

VA 101 for Justice System Partners

The **first step** to helping Veterans access VA services and resources is to identify them. Ask: "**Have you ever served in the United States Armed Forces or military?**" When you ask: "Are you a Veteran?" many people think this applies only to Veterans who served in combat. Building this question into your intake, booking or arraignment processes as soon as possible will support identification and eligibility determination for Veterans. Veterans Reentry Search Service (VRSS) can also be a resource.

The **second step** is to determine whether a Veteran is eligible for VA Healthcare services. VJP outreach staff can assist with this process.

Available VA health care services may include:

- Hospital and outpatient medical care
- Mental health services, including: alcohol and drug treatment, work therapy, anger management, Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), and PTSD treatment.
- Domiciliary and nursing home
- Homeless Program, transitional and/or permanent housing and other supportive services
- Specialized health care for women Veterans
- Readjustment counseling



The **mission** of the Veterans Justice Program is to: identify through outreach, justice-involved Veterans, at the earliest possible points, to facilitate access to VA and community resources and supportive services. Veterans Justice Programs accomplish this by building and maintaining relationships and partnerships between VA and key elements of the criminal justice system.

VETERAN TREATMENT COURT

Diversion/problem solving court for Veterans with non-violent felony charges. Eligibility and admission determined by the VTC team. (where available, misdemeanor offenders may be linked to misdemeanor deferred prosecution programs)



Veterans Justice Program (VJP) U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



Veteran Justice Program

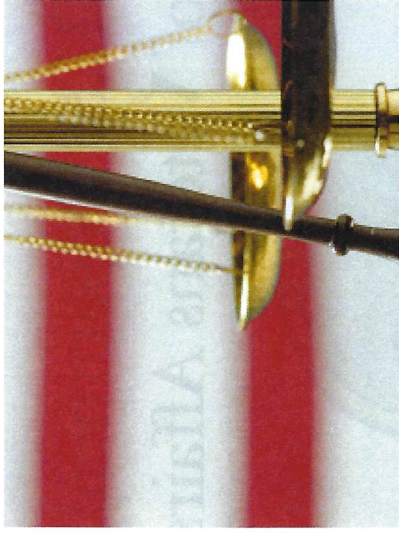
Please send all inquiries via email to:

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Veterans Justice Program VJP



VJP is comprised of:

- 1) **Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO)**, which serves Veterans with legal issues, incarcerated in local jails, and/or involved in treatment courts.
- 2) **Healthcare for Reentry Veterans (HCRV)**, which serves Veterans incarcerated in State & Federal prisons as well as Veterans re-entering the community after incarceration in State & Federal prison.



VJP offers the following services to Veterans and justice system partners:

Outreach: To all incarcerated, or otherwise criminal justice involved Veterans, preferably at earliest possible points of intercept.

Treatment Matching & Assessment: VJP staff are Licensed Behavioral Health Practitioners providing linkage with assessments, treatment screenings, determination of service needs and service planning with Veterans.

Education: To Veterans, criminal justice partners and VA staff on justice-involved Veteran dynamics and resources.

Case Management: Linking to VA healthcare, supportive and community resources and services for both VA eligible, and for some services, non-VA eligible Veterans, and for those in treatment courts or engaging in VA services.

Consultation: To increase access to clinical treatment services for justice-involved Veterans

Systems Intervention: To improve services, policies, and establish improved Veteran identification processes.

Access to Civil Legal Services:

Compile and maintain listings of professional legal resources, as well as build partnerships where needed.

What VJP staff CAN do:

- On-site and virtual outreach to incarcerated and justice involved Veterans
- Link VA eligible Veterans with VA healthcare
- Assist VA AND non-VA eligible Veterans with accessing valuable benefits, legal, housing and employment, resources and supportive services for reducing recidivism and homelessness.
- With Veteran consent, communicate participation in VA services, (i.e.; diagnosis, attendance, progress, treatment and discharge plans)
- Function as a Veteran Treatment Court (VTC) team member
- Link to Evidence Based Treatment for court-monitored Veterans

What VJP staff CAN'T do:

- Provide legal guidance, advice or legal services
- Alter criminal justice decisions
- Accept custody
- Perform forensic psychiatric evaluations for the court
- Provide VA medical/mental health "treatment" to incarcerated Veterans
- Provide legally requested treatment without VA clinical indication
- Write lengthy court reports, or complete Diversion program paperwork

