

Homeless Veterans Task Force Business Plan

The Homeless Veterans Task Force was established as a “special” committee of the Vietnam Veterans of America, on September 17, 1993, in accordance with the Constitution of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Article 1, Section 7, Paragraph B. The purpose of the Homeless Veterans Task Force at its’ inception was to create a coordinated national agenda for all levels of Vietnam Veterans of America, to address the issue of homelessness among veterans and their families.

The mission of the Homeless Veterans Task Force remains as it has been, “recognizing the unique problems regarding the issue of homelessness among veterans and their families, Vietnam Veterans of America will work with all federal, state, and local agencies and organizations to implement “continuum of care” type programs to address those unique problems.” Today it is recognize that approximately 23% of all homeless are veterans. VVA insists that a fair and equitable share of all public and private resources be devoted to homeless veterans and their families.”

In August 2007, the President of Vietnam Veterans of America renamed the Task Force to the Homeless Veterans Committee.

Goals, as established on April 15, 1998 remain:

- to provide “technical assistance” on a regional and national basis
- continue VVA’s premier status in the development of specific legislative actions directed towards the Homeless Veteran community
- actively join and work with the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans in setting annual plans for interactive cooperation
- help VVA State Councils participate in their continuum of care planning group
- work with VA and other federal and state funded organizations to develop a network of Homeless Veteran specific programs
- to work towards the accomplishment of VVA Resolutions regarding Homeless Veterans.

Recent Accomplishments:

- Testimony submitted to the Senate Banking Housing & Urban Affairs Committee regarding “Meeting the Housing Needs of Veterans” and the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee regarding “The Department of Veterans Affairs Homeless Programs”
- Articles, including review of Resolutions, submitted for publication in *The Veteran*

Deliverables:

- Letters of support sent forward for various legislation introduced in both the House and Senate
- Attended National Coalition for Homeless Veterans Annual Conference
- Member of the Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans; recently named Subcommittee Chair of Homeless Women Veterans subcommittee of ACHV
- Attended the Homeward Bound Conference sponsored by the VA