

**KENTUCKY
RESOURCE
GUIDEBOOK
FOR
INCARCERATED
AND NEWLY
RELEASED
VETERANS**

Forward

This guide is created to serve as a resource for incarcerated or recently released veterans and their families. The guide can be an important tool for helping you find housing, employment, and other services. Review all of the resources thoroughly to understand the opportunities available. Proper use of these materials will help to minimize the pressures and difficulties often encountered when returning to the community. State laws vary, so be sure to adhere to your state laws and regulations when using this guide.

This resource guidebook was developed using many resources. We would like to acknowledge: 1) the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans which provided basic concepts and core information for this guide through its “Planning for Your Release” guide funded by the U.S. Department of Labor; 2) the Veterans Incarcerated Workgroup of Walla Walla, Washington, for the concept of state-specific information in its “Guidebook for Incarcerated Veterans” and for allowing the use of its guide as a template for this publication; 3) Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. for developing the first incarcerated veterans guidebook, which has inspired and informed subsequent efforts; and 4) any public domain and agency resources included in the guidebook. Thank you also to James H. Quillen VAMC Homeless Veterans Program in Mountain Home, TN for their assistance and to the vast array of service providers represented here.

Agency staff names and addresses, phone numbers and website addresses change. If you attempt to contact one of the resources in this guidebook and it is not current, do your best to obtain the current information through phone information or a Google web search. To perpetuate the value of this document, we respectfully request that if you discover any incorrect, conflicting, or out-of-date information in this Guidebook please send the discrepancies, and updated information if you have it, to:

Todd Dedas, LCSW
Coordinator Healthcare for Homeless Veterans
VAMC Louisville
800 Zorn Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206
(502) 581-1171
E-mail: todd.dedas@med.va.gov

Terry Clark, MSSW, MBA, LCSW
Community Care Coordinator
VAMC Lexington
1101 Veterans Drive
Lexington, KY 40502-2236
(859) 233-4511 ext. 3953
terry.clark3@med.va.gov

Table of Contents

SECTION I: USING THE GUIDE AND SEEKING HELP	1-3
SECTION II: HELP FOR VETERANS	4-21
Toll-Free Numbers	4
Where to Start	5
Directory of Homeless & Housing Advocacy Coalitions	6
Finding & Keeping a Job	8
VA Health Care	9
Mental Health Services & Substance Abuse Treatment & Counseling	11
Financial Help	12
Legal Help	13
Women Veterans	21
SECTION III: SEEKING FEDERAL BENEFITS	22-26
Benefits Payments While Incarcerated	22
Apportionment	23
Help Seeking Benefits	24
CHECKLIST	27
SECTION IV: RESOURCE ADDRESSES / WEBSITES & SUPPORT GROUPS	28
SUPPORT GROUPS & MAINSTREAM SERVICE CONTACTS	29-31
ADDITIONAL GUIDEBOOK RESOURCE LIST	32-34

SECTION I

USING THIS GUIDE AND SEEKING HELP:

This guide is for you to use to plan for your release and to keep as a reference after your release. It includes addresses, phone numbers, and web sites that you can use to find out about programs and other assistance after your release. You may want to ask a friend or family member to help you find the information you need if you don't have a phone or internet access.

Keep in mind that **this guide does not include all of the services available**. What is available in one area may be different from what is available in another, so be sure to check with local resources to learn about services in your area.

While you are in prison, find out which unit in your facility can help you plan for your release (often the education or transfer unit). Classes may be offered so you can work on skills development and prepare for life after release. **You don't want to risk homelessness once you are released, so take advantage of the opportunities available to you now.**

Begin thinking about what specifically you will need upon release. Ask yourself these kinds of questions: Will I need housing? Will I need medical, substance abuse, or mental health care? Do I need to learn a job skill? Do I have any other legal issues, such as child support? How do I restart my VA checks or Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?

Make a list of your needs. Remember that this is just a tool to help you get organized. **A sample list might look like this: check all that apply to your situation.**

- ↑ I need a place to live.
- ↑ I need a job.
- ↑ I need clothing to wear to work.
- ↑ I need to find out what benefits I can get as a veteran.

- ↑ I want to get addictions treatment.
- ↑ I owe child support.

Think about your list as you read through this guide. Who do you think can help you with each of your needs? Is there one organization that may be able to work with you on many different things, or do you need to contact several agencies? Keep track of the steps you take, including the dates and names of people you contact for information or assistance. Although this guide provides national and state addresses for many organizations, we recommend you **check your phone book for local, county, and state agencies that know what help is available in your area.**

- ↑ When writing a letter to request information, **be clear.** Keep your letter short, to the point, and write legibly. Include the following information:
 - ↑ Your name and contact information.
 - ↑ A brief statement about your current situation.
 - ↑ Your specific request.
 - ↑ What you have done so far (Example: I have written to _____ organization and they suggested I contact you).
 - ↑ Any restrictions for mailings (Example: Mail with staples or paper clips will not be accepted by my prison facility).

When contacting an agency for help by mail, email or phone, **be persistent and polite** in order to get results. Ask questions if information is not clear to you. Remember that many organizations are staffed by volunteers who are eager to help, but may not have the answers you are looking for. **If someone cannot help you, ask who can.**

The internet can also be helpful to find information about VA benefits and community resources in your area. This guide includes web addresses, when available. If computer access is not available at your facility, you can visit the public library after release. Computer access may also be provided at WorkSource and WorkSource Affiliate sites, WorkForce Development Council member locations, and Employment

Security Department Offices (referred to as Job Service Centers or Unemployment Offices).

SECTION II

HELP FOR VETERANS:

This section includes resources that can help you get back on your feet. Remember to check the phone book for local, county, and state agencies that know what services are available in the area to assist you. Some organizations may have waiting lists, require an interview, or have specific rules about whom they serve. It is best if you **start asking about services and requirements now**, so that you will be prepared when you are released. You may even ask if your name can be put on a waiting list when you get closer to your release date.

