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STATE INSTRUCTION NUMBER 24-06

To: Local Workforce Area Signatory Officials
Local Workforce Development Board Chairs
Local Workforce Development Area Administrators
DEW Area Directors
DEW Regional Managers

Subject: Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) Referrals

Issuance Date: December 20, 2024

Effective Date: Immediately

Purpose: To provide guidance for referring veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to local HVRP grantees.

References:

- 38 U.S.C. § 101, 2021
- Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 03-24
- Veterans' Program Letters (VPLs) 05-24, 06-24
- State Instruction 24-05

Background: Veterans who are homeless and want to return to the workforce often face obstacles such as a lack of transportation, lack of permanent housing, lack of proper work attire and/or tools, or involvement with the justice system. Together with partners nationwide, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched the "Ending Veteran Homelessness" initiative in 2010 to help veterans who are homeless to obtain permanent housing and help veterans at risk of homelessness to remain housed by connecting veterans and their families with housing solutions, health care, community employment services, and other supports.

Developing out of this initiative, the HVRP is a competitive grant program from the US Department of Labor (DOL), Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS), that focuses exclusively on competitive employment for veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Through direct services, a robust referral system, or a hybrid approach, grant recipients provide job placement, job training, job development, career counseling, and resumé preparation services, among other services, to assist the veteran in overcoming barriers to

employment and to be successful in the labor force. HVRP grant recipients must also provide participants with follow-up services to increase their likelihood of success in employment and retention.

NOTE: HVRP grantees do not provide shelter.

Policy: If a veteran attests to being homeless, or being at risk of homelessness, SC Works center staff should follow the steps below to refer the individual to an HVRP grantee, if available.

1. Determine if the individual is an eligible veteran for the HVRP.

A veteran is eligible to participate in the HVRP if the individual served in the US Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, or Reserve component (National Guard Reserve), received a discharge or release under conditions other than dishonorable (38 USC § 101(18)), and meets one of the following criteria:

- a. At least one day of active duty (38 U.S.C. § 101(21)) to include time spent in basic training for active-duty members
 - b. Federal active duty for National Guard and Reserve members, excluding inactive duty and active duty for training (38 U.S.C. § 101(22), (23))
 - c. Any period of inactive duty or active duty for training during which National Guard and Reserve members received a service-connected disability rating resulting from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty (38 U.S.C. § 101(24))
2. If the individual is an eligible veteran for the HVRP, locate the nearest HVRP grantee using the "Find a Grantee" search tool available at <https://nvtac.org/find-a-grantee/>.
 3. Facilitate communication and coordination between the HVRP grantee and the individual by phone and/or virtual means.
 4. The HVRP grantee verifies the individual's eligibility for the HVRP and enrolls them into the program.

DOL also strongly encourages HVRP grantees to refer HVRP participants to the nearest American Job Center (AJC) for additional support and assistance from Wagner-Peyser staff, Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists, and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I program staff. Because an HVRP may also be eligible for DVOP services, SC Works center intake staff should assist the referred veteran with the DVOP eligibility triage tool described in the state DVOP eligibility policy and found on SCWOS Staff Online Resources before referring the individual to a DVOP specialist.

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Action: Please ensure that all appropriate staff receive and understand this policy guidance.

Inquiries: Questions may be directed to WorkforcePolicy@dew.sc.gov.

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