Colorado has an assigned VSO. **Denver County:** George Cassidy george.cassidy@denvergov.org 303-476-0048 **Jefferson County:** Peter Mortaro pmortaro@jeffco.us 303-271-4205 **Adams County:** Femmi Clemons fclemons@adcogov.org 720-523-2770 **Arapahoe County:** David Girard VeteranServices@arapahoegov.com 303-738-8045
DMV (DV plates)	Colorado provides free registration and plates for qualified disabled veterans.
VA home loans	VA Home Loans are provided by private lenders, such as banks and mortgage companies. VA guarantees a portion of the loan, enabling the lender to provide you with more favorable terms.
VA My Health	VA My Health allows veterans receiving VA health care to schedule appointments, refill prescriptions, and communicate with their providers online.
Denver Human Services	The DHS Veteran Services team works with all veterans and military personnel and their families, regardless of service time or discharge status. Call 720-944-3500 to schedule an appointment.
Veteran Service Organizations	
Disabled American Veterans (DAV)	DAV is a nonprofit charity that provides a lifetime of support for veterans of all generations and their families, helping more than 1 million veterans in positive, life-changing ways each year. Annually, the organization provides more than 240,000 rides to veterans attending medical appointments and assists veterans with well over 160,000 benefit claims.

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)	MOPH advocates for Purple Heart recipients as well as disabled veterans in general. Limited VSO services available.
Wounded Warrior Project	WWP provides a wide variety of services to post 9/11 veterans, including adaptive sports, peer support, family support, financial education, and a wide variety of recreational activities.
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)	IAVA advocates on behalf of OIF and OEF veterans.
Freedom Service Dogs	Freedom Service Dogs was founded in 1987 as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization by Michael and PJ Roche. The Roches worked tirelessly to transform FSD from a local, two-person organization to one of the leading service dog training organizations in the country at a time when the assistance dog industry was in the early stages of development. As FSD expanded, its leaders recognized a need for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan to have additional support as they entered civilian life, leading to the launch of Operation Freedom, a program that provides custom-trained service dogs to veterans with disabilities.
DU Law School (Veterans' Advocacy Project) – Discharge Upgrades	The Veterans Advocacy Project (VAP) at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law pairs individual military veterans with teams of Colorado attorneys and Denver Law students through externship opportunities with the Rocky Mountain Veterans Advocacy Project. These teams work primarily on VA disability benefit compensation cases at the regional level and up to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in Washington D.C., and on discharge upgrade cases.
Employment	
Hire Heroes	Hire Heroes USA (Hire Heroes) is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating job opportunities for US military transitioning service members through personalized employment training and corporate engagement. Services such as effective job search, job application, job interviewing techniques and resume review are provided at no cost. A partner website VetNet is a career resource collaboration between The Institute for Veterans and Military Families and Hire Heroes.
Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV)	EBV, a collaboration of eight college, university and training institutions offers cutting edge, experiential training in entrepreneurship and small business development and management to post-9/11 Veterans with disabilities resulting from their service to our country. All services are free of charge to eligible Veterans.

Helmets to Hardhats	Helmets to Hardhats is a national, nonprofit program that connects trades and other employers in the construction industry with qualified Veterans and provides free federally approved apprenticeship programs. Helmets to Hardhats supplements its existing program with the Disabled American Veteran "Wounded Warrior" program.
Hire Our Heroes	Hire Our Heroes assists transitioning Veterans in gaining full-time employment. No cost services include one-on-one monthly coaching and mentoring sessions by Veterans and volunteers out of Corporate America, networking events, and group training across North America. Assistance with resume writing, social media training, and connecting with employers looking to hire Veterans is also provided.
Recruit Military	Recruit Military is a Veteran-owned and-operated firm specializing in assisting employers with military-to-civilian recruiting using Veteran career fairs, professional recruiting services, and a diverse range of targeted online and traditional recruiting mechanisms. Recruit military also provides job board registration free of charge to Veterans and their spouses.
CareerOneStop	CareerOneStop offers resources for transitioning service members, veterans, and military spouses.
Culinary Arts Bootcamp for Veterans	The Culinary Arts Bootcamp for Veterans (CABCV) is a nonprofit founded to support veterans throughout Colorado who are homeless or in need of a fresh start. Participants learn new skills and receive assistance finding meaningful career opportunities. Contact Michael Gropper at 720-837-3866 or cbcforvets@gmail.com.
Bayaud	Bayaud Veteran Day Works Program provides personalized employment services and social enterprises which provide employment for those needing supported employment, and individual and community services like providing free laundry with the laundry truck and support in finding housing and accessing different resource programs through the help of their community resource navigators.
Homeless Resources	
National Center for Homeless Veterans	The National Center on Homelessness among Veterans (the Center) promotes recovery-oriented care for Veterans who are homeless or at risk for homelessness. The Center conducts and supports research; assesses the effectiveness of programs; identifies and disseminates best practices and integrates these practices into polices, programs, and services for homeless or

	at-risk Veterans; and serves as a resource center for all research and training activities carried out by the Department and by other Federal and non-Federal entities with respect to Veteran homelessness.
Harvest Farm	Harvest Farm is a 100-acre farm and rehabilitation center for men, located in Wellington, Colorado. Owned and operated by the Fort Collins Rescue Mission, the Farm hosts up to 72 men who participate in our long-term New Life Program with the goal of breaking the cycles of addiction and homelessness. Through work readiness training, education, counseling, and more, program participants gain the skills, stability and self-esteem necessary to become productive, self-sufficient members of society. **Note: Faith-based organization
Metro Caring	Metro Caring provides food assistance as well as ID vouchers.
National Coalition for Homeless Veterans	The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) — a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization— is the resource and technical assistance center for a national network of community-based service providers and local, state and federal agencies that provide emergency and supportive housing, food, health services, job training and placement assistance, legal aid and case management support for hundreds of thousands of homeless veterans each year.
VOA Bill Daniels Veterans Services Center	1247 Santa Fe Dr Denver, CO 80204 720-501-3367 Bill Daniels Vet Center
Haven of Hope ("Father Woody's")	1101 W 7th Ave Denver, CO 80204 303-607-0855 Haven of Hope
Recreation and Volunteer Opportunities	
Team Rubicon	Team Rubicon serves communities by mobilizing veterans to continue their service, leveraging their skills and experience to help people prepare, respond, and recover from disasters and humanitarian crises.
The Phoenix	The Phoenix mission is to build a sober active community that fuels resilience and harnesses the transformational power of connection so that together we can rise, recover, and live.

Healing Waters	Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings.
Warrior Expeditions	Warrior Expeditions is a veteran nonprofit outdoor therapy program that helps veterans transition from their wartime experiences through long distance outdoor expeditions.
Help Heal Vets	Help Heal Vets provides art therapy and crafting materials, free of charge, to veterans.

NOTES:

Add NBUSA to resources