TOLL-FREE NUMBERS:

Crisis and other toll-free numbers are often listed in the front cover or first few pages of the phone book. You may also want to check under "Social Services" in the blue or yellow pages for hotlines and local numbers.

- * **US Department of Veterans Affairs** – www.va.gov
VA Benefits: 1-800-827-1000
Health Benefits: 1-877-222-8387, or www.med.va.gov
Education Benefits: 1-888-442-4551
Persian Gulf War Helpline: 1-800-749-8387
Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD) 1-800-829-4833
- * **Focus On Recovery Helpline** – A 24-hour national alcohol and drug abuse addiction and treatment hotline: 1-800-888-9383
- * **National AIDS Hotline** – Talk to someone who knows about HIV / AIDS and can tell you about AIDS services in your city or state: 1-800-822-7422
- * **National Coalition for Homeless Veterans** – www.nchv.org, 1-800-838-4357
- * **National Suicide Support Number** – 1-888-784-2433 (1-888-SUICIDE)

WHERE TO START:

Check the local phone book yellow pages under "Homeless" or "Social Service Organizations" for a list of many local organizations that offer a variety of services that may include clothing, public transportation tokens, emergency shelter, and more. You may need to contact several agencies to find all the services you need. Services provided by government agencies are listed in the blue pages in the phone book. Check with your local Public Assistance Office to find out what programs are available and what their guidelines are. We have included some guidance below, but your local organizations are your best resources. **Remember, it never hurts to ask!**

- * Each **VA Medical Center** has a Health Care for **Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Coordinator** who is responsible for helping homeless veterans access VA and community-based care to end homelessness among veterans. The HCHV program provides outreach, clinical assessments and referrals for medical and mental health care, long-term transitional residential assistance, case management and employment assistance with linkage to permanent housing. To locate your nearest HCHV Coordinator call 1-877-222-8387 or go to <http://www1.va.gov/homeless> and click on the link at the end of the paragraph to look at the Homeless Veteran Coordinator Listing by State.
- * **Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA)** provides assistance with Veterans benefits & entitlements information, VA claims process, representation and advocacy, Trauma (PTSD) counseling, Veterans Homes for those in need of nursing care, and employment assistance through federal funded reintegration projects. www.kdva.net
- * **National Coalition for the Homeless** has a directory of shelters and homeless assistance programs online. This does not list every program in the country, so be sure to check your phone book for local programs.

Contact: 333 ½ Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003-1148 Toll-Free: 800-VET-HELP Fax: (202) 246-2063, Toll-Free Fax: (888) 233-8582, E-mail: nchv@nchv.org, Web address: www.nchv.org

Directory of Homeless & Housing Advocacy Coalitions:

The following is a list of Homeless and Housing Advocacy Coalitions for the State of Kentucky. Not all of these coalitions provide direct services, but they may be able to tell you about local programs or services.

The Coalition for the Homeless, Inc.
1115 S. 4th Street, Third Floor
Louisville, Kentucky 40203
(502) 589-0190

Volunteers of America
Incarcerated Veterans Project
1400 North Forbes Road, Suite D
Lexington, Kentucky 40503
(859) 254-3469

Northern Kentucky Homeless Coalition
(859) 426-0001

Homeless & Housing Coalition of
Kentucky
(502) 223-1834

Emergency and Transitional Housing:

To find out if there are homeless veteran service providers in your area, call 1-800-VET-HELP, write to: **NCHV, 333 ½ Pennsylvania Ave. SE Washington, DC 20003-1148**, or go to www.nchv.org.

Look in the phone book **yellow pages** under "Social service Organizations" for local shelters or organizations that may be able to help.

Look in the phone book **blue pages** under local, city, or county government Department of Social Services or "Human Services" or call the County Commissioner's Office for information about local low-income housing coalitions or homeless advocacy groups who may know what is available.

To find a list of emergency shelters for men, women and families in every state, check the **Department of Housing and Urban Development** online at www.hud.gov.

HOUSING:

It is important to know that you have a place to go when released. The first step in returning to the community is finding a place to stay. This section includes ways to locate emergency shelter, transitional programs, and permanent housing assistance. Transitional or temporary housing can serve as a step toward full independence upon your release. However, there are often waiting lists for housing assistance programs, so you should ask about applying as soon as possible. If you are released and find yourself homeless, emergency assistance is available state-wide.

VA Grant & Per-Diem Transitional Housing, see the HCHV Coordinator at VA Medical Centers or the VA Homeless Program website: <http://www1.va.gov/homeless/>

Directory of Local Homeless Service Organizations

Contact the Local Housing Authority for subsidized housing or consult your local telephone directory yellow pages for the Salvation Army, Local Homeless Shelters and other housing assistance, such as the Neighborhood Service Centers.

Local churches and faith-based organizations, such as Catholic charities, Salvation Army, and Volunteers of America, may have a variety of programs to assist you. Find these organizations by calling your county or city Department of Social Services. Check the blue pages of the phone book for the number, and the Saturday newspaper for a list of churches and service times.

Long-term or Permanent Housing:

Public housing waiting lists can be long, but the length of time can vary from place to place. Even if you are not sure where you want to live yet, apply to get on the waiting list so that you have as many options as possible. To learn how to apply, contact the Local Housing Authority listed in the phone book blue pages under "Local Government, Public Housing Authority".

FINDING & KEEPING A JOB:

Finding a job may be hard and can seem overwhelming, but it is possible and very important! When released, you may find that you are starting over. You should ask for job counseling and training while incarcerated so you are prepared to work when released. **DON'T WAIT** until you get out to start thinking about what you will do.

START PLANNING NOW!

Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVER) and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) specialist assigned by the **State Employment Security Department** are resources that help veterans find and keep jobs. LVER's are located with the local WorkSource site or affiliate Job Service Centers (JSC). DVOP Specialists work under the supervision of the LVER to develop job and training opportunities for veterans with service-connected disabilities, linking veterans with employers and making sure follow-up services are provided. To find a LVER or DVOP near you, visit your state employment service office listed in the phone book blue pages under "State government, Employment Security Department".

