

Assistance For Incarcerated Veterans

New York State Guidebook



Dear Veteran,

As you approach your release we hope that the information included in this booklet will be of assistance to you. We have included a selection of basic services and programs to help you transition into the community. However, we strongly recommend that you make contact with the Department of Veterans Affairs Incarcerated Veteran Outreach Team prior to your release for information and assistance in identifying which programs would best meet your needs. The Incarcerated Veteran Outreach team can be reached through DOCS facilities transitional services. The Incarcerated Veteran Outreach Team is also the most direct resource for accessing the continuum of services within the VA.

New York State is divided into two networks for VA purposes. Network 2 is Upstate New York. Network 3 is Downstate New York. If you are going to locate south of Kingston, please contact the VA Network 3 Incarcerated Veteran Outreach Coordinator. If you intend to live upstate, North of Albany contact the Coordinator in the area you are going to. They are listed on page 3. If you are unsure please feel free to contact any of the VA staff identified in the brochure.

There are many resources available to veterans in New York State. The US Department of Veterans Affairs can provide services to eligible veterans – those with Honorable discharges. However, there is a range of services available to veterans without an honorable discharge provided by non-profit organizations which include but are not limited to emergency shelter, housing placement and help in finding employment.

Acknowledgement: We appreciate any public domain and agency resources included in the guidebook.

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The Incarcerated Veteran Outreach Team:

The Incarcerated Veteran Outreach Team of the US Department of Veterans Affairs visits incarcerated veterans in correctional facilities in an effort to link these veterans to VA services on release. The team determines if veterans are eligible for VA services then partners with NYS Department of Corrections (DOCS) and NYS Division of Parole staff to develop release plans that include the services offered by the VA. The team also works with recently released veterans to facilitate their access to VA services. The Incarcerated Veteran Outreach Team acts as a liaison between DOCS and Parole staff and the continuum of VA services, many of which will be described in this brochure. For best results in accessing these services you should contact the Incarcerated Veteran Outreach Team approximately 6 months before your earliest possible release date. This will give the team enough time to determine your eligibility and work with you to develop a community transition plan. You can reach the Incarcerated Veteran Outreach team through DOCS transitional services.

For information on programs and services in downstate New York and New York City:

Taylor Hallman, LCSW
Incarcerated Veteran Outreach
Coordinator
1(914) 737-4400 X 3397
1(914) 490-8160 – mobile

Valerie Johnson
Incarcerated Veteran Outreach
Worker
914-737-4400 X 3739
914-497-1103 – mobile

VA Hudson Valley Health Care System
PO Box 100
Mail Code 620 – 181, Building 52
Montrose, NY 10548

For information on programs and services in upstate and western New York:

Julie Laurenzi LCSW
Homeless Coordinator
170 Ontario St
Albany, NY 12206
518-626-5158

Frank Ernenwein
Homeless Coordinator
VA Community Care Center
1031 E. Fayette St.
Syracuse, NY 13210
315-425-4400 X51016

Kevin O'Hagan
Homeless Coordinator, Rochester
1867 Mt. Hope Avenue
Rochester, NY 14620
585-463-2748

Herb Wittmeyer
Homeless Coordinator
1298 Main St
Buffalo, NY 14209
716-881-5855 X227

US DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REGIONAL OFFICE

(For Compensation and Pension benefits, home loans and vocational rehabilitation and education assistance)

New York Regional Office

245 W Houston St.

New York, NY 10014

Phone: 800-827-1000

Fax: 212-807-4024

Compensation and Pension Benefits, Loan Guaranty and Vocational Rehabilitation and Education: 212-807-7229

Serves the NYS counties of, Albany, Bronx, Clinton, Columbia, Delaware, Dutchess, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Kings, Montgomery, Nassau, New York, Orange, Otsego Putnam, Queens, Rensselaer, Richmond, Rockland, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Suffolk, Sullivan, Ulster, Warren, Washington, and Westchester.

