

Women Veterans And SSVF

Things to know:

Women comprise around 14.6% of the military currently.

There are over 2 million Women Veterans Nationally.

There are currently around 28,483 Women Veterans in Oregon (9/14)

1 in 4 Women Veterans are reportedly to have MST.

As of Nov 2014, Women Veterans are higher in unemployment (9.6%) than their male counterparts at 8.8% (Nationally).

Only 4% of Korean War Veterans are women as opposed to present era where 20% of all Post 9/11 Veterans are women.

Last Multco PIT count (2013) reported 49 Women Veterans who were counted as Homeless.

From Oct 2013 to Mar 2015 SSVF has served 127 Women Veterans. This does not include presently being served or those who were not HOH.

Outreach:

Women Veterans are elusive. Many women, as a result of their experience the military, may not identify with being a veteran (non-combat, trauma, etc)...If the MST stat is that sobering, then identifying enough to feel comfortable accessing support groups or publicly specific services may not be present.

Outreach to Women Veterans, in addition to the various VA resources/centers/CBOC's, must include civilian resources and to an array of service providers.

A main place of potential are WRC's and SVC's on local campuses. Another avenue are senior centers/retirement communities/etc.

School Districts have Homeless Advocates/Social Workers which is another good way of finding WVParents as well as a resource to connect Veterans Mothers to.

Shelters, Transitional Housing, and Contacting HUDVASH Social Workers are another path for outreach.

Women and SSVF For services, call 855-425-5544 or visit www.tprojects.org's Veteran services Page. 211 and NAYA will also be screening very soon.

SSVF Services: Wraparound model of care and case advocacy.

First assess eligibility.

Once Eligible, Assess situation.

Once Assessed begin referrals and Action Planning.

Case advocacy and completion of goals.

Once goals are completed and a LTHP is solidified and stable, the Veteran exits.

Follow ups conducted every 9 months for one year after.

Assessing of needs, Referrals/ Resources used regularly:

Housing:

Coordinated entries of particular county (Like Mult Co Homeless Families system of Care)
CRRC- for the 3 main housing programs, VBA/VHA, CVSO...one stop shop
GPD- Martha Washington/ Central City Concern
Salvation Army Family Veteran Center- families
HUD VASH
Jean's Place
Annie Ross (Clack Co)
Mult Winter Shelter List/211
DV housing grants
Oxford Houses
Iron tribe
Intentional Communities
Hotel vouchers- once a place is identified

Needs:

access to hotel vouchers
transitional housing
housing crisis- no wait lists open
Tiny homes i.e. alternative solutions
HUD definition of homeless is always an issue- that darn couch.

Health/Mental Health:

CVSO
VA women services
MST Coordinator
OEF/OIF Program
County Mental Health Dpt (as needed)
OHP/ Medicare/ Medicaid
Returning Veteran's Project
PWCL/Gateway Ctr
Raphael House
Veteran Crisis Line
Bradley Angle
William Temple House
Portland DBT
Alternative modalities/therapies
Folktime/ PMVC
DAV/Ride Connection
TREM/ VE Groups

Need:

More MST specific services outside the VA
Women Veteran specific support groups
Reproductive health/Prenatal
Transfriendly health/mental health

Income:

SSI/SSDI/BEST

VBA

Voc Rehab

CWT

CSEP

Worksource/Community Solutions

PIC

PAWS team

Goodwill Connections

Oregon Tradeswomen

Heroes to Hire

CCC/TPI Employment Specialists

HOH fairs

ICM- job search

Need:

More resources for work clothing (D4S referral)

Women veteran specific resume workshops/trainings

Panels for skill building and tips

Work related childcare and transportation

Social Service and support:

211

SNAP/TANF

Oregon Food Bank

School Districts/ SWers

Student Veteran Centers at all colleges/universities

Women's Resource Centers at every college/universities

Toiletries and hygiene

-JOIN

-TPI

-William Temple House

- Family Assistance Programs

- My Father's Heart - Clackco

Army Strong CCC- Veteran Food Boxes

Supportive Services Moving

Community Warehouse

Dress For Success

Rose Haven

IRCO/SEI/NARA/NAYA

Culturally specific resources

Family Assistance Programs

Chapter Organizations

Needs:

The ability to use SNAP for basic needs- toilet paper, tooth paste, soap, diapers, feminine items, etc

A pantry/pantries that give these items away specifically

Childcare- support

Barriers:

Metropolitan Public Defenders
Oregon Legal Aide
VBA/CVSO
SO History/PO coordination
DHS/Child Support
Rentwell
PGE/Bonneville
Pacific Screening
OMMP
Reasonable Accommodation
Trimet
Oregon DMV
Vehicle maintenance

Need:

resources/housing for veterans with felonies
high barrier housing
rural housing/tiny homes
low cost/free legal service for:
-bankruptcy
-child support

Summary: Women Veterans, especially those with children, need non-SNAP items, Female specific toiletries and hygiene supplies, access to clothing and supplies to be employable, need understanding as 1 in 4 may have MST so identification of and outreach to them will be elusive and will take time to establish trust. Increased competency of DV resources, alternative modalities and therapy options, childcare, and Women specific skill building and support groups needed once identified.