- * Through its **Veterans Industries and Compensated Work Therapy programs**, the VA offers structured work opportunities and supervised therapeutic housing for at-risk and homeless veterans with physical, mental health and addictions problems. VA contracts with private industry and the public sector for work for veterans, who learn job skills, practice successful work habits, and regain a sense of self-esteem. Veterans are paid for their work and given assistance with employment in the community.

- * The State of Kentucky has a Vocational Rehabilitation program that helps people with disabilities find and keep jobs. Apply for these services immediately after your release. Look in the phone book blue pages under "Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)," then "Vocational Rehabilitation," or search the internet for "Vocational Rehabilitation" in your state.
- * The Department of Employment Services has staff who work specifically with Veterans. Contact them at the Office of Employment and Training, 6201 G Preston Hwy., Louisville, KY 40219, (502) 595-3098

VA HEALTH CARE:

If eligible for veterans' benefits:

- * We encourage you to enroll in the VA Health Care System as soon as you are released. Every **VA Medical Center** has a **Health Care for Homeless Veterans Coordinator** who helps veterans and their families find resources inside and outside the VA Health Care system. Call 1-877-222-8387 or go to www.med.va.gov, to find the medical center nearest you.

I. Major Medical Centers:

VA Medical Center
800 Zorn Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206
(502) 287-4000

VA Medical Center
1101 Veterans Drive
Lexington, KY 40502
(859) 233-4511

II. Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) are available in the following areas:

Bellevue Clinic
103 Landmark Dr.
Bellevue, KY 41073
(859) 392-3840

Fort Knox PCC
851 Ireland Ave.
Fort Knox, KY 40121
(502) 624-9396

Bowling Green Clinic
1110 Wilkinson Trace Circle
Harland, KY 42103
(270) 796-3590

Standiford Field Clinic (Tricare)
1101 Grade Lane
Louisville, KY 40213
(502) 364-9635

Fort Campbell Clinic
Desert Storm Ave. Bldg. 61639
Fort Campbell, KY 42223
(270) 798-4118

Paducah Clinic
1800 Clark St.
Paducah, KY 42001
(270) 444-8465

Prestonburg Clinic
5230 Ky Rte 321
Prestonburg, KY 41653
(606) 886-1970

Somerset Clinic
104 Hardin Lane
Somerset, KY 42501
(606) 676-0786

III. Vet Center Listing:

Lexington Vet Center
301 E. Vine St., Suite C
Lexington, KY 40507
(859) 253-0717

Louisville Vet Center
1347 S. Third St.
Louisville, KY 40208
(502) 634-1916

VA's Gulf War/Agent Orange Helpline: National Toll-Free Number (800) 749-8387

IV. National Cemetery Administration:

Camp Nelson National Cemetery
6980 Danville Rd.
Nicholasville, KY 40356
(859) 885-5727

Lebanon National Cemetery
20 Hwy. 208
Lebanon, KY 40033
(502) 893-3852

Cave Hill National Cemetery
701 Baxter Ave.
Louisville, KY 40204
(502) 893-3852

Lexington National Cemetery
833 N. Main St.
Lexington, KY 40508
(859) 885-5727

Danville National Cemetery
277 N. First St.
Danville, KY 40442
(859) 885-5727

Mill Springs National Cemetery
9044 West Hwy. 80
Nancy, KY 42544
(859) 885-5727

Zachary Taylor National Cemetery
4701 Brownsboro RD.
Louisville, KY 40207
(502) 893-3852

If ineligible for veterans' benefits, free or low-cost health care may be available from the following sources:

- * **Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)** can tell you where to find health care facilities for the homeless. Check the phone book blue pages under local, city, or county government for the number.

- * **National Health Care for the Homeless Council** has a list of health care providers working with homeless people across the nation. For a list of providers in your state, go to www.nhchc.org.

- * **Free clinics** are run by many local organizations and communities. Look in the phone book blue pages under "Public Health" to contact local government office for clinics in your area.

Special Health Information for Veterans:

- * If you think you may be at risk for AIDS and HIV infection after your release, contact the nearest VA Medical Center to get tested, and seek counseling. Veterans, homeless, and incarcerated people are at high risk for **Hepatitis C** (HCV), a serious disease that can cause cirrhosis (scarring of the liver) and liver cancer. If you think you are at risk after your release, contact the nearest VA Medical Center to get tested and seek "HCV treatment and counseling".

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES:

If eligible for veterans' benefits:

- * Contact the Homeless Veteran Services Coordinator at the local **VA Medical Center** or **Vet Center**. Call 1-877-222-8387 or go to www.med.va.gov, to find the medical center nearest you.

If not eligible for veterans' benefits, the following sources may be able to tell you where you can go to get help:

- * **National Alliance for the Mentally Ill** lists community mental health services providers at: www.nami.org or call: 1-800-950-NAMI
- * **National Mental Health Association** offers support groups, rehabilitation, socialization, and housing services through approximately 340 community organizations located across the country. Call 1-800-969-NMHA, or find a local office online at www.nmha.org.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT:

If eligible for veterans' benefits:

- * Contact the addictions Treatment Center at the local **VA Medical Center**. Call 1-877-222-8387 or go to www.med.va.gov, to find the medical center nearest you.

If not eligible for veterans' benefits, the following sources may be able to tell you where you can go to get help:

- * **The Department of Health and Human Services Drug and Alcohol Treatment Referral Routing Service** can refer you to local programs. Call 1-800-662-4357.
- * Focus On Recovery Helpline – A 24 hour national alcohol and drug abuse addiction and treatment hotline: 1-800-888-9383.

FINANCIAL HELP:

- * The American Legion provides Temporary Financial Assistance, (TFA) from its national headquarters to help maintain a stable environment for **children of veterans**. To obtain an application, look in the phone book to contact a local post, or contact the National Headquarters to find the post nearest you.