Buffalo Regional Office

(Contact homeless coordinators listed on pg. 3 for assistance)

Niagara Center

130 S. Elmwood, Suite 601

Buffalo New York 14202

Compensation and Pension Benefits: 800-827-1000

Education Benefits: 1-888-442-4551

Serves the NYS counties of, Allegany, Broome, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Erie, Genesee, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Monroe, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Ontario, Orleans, Oswego, Schuyler, Seneca, St. Lawrence, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates.

DD214 and other Military Records:

National Personnel Records Center

(Military Personnel Records)

9700 Page Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

It is strongly suggested that you go through the Incarcerated Veteran Outreach Team for assistance in getting a copy of your DD214 or other military records

VETERAN'S HEALTH ADMINISTRATION REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

Health Care for Homeless Veterans Programs

These programs provide outreach and a range of services designed to help veterans get back on their feet. Case management, psycho-educational programming and development of healthy supports are the cornerstones of these programs. In addition, eligible veterans receive assistance in obtaining housing, expediting SSI/SSD and VA benefits and securing entry into other VA programs. When you contact the VA Homeless Program you will receive assistance in accessing other VA services.

Veteran's Industries

These programs help you transition to a job after your release, providing a short term supportive work experience at local VA Medical Centers or supervised in the community. You work full-time and earn at least minimum wage, and also get assistance with resumes, job leads in the community and help with other barriers that make it hard for you to get a job.

Domiciliaries

These short-term residential programs provide comprehensive rehabilitation services. The focus is on developing the skills necessary for homeless veterans to lead productive and independent lives. There is an emphasis on relapse prevention and learning personal responsibility. The program uses a variety of treatment modalities including skills attainment workshops, group and individual counseling.

Grant and Per Diem Transitional Housing

The VA partners with community agencies to provide transitional housing to homeless veterans. Veterans pay up to 30% of their income and can reside in this housing for up to two years provided they participate in appropriate health care treatment and actively plan for fully independent community living. These programs are located in numerous communities throughout the state, but have varied admission criteria. For more information, contact the Homeless Coordinator in your area. They are listed on page 3.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

There are both residential and outpatient services available for veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Similar to our domiciliaries, our residential PTSD services offer an intensive therapeutic experience in a structured environment. Some of our facilities offer residential treatment for non-combat related PTSD and specialized programming for women vets with PTSD.

Substance Abuse Treatment

There are both residential and outpatient services available for veterans in need of substance abuse treatment. We strongly recommend that veterans with histories of substance abuse who have not received previous treatment avail themselves to this service prior to embarking on housing and job searches.

Women's Health Services

All of our medical centers have a woman's health manager to assist women veterans in accessing gender specific services. In addition to medical care, several of our facilities offer specialized psychosocial rehabilitation services for women including assistance with housing placement. Each of our facilities offers confidential Military Sexual Trauma (MST) services provided by trained counselors.

Primary Medical and General Health Care

We strongly encourage all eligible veterans to enroll in our primary care clinics and to speak to any of our health care providers about any health concerns you have that may require specialty care services.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR VETERANS IN NEW YORK STATE

Assistance with Housing and Shelter:

Homeless Veterans in New York City should seek assistance at Project TORCH – A VA Program.

Project TORCH

Veterans Community Health Center
25 Chapel St.
Brooklyn, NY 11201
718-439-4354

Project TORCH is an Outreach and Rehabilitation Center for Homeless Veterans. TORCH provides primary medical care, psychiatric assessment and treatment, access to all VA medical services, emergency shelter placement, crisis management, group and individual counseling for substance abuse, PTSD, and a myriad of other readjustment issues. There is AA and NA on site as well as shower facilities, a lunch services, a fitness center and a Social Security initiative.

Homeless and Traveler's Aid

138 Central Avenue
Albany, NY 12206
518-463-2124

In the Capital District, all shelter referrals, individual and family, are processed through Homeless and Travelers Aid. The VA does not have emergency housing in Upstate NY.

