

Initiatives:

- Hosting bi-monthly phone conferences with over 150 community-based veterans groups.
- Conducting Veteran information forums and conversations with veterans around the country (including Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Alaska, and Hawaii).
- Evaluating compensation trends relative to claims for Service-Connected disabilities of VA programs with regard to utilization by minority veterans.
- Studying and analyzing veterans' benefits and health care programs.
- Planning National Summits for Minority Veterans.
- Promoting medical research on disparities in the provision of medical care to minority veterans in VA medical facilities.
- Exploring opportunities for medical sharing agreements that will provide accessible health care to Indian Veterans.

CMV Outreach

- Hosts business seminars for minority veteran business owners to highlight contracting opportunities with the VA and other Federal Agencies.
- Initiates conference calls with community based minority veterans organizations to discuss new programs and issues requiring VA's assistance.
- Conducts town hall meetings and information forums with veterans around the country.
- Works with readjustment counseling services to identify the need for Veterans Counseling Centers on Indian reservations.

Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans

Established under Public Law 103-446 and appointed by the Secretary. The Committee:

- Advises the Secretary and Congress on VA's administration of benefits and provisions of health care to minority veterans.
- Prepares an annual report for the Secretary of Congress.
- Meets twice, annually to assess VA's efforts to serve veterans.
- Has made over 130 recommendations since its first meeting in June 1995.

The Minority Veterans Program Coordinator

The function of the Minority Veterans Program Coordinator (MVPC) is to address the unique circumstances and special needs of minority veterans.

- Over 300 MVPCs. A coordinator is assigned to each VA medical center, regional office, and national cemetery.
- Focus on the needs of minority veterans in the local community.
- Assist facility/station directors in their efforts to address the needs of minority veterans.
- Educate veterans about VA benefits, services and programs, and assist veterans in applying for services.
- Identify barriers to serving minority veterans and create a more accessible environment for minority veterans desiring to use VA programs and services (Contact your local MVPC through the facility operator).

For Assistance Call:

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The Minority Veterans Program Coordinator

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Minority Veterans Program

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PHILADELPHIA
VA MEDICAL CENTER



More than just caring...



CENTER
FOR
MINORITY
VETERANS



The Staff of the Philadelphia VA Medical Center is committed to providing quality care to the patients we serve. Your care will be given with dignity and respect, and sensitivity to cultural background.

The Minority Veterans Program (MVP) informs veterans about the services and benefits available to minority veterans and their families.

The MVP focuses on the needs of minority veterans in our local communities, and identifies barriers to a more accessible environment.

Program Objectives

- Serve as a direct link between the veteran and the Medical Center.
- Listen to the veteran and his/her family.
- Identify barriers to service.
- Conduct outreach activities to meet the veterans in their communities.
- Promote an atmosphere in which Minority Veterans are treated with dignity and respect.
- Ensure that all staff work together to give quality service to our Minority Veterans.
- Provide means for Minority Veterans to obtain information on services and benefits.
- Identify the issues and concerns of Minority Veterans.

What We Do

- Serve as principle advisor to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on issues relative to minority veterans.
- Aid minority veterans in their efforts to access benefits and services offered by VA and other federal and state agencies.
- Assist VA in the administration of benefits and provision of care to minority veterans.
- Promote medical research on illnesses most prevalent among minority veterans.
- Sponsor demographic studies and analyses on veterans.
- Analyze and evaluate issues and concerns raised by minority veterans.
- Work with other federal, state, and private agencies to address the needs of minority veterans around the country.

Our Service to You

The CMV is a part of the Office of Secretary. The Center assists eligible veterans in their efforts to receive benefits and services from VA. The Center acts only as a mediator and facilitator. **Therefore, the center does not process claims, handle equal employment complaints, or employee relation problems.** The Center is dedicated to ensuring that all veterans are aware of benefits, services, and programs offered by VA. The Center's goal is to make benefits and services more accessible to veterans.

Issues Currently Under Review and Analyses

- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in minority veterans
- Compensation trends for minority veterans with service-connected disabilities.
- Access to medical care for veterans in isolated, remote, and rural areas
- Disparities in health care to minority veterans
- VA's promotion of the Direct Home Loan Program to Native Americans Veterans
- Homelessness among minority veterans and transitional housing programs for homeless veterans

The Center for Minority Veterans (CMV) was established under Public Law 103-446 on November 2, 1994. The goals and objectives of the Center are: to promote the use of VA programs, benefits, and services by minority veterans; to evaluate current program and make recommendations on how VA can better serve minority veterans.

Mission

The Center for Minority Veterans, as a center for excellence, assist the Department of Veterans Affairs in its efforts to address the unique circumstances and special needs of minority veterans.

Veterans We Serve

- African Americans
- Asian Americans
- Hispanic Americans
- Native Americans, including:
 - American Indians
 - Alaskan Natives
 - Native Hawaiians
 - Pacific Island