- * If you are unemployed with little or no income, you may be able to get **food stamps**. A person may normally qualify for \$85 to \$100 worth of food stamps per month. Call the toll-free information number at 1-800-221-5689, or find a list of food stamp hotlines for each state at www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/contact_info/hotlines.htm. You can also contact the local Department of Human Services, many drop-in shelters, or legal aid services to ask for an application.

- * **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** benefits can be applied for **before** your release, even though you won't receive the benefits until after you are released. Food Stamps can be applied for together with SSI. Normally, it takes about three months to review an application, so apply well before your release date. It is best to get help filling out the application. For detailed information or assistance contact your local social security administration office listed in the phone book blue pages.

- * **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** has a program called Emergency Food and Shelter Program to help prevent homelessness. Contact the local Office of the Mayor or United Way to ask who awards this money in your area and what the rules are.

LEGAL HELP:

Veteran status issues:

- * You should talk to a **Veterans Advocate Service Officer** for help with discharge upgrades, seeking benefits, and filing a VA claim. Check with your county court house for the office of the Veterans Service Officer.

Other Legal Issues:

- * Most law is state-specific. Most common legal problems are governed by the law in the state where you live or where the problem occurred. When looking for legal help, make sure that information you find applies to your state, or that the lawyer or other service provider is qualified to work in your state.

- * **The American Bar Association** has a web site with guidelines about free legal services and links to directories of legal aid offices and pro-bono programs. Go to: www.abanet.org.

- * **Legal Services or Legal Aid Offices** have staff lawyers to provide free legal help to poor clients. The lawyers are usually experts in the types of problems that poor clients often have. Look in the yellow pages for a local Legal Aid Office or check online for the program, nearest you.

- * **Pine Tree Legal Assistance** has an online list of organizations across the nation that provides free legal help to clients who qualify. Go to www.ptla.org/links/services.htm.

- * Lawyers in private practice sometimes volunteer in "pro-bono" programs to take cases for poor clients free of charge. Check the yellow pages to contact your **Local Bar Association** to learn if there is a pro-bono program in your community, or go to: www.abanet.org/barserv/stlobar.html.

National H.I.R.E. Network:

Established by the Legal Action Center, the National **Helping Individuals with criminal records Re-enter through Employment Network** is both a national clearinghouse for information and an advocate for policy change. The goal of the **National H.I.R.E. Network** is to increase the number and quality of job opportunities available to people with criminal records by changing public policies, employment practices and public opinion. The National H.I.R.E. Network also provides training and technical assistance

to agencies working to improve the employment prospects for people with criminal records. The National H.I.R.E. Network is generously supported by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Joyce Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Public Welfare Foundation, and the J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation. www.hirenetwork.org

KENTUCKY

I. Kentucky Cabinet for Workforce Development

Contact:

Allen D. Rose, Secretary
Cabinet for Workforce Development
500 Mero St.
Capital Plaza Tower, 2nd Floor
Frankfort, KY 40601
502-564-6606
502-564-7967 fax
Web Site: www.kycwd.org

Information about State Department of Labor resources may be of interest to:

- potential employers looking for incentives to hire individuals with criminal histories;
- service providers and individuals with criminal histories who are looking for assistance in finding employment; and
- researchers and policy makers looking at current programs to ascertain what programs are effective and serve their intended purpose.

A. Federal Bonding Program

The Federal Bonding Program provides fidelity bonding insurance coverage to individuals with criminal histories and other high-risk job applicants who are qualified, but fail to get jobs because regular commercial bonding is denied due to their backgrounds.

B. Tax Credits

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is a federal tax credit to reduce the federal tax liability of private for profit employers to be used as an incentive for employers to hire individuals from eight different targeted groups: TANF recipients, veterans, ex-felons, high risk youth, summer youth, Food Stamp recipients, SSI recipients, and vocational rehabilitation referrals.

Contact:

Barbara Gilley, WOTC Coordinator
Cabinet for Workforce Development
Department for Employment Services
Division of Field Services
275 E. Main St., 2W
Frankfort, KY 40621

502-564-7456
502-564-7459 fax
E-Mail: BarbaraA.Gilley@mail.state.ky.us

C. Unemployment Insurance Office

Unemployment compensation is a social insurance program designed to provide benefits to most individuals out of work, generally through no fault of their own, for periods between jobs. In order to be eligible for benefits, jobless workers must demonstrate that they have worked, usually measured by amount of wages and/or weeks of work, and must be able and available for work.

The unemployment compensation program is based upon federal law, but administered by states under state law.

Contact:

Cabinet for Workforce Development
Department for Employment Services and Unemployment Insurance
275 E. Main St.
Frankfort, KY 40621
502-564-2900
Web Site: www.oet.ky.gov

II. Criminal Record Repository

This is the agency individuals may contact to obtain a copy of their state rap sheet and learn about the process of sealing, expunging or cleaning it up. The criminal record repository can also tell the individual who else is legally entitled to have access to his or her record.

Individuals must submit a written request explaining why they need a copy of their criminal history (i.e. employment, licensing, etc.) along with a check or money order for \$10. The search will take two to three weeks to be processed.

Contact:

Kentucky State Police
Records Branch
1250 Louisville Rd.
Frankfort, KY 40601
502-227-8700

III. State Attorney General

Employers and service providers may obtain information from the state attorney general regarding occupational bars, the licensing of individuals with criminal records in certain jobs, and whether the state has laws that limit what employers may ask job applicants or protections against employment discrimination based on a criminal record.

Contact:

A.B. Chandler, III, Attorney General
Office of the Kentucky Attorney General

700 Capitol Ave., Suite 118
Frankfort, KY 40601
502-696-5300
502-564-2894 fax
Web Site: www.law.state.ky.us

IV. State Department of Corrections

Prison Industries Program

Kentucky's Division of Correctional Industries is a division of the Department of Corrections that employs approximately 800 inmates in the production of goods and services in 23 operations throughout the prison system. Products manufactured include office furniture, custom wood furniture, cabinets, shelves, lockers, cleaning supplies, mattresses, signage, clothing and embroidery/silk screening. Services offered include data entry, furniture refurbishing/reupholstry, bulk mailing, recycling and GIS mapping.