Shelters, emergency housing and crisis centers

(Please note: A homeless veteran in NYC should be referred to the Bellevue Assessment Shelter- 30th St. & 1st Avenue. This shelter has beds set aside for veterans in a separate dormitory. The staff at the shelter assesses the veteran and can submit an application to the Borden Avenue Veterans Residence in Queens, NY).

Crisis Centers and Services:**Bond St. Drop-in center**

39 – 41 Bond St.
Brooklyn, NY
718-935-0439

Coalition for the Homeless**89 Chambers Street****New York, NY 10007**

Phone: 212-964-5900, ext. 113
Fax: 212-964-1303
Email: homeless@24x7.com

Men's Shelters:**NYC Men's Shelter (Intake)**

30th St. Shelter
400-430 30th St., 1st Ave.

New York, NY
(212) 481 0514

Atlantic Avenue Shelter (Intake)

Atlantic Ave.
Brooklyn, NY
718-636-3355

Tarrytown

62 Main Street town YMCA
Tarrytown, NY 10591
914-631-4807

Options for Community Living

202 East Main St. Suite 7
Smithtown, NY 11787
516-361-9020 x103

The Capital District and Upstate

**Please note-In the Capital District all shelter services are referred through Homeless Travelers Aid*

Homeless Travelers Aid Society of the Capital District

138 Central Ave.
Albany, NY 12206
518-463-2124

Buffalo City Mission

100 East Tupper
Buffalo, New York 14203
716- 854-8181

Salvation Army

300 E. Main Street
Rochester, NY 14604
585-987-9500

Capital City Rescue Mission

259 S, Pearl St.
Albany, NY
518-436-4193

Salvation Army Emergency Shelter

749 S. Warren St
Syracuse, NY 13224
315-479-1332

Rescue Mission

New Life Center
155 Gifford St.
Syracuse, NY 13202
315-472-7876

Oxford Inn

Catholic Charities
201 Oxford St.
Syracuse, NY
315-425-9225

Utica Rescue Mission

205 Rutger St.
Utica, NY 13501
315-735-1645 X150

Rescue Mission of Rome

413 Dominic St
Rome, NY 13440
315-337-2516

Emergency Housing Group, Inc.

R.D. No.2, Box 98
Middletown, NY 10940
845-692-4444

Transitional Residence Services:

Please note information on additional transitional residence programs through the VA is located on page 5 of this brochure.

Bowery Mission

227 Bowery
New York, NY
212-674 3456

The Bowery Mission Transitional Center (BMTC) is a holistic, faith-based program designed to transition formerly homeless drug-addicted men into independent living. The residents of the BMTC are actively involved in rehabilitation and counseling during their six-to-nine month stay at the facility.

Heritage Health and Housing, Inc.

3333 Broadway-Suite 100
New York, NY 10031
212- 234-2600

Housing Works

594 Broadway - Suite 706
New York, NY 10012
212-966-0466

E-mail: Hworks@dti.net

The mission of Housing Works is to reach the most vulnerable and underserved communities in New York City with a comprehensive range of services designed to help them gain stability, security, and independence so that they can live longer, healthier lives with hope and dignity.

Nazareth Housing

519 East 11th Street
New York, NY 10009
212-777-1010

Pathways to Housing

155 West 23rd Street
New York, NY 10011
212-337-1000

Bissonette House (for male ex-offenders)

335 Grider St
Buffalo, NY 14215
716-892-8224

Parole officer must contact the facility for you.

Buffalo Halfway House Inc. (*Houses both male and female ex-offenders*)

115-117 Glenwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209
716-882-002

Parole officer must contact the facility for you.

Women's shelters and transitional housing:

NYC Women's Shelter Intakes

Franklin, 1122 Franklin Avenue, Bronx
718-842-9819

Yonkers MHA (YWCA)

87 South Broadway
Yonkers, NY 10701
914-963-2752

Women's Prison Association
The Sara Powell Huntington House
347 East 10th Street (corner of Avenue B)
New York, NY 10009
Phone 212-677-0949
Fax 212-677-4837

E-Mail: cbattiste@wpaonline.org

Carlene Battiste, Program Director

The Sarah Powell Huntington House was created by the Women's Prison Association and Home (WPA) to assist homeless women leaving jail or prison who seek to rebuild their lives in the community and strengthen their families.