Contact:

Gary L. Dennis, Director
Kentucky Correctional Industries
1041 Leestown Rd.
Frankfort, KY 40601
502-573-1040
502-573-1045 fax
Web Site: www.kcitoday.com

Work Release Program

Under the Community Center program, inmates who are near their parole eligibility dates are housed close to their hometowns in halfway houses under contract to the Kentucky Department of Corrections. Approximately 500 inmates participate in this reintegration program. The program assists inmates in becoming reacquainted with their families and community, and gives them a head start in seeking employment. In addition, many inmates are enrolled in vocational school and college programs. The centers also provide counseling services and employment assistance.

Contact:

Community Services
Kentucky Department of Corrections
2349 Lawrenceburg Rd.
P.O. Box 2400
Frankenfort, KY 40602
502-564-7023
502-564-5229 fax
Web Site: www.cor.state.ky.us

Kentucky Department of Corrections

The Department of Corrections, in conjunction with the Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KCTCS), provides an extensive education program that includes a literacy program, adult basic education and GED preparatory classes and testing in all 12 correctional institutions. The Department also offers a variety of vocational training opportunities in 45 different technical training programs. Approximately 54% of the inmate population is involved in some type of educational or vocational training program.

Contact:

Vertner L. Taylor, Commissioner
Kentucky Department of Corrections
2349 Lawrenceburg Rd.
Frankfort, KY 40602
502-564-4795
502-564-5887 fax
Web Site: www.cor.state.ky.us

V. Kentucky Department of Corrections

Division of Probation and Parole

The primary function of the Division of Probation & Parole is to supervise offenders who have been placed on probation or parole. Parole officers provide rehabilitation services to parolees and assistance in employment and home placement. The counties are organized into 13 supervisory districts. Parolees are referred to halfway houses if they do not have a place to live upon release, do not have a job, or both. Parolees placed in one of 11 houses under contract with the state are assisted by house staff and the local probation and parole officers in seeking employment.

Contact:

Georgia McDaniel, Assistant Director
Division of Probation and Parole
Kentucky Department of Corrections
2349 Lawrenceburg Rd.
Frankfort, KY 40602
502-564-4221
502-564-5783 fax
Web Site: www.cor.state.ky.us

VI. Legal Assistance

Free or low-cost legal resources, both in civil and criminal law, are helpful to individuals with criminal histories in learning about relevant state laws governing the expungement or sealing of criminal histories or addressing other legal issues resulting from having a criminal history.

A. State Public Defender

Contact:

Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy
100 Fair Oaks Lane, Suite 302
Frankfort, KY 40601
502-564-8006
502-564-7890 fax
Web Site: www.dpa.state.ky.us/

B. Legal Services

Contact:

Appalred
120 North Front Ave.
Prestonsburg, KY 41653
606-886-3876

Contact:

Legal Aid of the Bluegrass
498 Georgetown St.
P.O. Box 12947
Lexington, KY 40583
859-233-4556
859-233-1907 fax
E-Mail: ckls@mis.net

Contact:

Kentucky Legal Aid
520 E. Main St.
P.O. Box 1776
Bowling Green, KY 42102
270-782-1924
270-782-1993 fax
E-Mail: klaid@klaid.org
Web Site: www.klaid.org

Contact:

Legal Aid Society, Inc.
425 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd.
Louisville, KY 40202
502-584-1254
502-584-8014 fax

Contact:

Northern Kentucky Legal Aid Society
302 Greenup St.
Covington, KY 41011

859-431-8200
859-431-3009 fax
E-Mail: HN2585@earthlink.net

The Office of Kentucky Legal Services Programs (OKLSP) is a small Lexington-based non-profit organization formed by Kentucky legal services programs to: coordinate task forces of legal services attorneys and paralegals; monitor and report on changes in poverty law; provide training to legal services staff and clients on special topics, especially welfare; and respond to requests from legislators and state officials to comment on policy issues.

Contact:

Richard J. Seckel, Director
Office of Kentucky Legal Services Programs
210 W. Short St., Suite 310
Lexington, KY 40507
859-233-3057
859-255-6227 fax
E-Mail: richseckel@prodigy.net

C. State Bar Association

Contact:

Kentucky Bar Association
514 W. Main St.
Frankfort, KY 40601-1883
502-564-3795
502-564-3225 fax
Web Site: www.kybar.org

VII. Local Service Providers

Community agencies are available to assist individuals with criminal records find employment. This information will inform individuals with criminal records about government agencies and community-based organizations that assist with employment, education or vocational training. Researchers and policy makers may find this information useful in identifying agencies and service providers in order to evaluate the effectiveness of these programs.

One-Stop Service Centers

One-Stop Service Centers in Kentucky are administered by the Kentucky Department for Training and ReEmployment within the Cabinet for Workforce Development. There are three levels of services that eligible adults and dislocated workers can access at a One-Stop center. Core services include outreach, intake, eligibility determination, orientation to services, initial assessment of skills, aptitudes and support service needs, career counseling, job search and placement assistance. Intensive services include

comprehensive and specialized assessment, development of an individual employment plan with group counseling and case management. Training services include occupational skills training, skill upgrading and retraining, adult education and literacy activities.

Contact:

Kentucky Department for Training and ReEmployment
209 St. Clair St., 4th Floor
Frankfort, KY 40601
502-564-5360
502-564-8974 fax
Web Site: www.otr.state.ky.us/index.htm

Free or low-cost legal resources, both in civil and criminal law, are helpful to individuals with criminal histories in learning about relevant state laws governing the expungement or sealing of criminal histories or addressing other legal issues resulting from having a criminal history.

WOMEN VETERANS:

- * Most VA **Medical Centers** and readjustment offices have a designated Women Veterans Coordinator to assist women veterans in accessing VA benefit programs and healthcare services. Call 1-877-222-8387.

- * **The Center for Women Veterans**
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20420
1-800-827-1000
<http://www1.va.gov/womenvet/>

- * Many women in prison had similar histories, problems, and personal issues before their arrest and conviction. Mentors with **Women in Community Service** (WICS) help women preparing to leave prison and those who are just getting back into society. WICS' prison programs help women think about their behavior, gain job skills, and build self-esteem. Contact the U.S. DOL, Job Corps at 1-800-283-9427 or go to www.wics.org to find the nearest WICS program.

SECTION III

SEEKING FEDERAL BENEFITS:

The Department of Veterans Affairs publishes a booklet called "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Their Dependents" that describes the types of benefits available and lists the addresses and phone numbers for VA facilities nationwide. Write the VA Regional Office (VARO) to request a copy at:

VA Regional Office
545 S. 3rd Street
Louisville, KY 40202-3835
Call toll free 1-800-827-1000
Contact the VA

- Kentucky Department of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Kentucky Dept. of Employment Security

For a list of all VA Regional Offices go to: www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/regional_offices.htm

U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs – Regional Office

Call 1-800-827-1000 or find information about benefits at www.vba.va.gov.

VA Medical Care is not provided to veterans in prison, but VA health facilities may provide care to you after your release. Contact 1-877-222-8387 or go to www.med.va.gov to find the medical center nearest you.

BENEFITS PAYMENTS WHILE INCARCERATED:

There is a 60-day "grace period" following a conviction when you may still receive full benefits. To avoid an overpayment, it is important that you notify the VARO immediately when you go to prison if you are receiving payments. If you do not notify the VA and receive overpayment, you and your family will lose all financial payments until the debt is paid.

For example, Sam is a veteran who receives a VA pension of \$810 per month. He commits a crime and is incarcerated, but doesn't tell the VA right away and keeps getting paid for 8 months. **Sam is overpaid a total of \$6,480.** After serving his sentence of 16 months, he is released and applies to the VA to have his pension restarted. The new Pension rate is \$833 per month, but the VA will use that amount to start repaying the \$6,480 debt. **Sam's first real check will start in 6 months after he is released and will only be for about \$33!** Sam has to go that amount of time without that income.

Your award for compensation or pension benefits should resume from the date you are released, as long as the VA receives notice of release within one year. This includes placement in a community treatment center or halfway house. **Remember, you must notify the VA when you are released to restart your payments.**

APPORTIONMENT:

Although legally, the veteran can only receive a portion of the full amount payable for his or her disability rating, the remaining balance may be "apportioned to the individual's dependent family". To apply for apportionment, send a letter to the VA Regional Office (VARO) that has jurisdiction over the veterans' case. VA regulations clearly specify this apportionment amount will only go to family members if they can show financial need for such amount. This applies to the spouse, children, or dependent parents who are involved in the application.

In deciding whether any apportionment is appropriate, the amount of the apportionment, and to whom it will go, the following factors are considered:

- * The family member's income and living expenses;
- * The amount of compensation available to be apportioned;
- * The needs and living expenses of other family members; and
- * Special needs of any of the family members.

For example: a veteran incarcerated rated as 80 percent disability can only receive the amount he or she would get if he or she were 10 percent disabled. However, his or her

family may be apportioned up to 70 percent, the difference of the 80 percent rating. Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) may also be apportioned with similar restrictions).

For more information concerning VA debt collection rules that may affect the veteran incarcerated, telephone: 1-800-827-1000 and request a Veterans Service Organization representative or, write to a Veterans Service organization (attention SR list) at the U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs- Regional Office.

It is important to remember that most VA decisions, including those on apportionment, can be appealed to the Board of Veterans Appeals and, if need be, to the Court of Appeal for Veterans Affairs.

HELP SEEKING BENEFITS:

If you would like to get benefits or think you have a pending claim before the VA, it is best to get professional help to assist you.

- * Many Veterans Service Organizations have trained staff who can help you with your VA claim, and can legally represent your claim before the VA. Some also help homeless and at-risk veterans find the support services they need. You can contact any VSO listed below to see if there is a service representative near you.
- * The American Legion 1-800-433-3318
- * American Red Cross - 1-502-540-7000
- * Disabled American Veterans 1-877-426-2838 or (859) 441-7300
- * Paralyzed Veterans of America 1-800-424-8200
- * Veterans of Foreign Wars 1-800-VFW-1899
- * Vietnam Veterans of America 1-800-882-1316
- * Volunteers of America—Incarcerated Veterans Project 1-859-254-3469

- * Although we encourage you to seek the aid of a service representative, you may choose to apply for VA benefits on your own. Write the VA Regional Office (VARO) at:

VA Regional Office
545 S. 3rd Street
Louisville, KY 40202-3835
Call toll free 1-800-827-1000
Contact the VA

Call toll-free: 1-800-827-1000 or find the forms online at: <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/>

Below are brief descriptions of forms needed to file for certain VA benefits. Be sure you use a return address where mail will get to you as quickly as possible. Make photocopies of all forms for your records before sending your packet to the VARO nearest you.

- * **Standard Form-180- Request Pertaining to Military Records** – Is used to get copies of your Record of Discharge (DD-214), military personnel and medical records. You will need a copy of your DD-214 when applying for any benefits. Requests may also complete online at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>.
- * **VA Form 21-526 – Application for Compensation or Pension** – Must be filed to apply for compensation or pension. This form, along with your DD-214 and the following forms should be mailed directly to the VARO nearest your release destination 30 to 45 days before your release.
- * **VA Form 21-4138 – Statement in Support of Claim** – Lets you explain why you deserve the benefits you are asking for because of your disability or disorder. It is best to have an experienced service representative help you complete the form.
- * **VA Form 21-4142 – Authorization for Release of Information** – If you have received medical or mental health care, that may be relevant to your claim, from

anyone other than a VA Medical Facility, you need to fill out a VAF 21-4141 giving permission for release of medical records to the VA.