Cornerstone Manor
45 Carlton Street
Buffalo, New York 14203
716-852-0761

Salvation Army
677 S, Salina St
Syracuse, NY
315-0472-0947 (Women's Shelter)
315-479-1330 (Family Shelter)

Emmaus House
1215 Kemble St
Utica NY 13501
315-797-3339

Johnson Park/JCTOD Outreach Inc
1404 West Street
Utica, NY13501
315-734-9608

Family Shelters and housing options:

(Please note: to access all family shelter services in NYC, families must register with the NYC Family Shelter Intake / EAU)

NYC Family Shelter Intake

Emergency Assessment Unit (EAU)

151 E. 151st St., Walton Ave.

Bronx New York

718-402 8677

Must have documentation of custody of any children and identity – Welfare card, Green card, driver's license, picture id, birth certificate, Medicaid card, pay stub.

La Bodega de la Familia

In addition to its family services, La Bodega also provides individual and group counseling, relapse prevention programs, educational and support groups (including groups for individuals recently released from jail or prison, for mothers, victims of family violence, and concerned friends and family members), and 24-hour support for drug-related emergencies.

Salvation Army Emergency Shelter

960 Main St.

Buffalo, NY 14202

716-884-4798

This is a family shelter. Must provide ID and must be drug and alcohol free.

Johnson Park Family Shelter

1404 West St.

Utica NY 13501

315-734-9608

Permanent and Subsidized housing:

(In Capital District, please contact the VASH Coordinator at 518-626-5161 for information about permanent housing.)

Belmont Shelter Corp

1195 Main St.

Buffalo, NY 14209

716-884-7791

Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority

245 Elmwood Ave

Buffalo, NY 14222

716-885-6774

Rental Assistance Corp

470 Franklin St
Buffalo, NY 14202
716-882-0063

Syracuse Housing Authority

312 Gifford St.
Syracuse NY
315-470-4400

Veteran's Service Organizations:**AMVETS**

103 President Street
Brooklyn, NY 11231
877-7AM-VETS

Provides veteran services: free counseling and claims assistance for honorably discharged veterans and dependents.

Black Veterans for Social Justice

686 Fulton St.
Brooklyn, NY 11217
718-935 1116

Disabled American Veterans

VA Regional Office
245 W. Houston Street, Room 206
New York, NY 10014-4805
212-807 4157

NYS Division of Veterans' Affairs:**Eastern Region - Manhattan**

212-807-3166
VA Regional Office
245 W. Houston Street, Room 206
New York, NY 10014-4805

Western Region - Buffalo

716-847-3414

Donovan State Office Bldg.

125 Main Street, Room 231

Buffalo, NY 14203-3042

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

William Alsbrook, Service Officer

Department of Veterans Affairs

245 West Houston Street (RM.-207)

New York, N.Y. 10014

212-807-3164 or 1-800-827-1000 ext. 3164)

E-mail vfwillla@vba.va.gov**Buffalo Veterans Service Center**Niagra Center, 6th floor

130 S. Elmwood

Buffalo, NY 14202

American Legion: 716-857-3361

AmVets: 716-857-3359

Disabled American Veterans: 716-857-3359

Military Order of Purple Heart: 716-857-3346

Paralyzed Veterans of America: 716-857-3352

Veterans of Foreign Wars: 716-857-3348

Vietnam Veterans of America: 716-857-3344

New York State Division of Veterans Affairs: 716-857-3332

Services for Ex-Offenders:**The Fortune Society**

53 West 23rd Street, 8th Floor

New York, NY 10010

212-691-7554

212-255-4948 (fax)

www.fortunesociety.org

The Fortune Society is a place where individuals who have learned the skills of surviving in an unsafe environment can feel safe in a less violent world. The Fortune Society offers volunteer tutors and employment skills training for former offenders.