- * **VA Form 10-10EZ – Enrollment for Medical Benefits** – Is used by the VA to determine if you can receive medical benefits. Complete the form and bring it with you to the VA medical facility where you will seek evaluation for treatment.

- * **VA Form 28-1900 – Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Veterans** – Is needed to apply for the vocational rehabilitation program to help veterans who were disabled during their service reach maximum independence in daily living, to learn the skills needed to get a job, and to find and keep a job. Send Form 28-1900 to the VARO in your area 10 to 15 days before your release.

- * **VA Form 70-3288 – Request for and Consent to Release of Information from Claimant's Records** – Is used to get records relevant to your claim from VA facilities (regional offices, medical centers, outpatient clinics, and vet centers). Request a fee waiver under section 38 C.F.R. Sec. 1.526 (h), which requires the VARO to provide a veteran with one set of his or her records free of charge.

CHECKLIST:

Using This Guide:

- ↑ Ask about classes or resources to help you plan for your release.
- ↑ Make a list of your needs.
- ↑ Make a list of who may be able to help you.
- ↑ Write letters and/or contact organizations by phone or email.
- ↑ Write down the steps you take so that you do not repeat them.

Just for Veterans:

- ↑ Know where to call toll-free for help.
- ↑ Contact organizations about what services they have to offer.
- ↑ Think about your housing needs and gather information about what is available locally.
- ↑ Learn about job resources and create a plan to find a job.
- ↑ Learn about health issues and what services are available.
- ↑ Learn about the resources available for substance abuse and mental health treatment in your area.
- ↑ Learn about your options to get financial help.
- ↑ Begin to take care of other legal issues.
- ↑ Learn about homeless veterans services.
- ↑ Learn about resources for women veterans.
- ↑ If you are not currently receiving benefits, find out if you can or should be.
- ↑ If you are receiving benefits, notify the VA when you go to prison to avoid an overpayment.
- ↑ Contact a veteran service representative to represent you and help you file a claim.
- ↑ Apply for apportionment so that some of the money withheld may be given to eligible family members.

SECTION IV

RESOURCE ADDRESSES/WEBSITES & SUPPORT GROUPS:

RESOURCE ADDRESSES/WEBSITES:

Veterans who encounter difficulties at a VA medical center – contact the "Patient Advocate" or "Patient Representative" at that facility for assistance in resolving the problem.

US Dept of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) www.va.gov/

Veterans Health Administration-VISN9 <http://vawww.visn9.med.va.gov>

Social Security Administration – www.ssa.gov/

National Coalition for Homeless Veterans – www.nchv.org/index.cfm

Active Duty Benefits Information – www.military.com

Careers – www.taonline.com

Department of Labor – www.dol.gov

Department of Veteran's Affairs – www.va.gov or

VA Health Benefits Center (877) 222-VETS (toll-free)

Disabled American Veterans – www.dav.org

Gulf War benefits Information – www.gulfweb.org

Military Record Information – www.vetfriends.com

Veterans of Foreign Wars – www.vfw.org

Gulf War/Agent Orange – www.va.gov/gulfwar or www.va.gov/agentorange

The Legal Action Center (212) 243-1313 or www.lac.org

The Urban Institute (202) 833-7200 or www.urban.org

The US Department of Labor (866) 4-USA-DOL or www.dol.gov

The Federal Bonding Program (800) 233-2258 or www.bonds4jobs.com

The Welfare to Work Partnership (888) USA-JOB1 or www.welfaretowork.org

United Way – provides a variety of services through local organizations. Check the phone book for a local post or locate local organizations online at www.unitedway.org.

Support Groups & Mainstream Service Contacts:

Alcoholics Anonymous (24 Hour Hotlines)

Websites:

[Alano Clubs in Kentucky - Contact and Location Information](#)

Part of a United States listing of Alano alcohol recovery clubhouses, including addresses and phone numbers. From www.AlanoClubs.com

[Alano Club of Lexington Kentucky](#)

A recovery clubhouse that hosts numerous AA meetings. [Lexington, KY](#)

[Alcoholics Victorious Meetings in Kentucky](#)

AV is a support group of recovering people who recognize Jesus Christ as their "Higher Power".

[Kentucky Alcoholics Anonymous Central Offices and Intergroups](#)

Contact information from the main [Alcoholics Anonymous World Services Site](#).

[Kentucky Area 26 - Alcoholics Anonymous](#)

Official statewide site. www.area26.net

Greater Metro Louisville >> Districts [1](#), [10](#), [11](#), [12](#), [13](#), [19](#), [21](#), [22](#), [24](#), and [29](#).

[Northern Kentucky - Alcoholic Anonymous](#)

Area includes Augusta, Butler, Carrollton, Cold Springs, Covington, Dayton, Ewing, Flemingsburg, Florence, Independence, Lakeside Park, Latonia, Maysville, Melbourne, Newport, and Williamstown in Kentucky.

[Phone Numbers of AA Intergroups and Central Offices in Kentucky](#)

Unofficial listing provided by [The Anonymous Press \(www.anonpress.org\)](http://www.anonpress.org).

Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC): <http://www.thearctn.org/>

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI): for Families & Consumers

Narcotics Anonymous: (800) 677-1462

Call for more information on location and meeting date & time.