Legal Action Center

153 Waverly Place

NY, New York 10012

212-243 1313

Concerned primarily with employment discrimination against ex-offender and recovering substance abusers. Will help obtain and clean up a rap sheet, obtain Certificates of Relief from Disabilities and Certificates of Good Conduct.

The Osborne Association

Administrative Office

36-31 38th Street

Long Island City, NY 11101

718-707-2600

Fax: 718-707-3103

The Osborne Association provides prison, reentry and family services as well as employment and training services.

Women's Prison Association**The Sara Powell Huntington House**

347 East 10th Street (corner of Avenue B)

New York, NY 10009

Phone 212-677-0949

Fax 212-677-4837

E-Mail: cbattiste@wpaonline.org

Carlene Battiste, Program Director

The Sarah Powell Huntington House was created by the Women's Prison Association and Home (WPA) to assist homeless women leaving jail or prison who seek to rebuild their lives in the community and strengthen their families.

Developing Justice in South Brooklyn

Fifth Avenue Committee
Developing Justice Program
141 Fifth Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11217
718-857-2990
718-857-4322 (fax)

www.fifthave.org/CriminalJustice/CrimJusticeProgramOverview.htm

The program provides walk-in support to ex-offenders who have spent at least 1 year in the criminal justice system. Through individual case management the program helps individuals reintegrate into the community by assisting with some of their most basic needs: affordable housing, meaningful and permanent employment, and education and skills development.

MVPC/McPike ATC

Integrated Dual Recovery Program
1400 Noyes at York St
Utica, NY 13502
315-738-4400

Catholic Charities Housing Programs

1404 Genesee Street
Utica NY 13502
315-735-7541

Work Programs:**The Osborne Association**

Administrative Office
36-31 38th Street
Long Island City, NY 11101
718-707-2600
Fax: 718-707-3103

Salvation Army

Project Redirect
300 E.Main St
Rochester, NY 14604
585-987-9500 X2353

Ready, Willing & Able

520 Gates St.
Brooklyn, NY 10216
718-622-0634

Wildcat

2 Washington St.

3rd Floor

NY, NY 10004

212-635-3800

Provides counseling and work programs for ex-offenders

Project HIRE

Gould Residential Hall

Room 211

University & 181st St.

Bronx, NY 10453

718-289-5589

Training program for the building trades (a joint program of NYC HRA & Bronx Community College – 18 to 60 y/o ex-offenders)

Center for Employment Opportunities

32 Broadway

New York, NY

212-422 4430

Peter Young Housing, Industries and Treatment

134 Franklin St.

Albany, NY 12202

518-465 8034

WomenCare

105 Chambers St.

NY, NY 10007

212-463 9500

Helps paroled women re-enter the community and secure better lives for themselves and their children. Once selected a woman is matched with a community mentor who has volunteered to be there of at least one year to advocate for her, listen to her and give her emotional support.

New York State Department of Labor

247 West 54th St.

NY, NY 10019

212-621 0407

Veterans Industries

170 Ontario Street
Albany, NY 12206
518-434-1015
Contact Joe Miller

Career Central

175 Central Avenue
Albany, NY 12206
518-462-7600

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program

WNY Veterans Housing Coalition
1125 Main St
Buffalo, NY 14209
716-882-6308

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program/Goodwill Industries

1119 William St.
Buffalo, NY 14206
716-854-3494

CNYWORKS, INC

443 North Franklin St.
Syracuse, NY 13204
315-473-8250 X219

Working Solutions

Sandra Wilkerson, Veterans Outreach Specialist
270 Genesee St
Utica, NY
315-339-0046 X231

Human Technologies Corp

2260 Dwyer Ave
Utica, NY 13501
315-724-9891

Onida County Workforce Development

Utica-315-793-2229
Rome 315-337-7300