Improving Access to Mainstream Services for People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

Kentucky

***Barbara Banaszynski**

Chief Operating Officer
Administrative
Volunteers of America of Kentucky, Inc.
933 Goss Avenue
Louisville, KY 40204
Phone: (502) 636-0771
Fax: (502) 637-8111
E-mail: barbarab@voaky.org

Kathy Bingham

Program Director
Prodigal Ministries
425 South Second Street
Suite 012
Louisville, KY 40202
Phone: (502) 568-1770
Fax: (502) 568-1772
E-mail: aftrcare@bellsouth.net

Natalie Hutcheson

Director
Kentucky Housing Corporation
Specialized Housing Resources
Commonwealth of Kentucky
1231 Louisville Road
Frankfort, KY 40601
Phone: (502) 564-7630
Fax: (502) 564-9866
E-mail: nhutcheson@kyhousing.org

Judy Levey

Executive Director
Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky
229 West Main Street
Suite 105
Frankfort, KY 40601
Phone: (502) 223-1834
Fax: (502) 226-4968
E-mail: jlevey@hhck.org

Ginny Lilly

Homeless Outreach Supervisor
Health Care for the Homeless Program
Family Health Center
712 East Muhammad Ali Boulevard
Louisville, KY 40202
Phone: (502) 585-1878
Fax: (502) 587-6883
E-mail: ligin4@aol.com

Senlin Ward

Community Planning Coordinator
The Coalition for the Homeless, Inc.
1115 South Fourth Street
Third Floor
Louisville, KY 40203
Phone: (502) 589-0190
Fax: (502) 589-4187
E-mail: senlin@bellsouth.net

David Worley

Homeless Benefit Administrator
Field Operations
Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs
545 South Third Street
Room 123
Louisville, KY 40202
Phone: (502) 595-4447
E-mail: david.worley@mail.state.ky.us

Additional Guidebook Resource List

Resource:	National/state/local	Telephone:	Website and Notes:
1. Dept. of Veterans Affairs	National-web	TOLL-FREE NUMBERS:	www.va.gov
2. Benefits and online Applications	National	1-800-827-1000	www.vba.va.gov http://vabenefits.vab.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp
3. Medical Centers	National	1-877-222-8387	www.mae.va.gov
4. Persian Gulf War Helpline	National	1-800-749-8387	
5. Focus on Recovery Helpline	National	1-800-888-9383	
6. National AIDs hotline	National	1-800-822-7422	
7. National Coalition for Homeless Veterans	National	1-800-838-4357	www.nchv.org
8. National Suicide Support Number	National	1-888-784-2433 (1-888-SUICIDE)	
WHERE TO START:			
9. HCHV Coordinator	National	1-877-222-8387	http://www.va.gov/homeless/page.cfm?pg=21
10. Salvation Army	Kentucky and Tennessee	(502) 583-5391	http://www.salvationarmysouth.org/kt/ Divisional Headquarters
11. United Way	National-web		www.unitedway.org
12. Local churches and faith-based organizations	Local Saturday newspaper for locations	Local phone book	Call City or County Department of Social Services
HOUSING:			
13. Homeless Veteran Service providers locally	National	1-800-VET-HELP	www.nchv.org
14. HUD Local Homeless Assistance	National-web		www.hud.gov/homeless
FINDING AND KEEPING A JOB:			
15. DVOPs/LVERS near you	State-phone book		www.va.gov/esd/work/localconnections.htm Call State Government Employment Security Department
16. Homeless Veterans Reintegration Projects (HVRP)	National	1-800-562-2308	
17. VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services - VARO	National	1-800-827-1000	www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/regional_offices.htm
18. Veteran's Industries and Compensated Work Therapy Programs	National-web		www.va.gov
19. State Voc Rehab	State-web		Search Internet for Vocational Rehabilitation in your state
HEALTH:			
20. VA Medical Center near you	National	1-877-222-8387	http://vaww.visn9.med.va.gov
21. Department of Social and Health Services	Local-phone book		
22. National Health Care for the Homeless Council	National-web		www.nhchc.org
23. Free Clinics			Check phone book under Public Health
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT:			
24. Drug and Alcohol Treatment Referral	National	1-800-662-4357	

Routing Service			
25. National Alliance for the Mentally Ill	National	1-800-950-6264	www.nami.org
26. National Mental Health Association	National	1-800-969-NMHA	www.nmha.org
27. Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Admin	National	1-800-662-4357 or 1-800-789-2647	http://www.samhsa.gov/index.aspx
FINANCIAL HELP:			
28. Food stamps	National	1-800-221-5689	www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/contact_info/hotlines.htm
29. FEMA		Local phone book	Contact local Office of the Mayor or United Way
LEGAL HELP:			
30. Veterans Advocate Service Officer	National	1-800-562-2308	
31. American Bar Association	National-web		www.abanet.org
32. Legal Services or Legal Aid Offices	Local-phone book	Yellow pages for Legal Aid	
33. Pine Tree Legal Assistance	Local		www.ptla.org/links/services.htm
34. Local Bar Association	Local-phone book	Yellow pages	www.abanet.org/barserv/stlobar.html
WOMEN VETERANS:			
35. Women in Community Service (WICS) – US DOL	National	1-800-442-9427 for Assistance	http://www.wics.org
36. Veterans The Center for Women	810 Vermont Ave. NW Washington, DC 20420	1-800-827-1000	http://www1.va.gov/womenvet/
SEEKING FEDERAL BENEFITS:			
37. AMVETS	State	Phone Book	
38. American Legion	State	1-800-433-3318	www.legion.org
39. Disabled American Veterans	State	1-877-426-2838	www.va.gov
40. Paralyzed Veterans of America	State	1-800-424-8200	
41. Vietnam Veterans of America	State	1-800-882-1316	www.vva.org/
42. Veterans of Foreign Wars	State	1-800-VFW-1899	www.vfw.org
43. Tennessee Department of Veteran Affairs	State		
44. Record of Discharge application	National-web		http://vetrecs.archives.gov
45. Veterans benefits online	National-web		www.vba.va.gov
RESOURCE ADDRESSES & Web SITES:			
46. Social Security Administration	National-web		www.ssa.gov

Reference List:

The National Coalition of Homeless Veterans (NCHV)

A Guidebook for Incarcerated Veterans by Veterans Incarcerated Workgroup in Walla Walla, Washington (Washington State Guidebook)

Department of Veterans Affairs 2005 Edition Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents

Washington County TN Criminal Justice Resource Guide

Department of Veterans Affairs Web Sites

Smart Solutions: The Welfare to Work Partnership

National (H.I.R.E.) Network: Helping Individuals with criminal records Re-enter through Employment Network.

Local Telephone Directory